

**POLICY STATEMENT FOR JANUARY 18, 2011 SWRCB HEARING ON
DAVIS-WOODLAND WATER SUPPLY PROJECT WATER-RIGHT
APPLICATIONS 30358A AND 30358B**

My name is Martie Dote, and I am currently serving my second term on the Woodland City Council. During my first term, from 2000-2004, I was Woodland's representative to the Water Resources Association of Yolo County, a voluntary association of water purveyors including the cities, agricultural irrigation districts and other county-wide interests. In addition, I served as the initial chairperson on the Joint Powers Authority formed to complete the county-wide habitat conservation plan. This JPA arose as a cooperation model from a discussion group called "Gaining Ground," formed to discuss county-city border issues and mutual planning activities. The habitat conservation planning had languished for years because of the complexity in Yolo County of the number of species of concern, and the need to include agricultural interests and safe harbor provisions. In my current term, which began in 2008, I am again serving as Woodland's representative to the habitat planning JPA, and am pleased to say we are nearing completion of the EIR and draft conservation plan.

I also currently serve on the Woodland Council sub-committee for infrastructure, along with Councilmember Dr. Bill Marble. Work on that sub-committee and between staff members from the cities of Davis and Woodland led to the formation of a Joint Powers Authority for the provision of surface water to both cities and the University of California at Davis. Named the "Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency," the JPA was formed after an historic (first) joint meeting of the City Councils of Davis and Woodland. Dr. Marble was chosen to serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors. Unfortunately, he will not be able to attend the January 18 and 19 hearings because of a prior engagement. He has, however, submitted a policy statement to which you may refer.

The entire Woodland City Council has been supportive of this project from its very early stages. We supported the formation of the Joint Powers Authority, the need for the surface water project to deal with our water quality issues, and also the chance to form partnership between the two cities. The Council has been willing to make the unpopular decisions involved in funding a project of this magnitude because of the greater good the completed project will serve. Woodland City Councils and members

have supported local planning and county policies that preserve agricultural lands and prevent urban sprawl, and have done the right things in rebuilding water and sewer infrastructure, installing water meters sooner than later, supporting water conservation efforts, upgrading the wastewater treatment facility to tertiary level, among other costly, but worthy endeavors.

Woodland, like few other cities, relies solely on groundwater for our municipal water supply. Even though we provide tertiary wastewater treatment, poor quality groundwater results in discharge that will not meet permit requirements, unless we can lower the levels of selenium, boron, and total dissolved solids. The nitrate levels also continue to climb, and will force us to eventually abandon some wells.

Short of building a reverse osmosis facility for the waste water discharge, at a prohibitive cost and resulting in millions of gallons of brine of which must be disposed, the only way to meet our discharge permit will be to introduce better source water into our system.

For this reason, the Davis-Woodland Water Supply Project is critical to our municipal water quality and wastewater discharge issues. By mixing treated, high-quality surface water with groundwater, we will markedly improve water quality and meet the wastewater discharge permit requirements. We will also improve the quality of potable water in Woodland to the benefit of our water users, extending the lifespan of appliances, reducing the salt content (hard water), and keeping our drinking water safe.

There are other benefits of the project which should not be overlooked. We hope to extend the cooperation between the two cities to other issues, such as a shared wastewater treatment facility and the relocation of rail lines. For Woodland, in particular, we hope to address flooding from Cache Creek through our new relationship with RD 2035 and the Conaway Ranch Preservation Group. Even though water and sewer rates will increase, we still expect that Woodland customers will have rates in the lower third of the state. Because of the water metering in Woodland, we anticipate a more concerted water conservation effort by our citizens, meeting a statewide goal.

The applicants for the water permits have been engaged for more than 16 years in efforts to obtain the permits. Our JPA is currently working to identify the construction

method we want to engage, finding and purchasing additional surface water when Term 91 applies to our own permit, and entering into an agreement with RD 2035 for a joint intake facility. The latter will represent a marked improvement by fish screening an antiquated intake facility. We are also lining up the rights of way for the surface water project infrastructure.

Central to the success of this project are the water rights permits for Davis and UCD, and Woodland. I ask that this Board promptly issue the water right permits to the Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency JPA members, so we can remain on schedule and improve water quality by 2016.