

Testimony of Joseph Kuebler
State Water Resources Control Board Hearing
July 13, 1994

GOOD MORNING, MY NAME IS JOSEPH KUEBLER, AND I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TODAY TO OFFER MY PERSPECTIVES ON WATER. MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE CRITICAL ROLE THAT THIS ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE RESOURCE WILL PLAY IN THE FUTURE ON SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

AS BACKGROUND, I AM A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT AND ONE OF THE OWNERS OF THE ACCOUNTING FIRM OF KUEBLER, THOMAS & CO. - CPA'S WITH OFFICES IN THE CITIES OF PERRIS AND TEMECULA IN WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY. I AM ALSO DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE VALLEY GROUP AND THE MONDAY MORNING GROUP, TWO COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR REGION, AS WELL AS THE CONTINUING PROSPERITY OF ALL OF CALIFORNIA.

AS IT HAS BEEN IN ALL AREAS OF THE STATE, WATER IS THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT THAT HAS SHAPED THE COMMUNITIES AND THE ECONOMY OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE. AS A DIRECT RESULT OF WATER AVAILABILITY, WE SAW AGRICULTURAL

DEVELOPMENT IN THE EARLY YEARS AND, BUT MORE RECENTLY, A CONVERSION OF THESE FARMLANDS TO HOMES AND BUSINESSES.

THESE BUSINESSES NOW FORM AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE 350 BILLION DOLLAR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ECONOMY, AND MANY OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN OUR AREA ARE COMMUTERS WHO WORK IN THE LARGER BUSINESS COMPLEXES OF ORANGE AND LOS ANGELES COUNTIES.

AS IT HAS IN THE PAST, THE LIVELIHOOD OF OUR CITIZENS--AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE THEY ENJOY--DEPENDS UPON HAVING ENOUGH WATER. AND WHETHER WE HAVE THE SUPPLIES NECESSARY HINGES ON THE DECISIONS NOW BEING DELIBERATED BY YOUR BOARD AND OTHER STATE AND FEDERAL POLICY MAKERS.

I KNOW THAT THE ISSUES YOU ARE FACING IN THE SACRAMENT-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ARE COMPLEX. BUT MY MESSAGE TO YOU IS SIMPLE

THE CITIES OF CALIFORNIA--NORTH AND SOUTH ALIKE--NEED ADDITIONAL WATER FROM THE DELTA IF THEY ARE TO MAINTAIN THEIR ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND PROTECT THE

QUALITY OF LIFE OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.

IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY, THE RECENT DROUGHT HAS SHOWN US THE CONSEQUENCES OF RUNNING OUT. THERE WERE BUILDING BANS IN SOME AREAS, THE COSTS OF WATER CREPT EVER HIGHER, AND AGRICULTURE WAS FORCED TO TAKE TREES OUT OF PRODUCTION AS A RESULT OF SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS IN DELIVERIES.

WE ALL MUST BEND WHEN EMERGENCIES OCCUR. BUT THIS SCENARIO IS SIMPLY NOT ACCEPTABLE AS AN ONGOING POLICY FOR CALIFORNIA.

SOMETHING MUST BE DONE, AND SOMETHING CAN BE DONE.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR CALIFORNIA TO FIND THE RESOLVE TO FIX THE WATER FLOW PROBLEMS THAT ARE THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE DELTA'S ENVIRONMENTAL, WATER QUALITY AND WATER QUANTITY PROBLEMS.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PUSH AHEAD WITH NEW FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS WHICH WILL IMPROVE THE HABITAT FOR DELTA FISH, GIVE US BETTER WATER TO DRINK, AND PROVIDE MUCH OF THE ADDITIONAL SUPPLY WE WILL NEED IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

BUT WHATEVER STEPS YOU TAKE, YOUR DECISIONS MUST BE BALANCED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AS WELL AS THE NEEDS OF THE CITIES OF CALIFORNIA.

I BELIEVE THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY IS READY AND WILLING TO SUPPORT YOU IN MOVING FORWARD WITH THE JOB THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. AND I BELIEVE BUSINESS PEOPLE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE ARE EQUALLY ANXIOUS FOR WORK TO BEGIN.

WHAT WE CAN LEAST AFFORD IS TO CONTINUE TO DO NOTHING WHILE THE DELTA ENVIRONMENT CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE AND OUR CITIES FACE AN INCREASING RISK OF WATER SHORTAGES.

THANK YOU.