

## POLICY STATEMENT

FOR JANUARY 18, 2011 SWRCB HEARING

ON DAVIS-WOODLAND WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

WATER-RIGHT APPLICATIONS 30358A AND 30358B

My name is Jim Nielsen, and I am the California State Assemblyman representing District 2, which includes the City of Woodland. I am entering my second term as Assemblyman, after previously representing the North State for three terms in the State Senate. Currently, I serve as the Vice-Chair of the Budget Committee, and am a Member of the both the Rules and Appropriations Committees.

As a life-long San Joaquin and Sacramento valley farmer, rancher and representative, I am acutely interested in preserving and protecting water resources in Yolo County for both agricultural and municipal uses, and ensuring that area-of-origin water rights are protected to meet the water use requirements of water users in Woodland and Davis. With that in mind, I offer my unequivocal support of Water Right Applications 30358A and 30358B.

The City of Woodland, in partnership with the City of Davis and UC Davis, is implementing plans for a surface water supply project to supplement and largely replace groundwater supplies, currently the only source of water for Woodland and Davis. Both cities are plagued by unreliable water supplies and wastewater discharge effluent that currently exceeds allowable limits, or will do so in the near future. The water quality problems are caused largely by degrading groundwater quality, sometimes over-drafting, along with aging water supply facilities. Both cities have made a significant investment in the project's development, which is designed to provide a higher-quality water source to ultimately reduce harmful constituents in the wastewater effluent.

The Project's 2007 Environmental Impact Report concluded that the most environmentally-sensitive and cost-effective solution to the wastewater effluent and water quality problems was to secure higher-quality surface water resources from the nearby Sacramento River. In 2009, the cities formed the Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency to finance and construct the project. In accordance with the 2007 EIR, the Agency will partner with Reclamation District 2035 to construct and operate a new, state-of-the-art intake facility to serve both municipal and agricultural users. The new intake will replace RD 2035's antiquated facility that was constructed in the early 1900s, and will include protections for sensitive habitats.

Woodland and Davis are two of very few cities in California that continue to rely solely on groundwater, and should be granted permits to divert local surface water resources for local beneficial uses. The surface water supplies will be integrated to meet current and future water quality requirements that are designed to protect public health and the environment.

I urge the State Water Resources Control Board to approve Water Right Applications 30358A and 30358B, thereby allowing Woodland and Davis to pursue the most environmentally-sensitive solution to water quality and wastewater discharge problems plaguing both cities.