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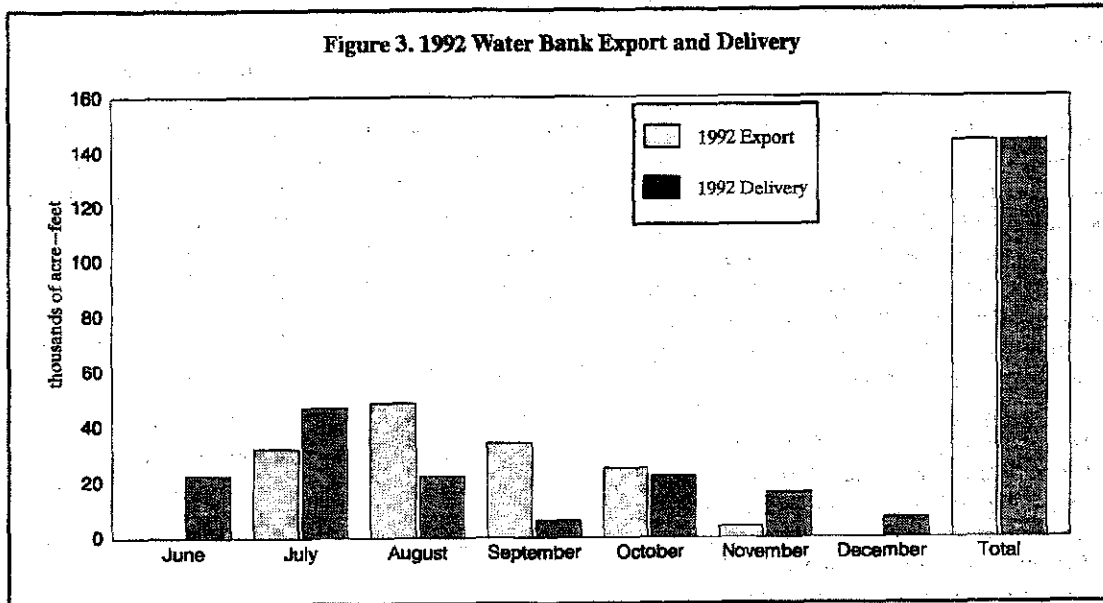
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DROUGHT

WATER

BANK





### Water Bank Administration

The 1991 Bank experience and contracts provided much of the basis for administration of the 1992 Bank. However, the 1992 Bank differed in several respects from the 1991 Bank.

#### Contract Administration

There were 19 sellers and 16 buyers in the 1992 Bank. Contract administration for the 1992 Bank was significantly less complex than for the 1991 Bank, primarily because fewer contracts were processed and no fallowing contracts were executed. Land fallowing contracts are complex and typically require significantly more effort per acre-foot than reservoir storage and ground water substitution contracts.

#### Coordination

Bank administration required coordination among State, federal, and local governments, including the State Water Resources Control Board, DFG, USBR, and Butte and Yolo counties. In addition to the required one-on-one coordination between agencies, most water transfers required multi-agency coordination from the proposal stage (in determining how much water was available for transfer) through actual delivery of water from the seller to the buyer. The roles of various agencies

in coordinating Bank administration are described below.

**USBR:** As operators of the CVP and SWP, USBR and DWR are jointly responsible for meeting in-basin uses and Delta water quality standards. To meet these responsibilities, USBR and DWR coordinate their respective project operations pursuant to the 1986 Coordination Operations Agreement (COA).

Under the terms of the COA, Bank water was considered *new water* and accounted for separately. Most 1992 Bank transfer proposals were reviewed by both DWR and USBR to obtain precontract concurrence of water quantities and other transfer conditions such as carriage water requirements and reservoir refill requirements.

**SWRCB:** The SWRCB is responsible for administration of appropriative water rights within the State. Changes in point of diversion, purpose, or place of use of a post-1914 appropriative right must be approved by the SWRCB before water can be transferred. The three contracts involving reservoir storage withdrawal with Placer County Water Agency, Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation District, and Merced Irrigation District required SWRCB approval. In addition, the SWRCB is responsible for administering Delta water

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quality standards contained in Decision 1485, which affects both CVP and SWP operations.

**DFG:** One goal of the Bank was protecting fish, wildlife, and their habitat. The sixth year of drought placed considerable stress and cumulative impacts on much of the Central Valley's wildlife. DFG reviewed all proposed Bank transfers to assess impacts to fish and wildlife as well as potential benefits. Bank operations were designed to augment stream flows for fishery needs and moderate impacts of Delta exports. In addition, DFG purchased 24,518 acre-feet to augment winter supplies for wildlife.

**Local Government:** Important relationships were established with Yolo and Butte counties as part of the 1991 Drought Water Bank and continued in 1992. Both counties expressed continuing concern that water transfers not cause adverse impacts to local resources. To address some of these concerns, 2 percent of the purchase price was paid to these counties for all water purchases involving ground water within their respective jurisdictions. These payments were in addition to the payments made to the sellers for the water. In 1992, payments provided to Yolo County amounted to \$40,871.80; payments to Butte County equalled \$54,571.00. The counties were required to use these funds for local ground water resource planning and monitoring activities.

**Stanislaus River Operations Group:** As the drought progressed, water supplies for many beneficial uses (agricultural, municipal and industrial, fish and wildlife, power generation, and recreation) were reduced. In 1989, a small group began a dialogue to coordinate Stanislaus River water management under water-short conditions to benefit all users. Known as the Stanislaus River Operations Group, it is comprised of representatives from the Tri-Dam Project, Oakdale and South San Joaquin Irrigation Districts, South Delta Water Agency, Tuolumne Utility District, Calaveras County Water District, Northern California Power Agency, DFG, DWR, and U.S. Departments of Energy (Western Area Power Administration) and Interior (USBR and USFWS). In 1992, the group was able to accomplish a transfer of 50,000 acre-feet to the Drought Water Bank under circumstances that benefited migrating salmon and Delta water quality. The group continues to meet monthly to discuss both short-term and long-term water issues.

### Program Monitoring

Fourteen 1992 Bank contracts involved ground water substitution. Ground water monitoring programs were established to evaluate the effects of pumping and identify any significant problems requiring operational modifications or mitigation. The areas with the most intense transfer activity involving ground water were Butte County, the Yolo Bypass area of Yolo County, and portions of San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties.

- **Butte County.** Water levels in 136 wells in Butte County were measured on a monthly basis between March 1992 and March 1993, and no significant problems were identified. During this period, ground water levels increased an average of 3 feet in the county although a few wells declined slightly or exhibited no change. The increase, despite the additional extractions of ground water, was attributed to the wet winter of 1992-93.
- **Yolo County.** An extensive ground water monitoring program was implemented in Yolo County as part of the 1991 Bank. The program included monitoring ground water levels and water quality. In addition, a network of elevation monuments and an extensometer to measure ground subsidence were installed. This monitoring effort continued as part of the 1992 Bank. Some decline in ground water levels was noted during the contract period. However, levels were generally at or above initial levels by the end of the monitoring period. Little or no ground subsidence was noted over the monitoring period.
- **San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties.** Monthly water level measurements were made from June through October 1992 on the monitoring well networks within Oakdale and South San Joaquin Irrigation Districts. No significant impacts were noted during the monitoring period.

### Third Party Impacts

Operation of the 1991 Bank raised concerns over impacts to the economy of selling regions. These concerns included reduced economic activity for farm workers, fertilizer and seed dealers, trucking firms, custom harvesting, and other agricultural support services. In the fall of 1991, DWR commissioned a study with the RAND Corporation to examine and quantify, where possible, the third party economic impacts of the 1991 Bank. Results of that study were published in October 1993. DWR par-