

FRIANT
WATER USERS AUTHORITY

Betty R-S

January 10, 2001

Mr. Lester Snow, Regional Director
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

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Subject: Draft Central Valley Project M&I Shortage Policy

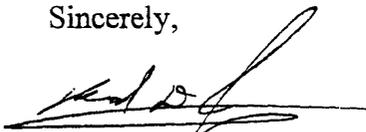
Dear Mr. Snow,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Draft Central Valley Project M&I Water Shortage Policy dated December 22, 2000. In reviewing the draft policy, the Authority recommends that the policy exempt the Friant Division of the CVP due to the unique operating characteristics of the Friant Division. The fourth paragraph of the draft policy notes that "...M&I water allocations may differ between divisions of the CVP. Generally allocations to divisions will be the same unless specific operational constraints occur which do not allow the United States to provide a division with the same minimum allocation as other CVP divisions." We believe that the Friant Division does operate differently and thus a separate policy should apply and the Friant Division should be explicitly exempted from this draft policy.

As you are aware, the Friant Division of the CVP operates differently than other divisions of the CVP in that two classes of water are provided, i.e., Class 1, the firm supply and Class 2, water that develops beyond the firm supply. All M&I water and portions of the Irrigation water in the Friant Division are made available from the Class 1 supply. As a result, M&I water already enjoys a preference over much of the Irrigation water. Any further M&I shortage policy consideration relative to the Friant Division should be specifically developed by Reclamation in cooperation with the M&I and Irrigation Contractors within the division.

Please feel free to contact me should you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Ronald D. Jacobsma,
Business Operations Manager

Cc: Member Districts
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