

**POLICY STATEMENT
FOR JANUARY 18, 2011 SWRCB HEARING
ON DAVIS-WOODLAND WATER SUPPLY PROJECT
WATER-RIGHT APPLICATIONS 30358A AND 30358B**

My name is Sidney England, and I serve as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). I have worked on the campus for over 20 years in various roles concerned with environmental planning and resource management. I chair the UC Davis committee charged with addressing long-term water supply planning and have been involved with the Davis-Woodland Water Supply Project since the water rights application was filed in 1994.

Since 1994, UC Davis has been an active participant in the project to develop a Sacramento River water supply for UC Davis and the cities of Davis and Woodland. Through a series of Memoranda of Understanding, UC Davis has shared in the costs of developing the proposed project, completing the Environmental Impact Report, and establishing the Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency (“WDCWA”).

UC Davis and the WDCWA have developed an agreement and a water supply contract that would provide 2,000 acre-feet/year of treated surface water for on-campus domestic use. Thus, UC Davis would be a customer of the WDCWA. As part of the agreement and contract approved by the WDCWA board on December 21, 2010, the University has assigned its interest in Water-Right Application 30358A to the WDCWA. Unifying this application with Application 30358B will provide the WDCWA with the most flexibility to efficiently manage the water supply to meet the needs of the cities and UC Davis.

In addition to being a water customer of the WDCWA, UC Davis is a Participating Agency of the WDCWA. In this role, representatives of UC Davis participate in all open session

board meetings regarding the planning, design, construction and operation of the project. UC Davis also continues to participate in all the technical planning and review for the project.

UC Davis and its partners have actively pursued these applications over this time due to the importance of securing a reliable, high quality water supply. UC Davis has evaluated continuing to rely solely on groundwater, using a mixture of groundwater and surface water, and converting entirely to surface water. UC Davis has chosen to pursue the mixed water supply strategy. The advantages of adding surface water to the UC Davis domestic water system include:

- Diversifying UC Davis's domestic water supply to provide a secure long-term supply. UC Davis currently relies solely on groundwater from the deep aquifer for its domestic water supply. Evaluation of this aquifer in cooperation with the City of Davis has demonstrated that it is confined and recharges slowly. Increased regional groundwater pumping and other factors beyond the University's control threaten the availability and quality of this water.
- Responding to new wastewater treatment regulations. Groundwater hardness causes the UC Davis campus wastewater to be relatively high in salt. The Regional Water Quality Control Board issues NPDES permits for the UC Davis wastewater treatment plant and is concerned that these salt levels may impact downstream agricultural users and municipal water suppliers. In response, the Regional Board has issued violations and fines to the University. In the most recent permit process, the University was given some time to address the issue, but obtaining new water supplies is the least-cost, best way to achieve compliance with the Regional Board's water quality goals.

- Providing for future UC Davis growth and changing water needs. A new surface water supply to augment continued use of groundwater will provide UC Davis with a secure, high quality water source that will ensure the ability to support future increases in enrollment, and growth in the research enterprise including expanded private-public collaborations.

Ensuring a reliable, high quality water supply is a major policy goal for UC Davis. The importance of this project is demonstrated by the long-term commitment to developing the water supply project and perfecting the water right permits. The University requests that the State Water Resources Control Board promptly issue the water-right permits to the WDCWA. Prompt action is needed so that the project can secure financing and move forward with design and implementation.