



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Jeff Dunn, Esq.
Best Best & Krieger

FROM: R. G. Beeby

RE: *Santa Maria Basin Litigation –Opinions of RGB*
01-0236-00-8673-000

DATE: May 15, 2006

Presented in this memorandum are the opinions I have reached as a result of my review of the data and discussions with the other experts.

1. The stipulated judgment adequately provides for the management of the water resources, both surface and ground water of Santa Maria Basin.
2. In general, the availability of local surface water, local ground water and imported water, along with the existing infrastructure, is sufficient to meet the water demands of the Basin through 2030. This opinion is based on implementation of technically sound management principles and maintenance as set forth in the stipulation.
3. Local areas may require special attention from the technical experts on the three management committees because of differing hydrogeologic characteristics among the three management areas
4. It is highly unlikely that the availability of ground water resources to the contesting parties will be significantly impacted by anticipated growth in the Nipomo or Santa Maria Management Areas.
5. There are presently 2,500,000 [as of 2002 (Alroth, 2002)] acre-feet in ground water storage above mean sea level in the Santa Maria Basin. This would meet the projected water demands at 2030 levels for 15 years without replenishment. There has never been zero recharge or rainfall for any annual period for the entire period of record.
6. There are presently 84,000 acre-feet (Year 2000) in ground water storage above mean sea level in the Nipomo Mesa Management Area. This would meet the projected water demands at 2030 levels for 5 years without replenishment. There has never been zero recharge or rainfall for any annual period for the entire period of record.
7. When agricultural lands within the spheres of influence of the municipal users are converted to urban use, the municipal users are responsible for importing sufficient water to meet the new urban demand. The historical pumpage that occurred on agricultural lands converted to urban uses remains available for landowners who continue to use the ground water for agriculture.

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8. Unit water deliveries for urban uses in the Santa Maria Basin ~~for agriculture~~ are about 65 percent of deliveries for agriculture [$1.47 \text{ ft (Ur)}/2.24 \text{ ft (Ag)} = 0.65$].
9. The return flow of the imported water supplies delivered to urban developments would augment the ground water supplies if not re-pumped by the urban users within one year.
10. Historically, new development, both agricultural and urban, has typically occurred on lands not previously developed (native vegetation). This trend will likely continue until urban growth, specifically in the spheres of influence of the existing municipalities, is forced to take place on lands now devoted to agriculture.
11. The approximate area of native vegetation within the Nipomo Mesa Management Area and the Santa Maria Management Area, subdivided into areas suitable for development and areas that will likely remain in native vegetation are shown in the table attached hereto as Appendix A.
12. The general effects of land use conversions on pumpers who continue to rely on the ground water to meet agricultural demands are illustrated in the matrix attached hereto as Appendix B.