

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 10:38 PM
To: Public Comment
Cc: Flores, Amparo; Sandy Figuers; 'Sarah Palmer'; 'Dick Quigley'; 'Linda Kelly'; Rank, Elke
Subject: Public comments on Arroyo Valle water rights agenda item 8

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Del Valle Water Rights Agenda 8

Dear Staff and Board

- 1) Please comment on the water rights impact (or lack of impact) associated with the ownership of watershed lands. Does the purchase of watershed land change the split of water rights water between ACWD and Zone 7 or have any impact on Zone 7's water rights.
- 2) Please post on the web site the most recent existing **Lake del Valle Reservoir Operations** annual report described in the Zone 7 1987 **Statement of Groundwater Management**. This existing routine annual report should provide background information and technical data on how Lake del Valle has been operated and how inflow is monitored and manage to provide for prior rights flow and to capture local yield. This existing report may also address some of the misunderstandings expressed in the protests.
- 3) Please post on the web site, the agreement with DWR on use of Lake del Valle storage by ACWD and Zone 7. There is a myth that the lake is lowered for flood risk management. The lake is lowered to 39,000 acre-feet for flood risk management but then is lowered to 25,000 Acre-feet by November 15th to provide storage for Local Water Yield. Please post the report to document the current contract date and storage target.
- 4) Why has Lake del Valle not been lowered below 30,000 Acre-feet this year and in other recent years? The November 15th target of 25,000 Acre-feet was based on a technical analysis of Lake del Valle yields. Optimizing local yield requires the use of the full 14,000 Acre-feet of Del Valle storage. Many thousand acre-feet of free local yield has been lost over the past decade due to not following this contract provision. **Zone 7's ability to capture free local water is at risk when over a third of the storage specified in the contract is not being provided.**

My comments are focused on the importance of providing truthful and factual data in writing to the Board and public so that policy decisions can be based on scientific and engineering data and evidence.

Posting routine annual reports is an efficient way to communicate technical information and prevent misunderstandings that may creep into water rights protest letters or even Board discussions.

My concern is also related to the financial costs of not optimizing local water yield. The loss of 2500 acre feet of local water yield (Zone 7's share of the lost 5,000 feet of storage is 2500 acre-feet) often triggers the purchase of additional "water transfers" costing over \$1 million which adds over \$30 per acre-foot to the cost of water and results in a 15-20% increase in untreated water charges. **Zone 7's ability to capture free local water is at risk when over a third of the storage specified in the contract is not being provided.**

Sincerely
David Lunn
Livermore