

**DATE:** May 10, 1999

**TO:** Fresno County Public Works & Development Services Department  
Development Services Division  
2220 Tulare street, 6th Division  
Fresno, CA 93721

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**SUBJECT:** NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT REPORT / NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

## **1. PLANNING PROCESS**

Process should include regional area rather than just local. This includes area North, East, South, and West including Fresno County. This way we gain more support with Legislation with regards to solving the problem of Ag Unemployment, Rural Communities and Water Districts. Because of existing conditions, presently we are faced with conditions that create wars among areas previously mentioned.

## **2. WATER SUPPLY**

A reliable water supply is needed to address the concerns of water supply reliability on a state wide level. Fresno County can do this with surface water storage in Panoche-Silver Creek.

Water supply reliability would work in conjunction with these benefits;

1. Flood Control
2. Sedimentation Control
3. Water Quality Control
4. Ag Damages Control

5. County & State Road Damage Control
6. Less over drafting of ground water that cause land subaidence.
7. Less congestion of Mendota Pool and Fresno Slough

### **3. SAND AND GRAVE MINING**

Sand and Grave mining can be an asset rather than a liability in Panoche-Silver Creek area.

#### **History**

Forty years ago when the California Aqueduct was built during the process they removed 450,000 tons of sedimentation and contaminants that come by way of compatible materials.

Thirty years ago when I-5 was built they took 750,000 tons of materials to construct I-5.

Twenty years ago they took several 100,000 tons of materials from Panoche-Silver Creek mining to construct the San Luis Drain Canal.

For a period of time after these activities, like 2 or 3 years, we had sedimentation control, contaminant control, and flash flood control. This was all because of the sentient trap that was created for beneficial uses mentioned above. Contaminant from this area currently flow to the grassland area and the San Joaquin River problem areas.

Sources of information where tonnage is concerned come from Granite Construction Co.

#### **4. RECREATION AND TOURISM**

There seems to be a lack of recreation and tourism on the West Side of Fresno County yet an abundance on the East Side. This can be rectified by way of water supply reliability resolve. The location of the water storage facility one mile west of I-5 Panoche-Silver Creek is not a wildlife area only a wildlife study area thus this area could be changed with legislation to a storage area that will provide fishing, boating, and tourism.

#### **5. DEVELOPMENT NORTHEAST OF FRESNO-CLOVIS METROPOLITAN AREA**

These conditions should be addressed by the area that is affected.

#### **6. ECONOMIC AND GROWTH SCENARIOS**

The area in question of economic development strategy should be pursued by ways of inducing tourism on the West Side of Fresno County that presently lacks recreation development and multi benefits previously mentioned.

#### **7. LAND USE PATTERNS / QUALITY OF LIFE**

Land use pattern in the past were applicable when the San Luis Drain was operational. The plugging of the San Luis Drain has had a drastic effect on agriculture on the land adjacent to the San Luis Drain Canal, West of Mendota from Five Points to Kesterson.

It would seem applicable to induce Agriculture related industry in this area that could use these waters that are not health hazards and are environmentally hazardous. Presently, food processing uses a vast amount of water for vacuum cooling, forced draft cooling and refrigeration.

We need to go one step further. By freezing these products which would induce

packaging of finished products rather than finishing elsewhere in the valley. This intern will create jobs and stimulate the economy. We need to think on terms that have multi benefits in the bad lands on the West Side.

Thus more pavement less water applied to the land, would give multi benefits.

#### **8. PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN A LANDSCAPE OF CHOICE**

Should not be applicable to the bad land of the West Side.

#### **9. TRANSPORTATION**

We need an East West Connection to the I-5 Corridor by way of 180 in order to take traffic congestion by way of trucking from Highway 99 that creates hazardous problems by way of fog during winter time.

This would work with Ag related industry in the bad lands of the West Side.

#### **10. EDUCATION**

If condition were as should be, our youth would not be forced to leave this area seeking opportunities elsewhere. We need to create opportunities that our youth can actually acquire and use. Something that their parents did not see or did not accomplish.

cc: Edward E. Petry: Stake Holder in the Community