

Cachuma Project Water Rights Hearing

October 2003

Panel IV

Presenter:

C. Charles Evans

Director - Goleta Water District and
Cachuma Conservation Release Board

Settlement Agreement in Compliance with Section 3(d) of Board Order WR 94-5

- 1993 – Cachuma Member Units enter into agreement with City of Lompoc to address Lompoc concerns with Cachuma Project Impacts
 - Lompoc claimed Cachuma Project degraded Lompoc's groundwater by 40 mg/L TDS
- August 1995 – Lompoc concluded Cachuma Project had no impact on groundwater levels, but did impact water quality in the groundwater basin
 - Mid 1990's several lawsuits and claims filed concerning effects of operations of the Cachuma Project

Settlement Agreement in Compliance with Section 3(d) of Board Order WR 94-5

- 1996 – Workplan Manager Process initiated
 - To determine what impacts (if any) and to abate impacts of Cachuma Project operations on Lompoc Groundwater Basin
 - 1999 all parties concluded that analysis could not answer questions about Cachuma Project impacts
 - Consensus-based models developed by Stetson Engineers and Technical Advisory Committee and included in State Board Cachuma Project EIR

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- 1999 – Discussions initiated between CCRB/SYR ID#1 and Lompoc/SYRWCD for cooperative program of water quality improvement for Lompoc Groundwater Basin
- Ad Hoc Committee formed from Governing Boards and managers of all four water interests on the Santa Ynez River

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- Negotiation Process
 - Lompoc/SYRWCD wanted modified Winter Storm Operations to continue for flood control and;
 - To schedule State Water deliveries to allow maximum commingling with Cachuma Water Rights releases to lower TDS into river downstream of Bradbury
 - Cachuma Member Units wanted mutual support of the four water interests in State Hearings and
 - That claims and lawsuits by Lompoc against Cachuma Project Operations would end

Settlement Agreement in Compliance with Section 3(d) of Board Order WR 94-5

- Historic Settlement Agreement December 2002
 - Approved by all four water interests
 - Resolved actual and potential disputes regarding Reclamation obligations to release water for protection of downstream water rights holders
 - SWRCB need not take additional actions to protect rights of downstream water right holders
 - If SWRCB issues order not consistent with WR 89-18 (as modified by Settlement Agreement), cooperative agreement may be ended
 - All parties agree that the Settlement Agreement provides protection for Public Trust Resources through endorsement of the BO and FMP
 - Settlement Agreement supported by Reclamation and the Cities of Solvang and Buellton

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