Del Puerto WATER District

P.O. Box 98 • Westley, CA 95387-0098

Fax (209) 892-4469 • Phone (209) 892-4470

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January 9, 2001

Ms. Betty Riley-Simpson
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation, Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

RE: Proposed M&I Water Shortage Policy (December 22, 2000 draft)

Dear Ms. Riley-Simpson:

We understand that you intend to finalize a policy regarding M&I water shortages and are seeking comments on a draft policy dated December 22, 2000.

Our reading of this most recent draft shows little and no substantial change from the November 20th draft on which we commented by letter dated November 30, 2000 (copy attached). The current draft policy continues to raise serious and complex legal and policy issues, and by this letter we reiterate and incorporate the comments and concerns detailed in this previous letter.

While we appreciate the fact that proposed policy continues to limit its applicability only to the quantities of projected M&I demand as of September 1994 and maintains that irrigation water converted to M&I use after that date will be subject to the same shortage allocation as irrigation water, our comments and concerns still have not been adequately addressed.

As you know, this draft policy fundamentally reallocates agricultural water service supplies to urban contractors, thereby placing an additional burden on agricultural contractors and the rural communities they support. To our knowledge there has been no analysis of the impacts associated with such a policy and, consequently, no exploration of possible mitigation measures has been undertaken. Without such analysis and consideration, we remain seriously opposed to any policy that would further impair the efficiency of the project for irrigation purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional comment on this draft policy.

Very truly yours,

William D. Harrison

William D. Harrison
General Manager

Cc: Lester Snow
John Davis
Ernest Conant
CVPWA
SLDMWA

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