

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION

The Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency has drafted a Proposed Statement of Policy contained in the attached:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
ANTELOPE VALLEY-EAST KERN WATER AGENCY
ESTABLISHING PRINCIPLES OF PROGRAM FOR
GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION.

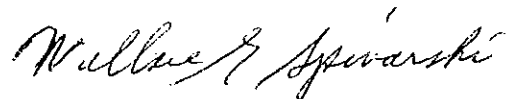
The Agency staff has prepared the enclosed Environmental Assessment related to adoption of the proposed resolution and policy contained therein. The staff analysis has concluded that a Negative Declaration can be prepared on this project.

As the Lead Agency, Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency is seeking your comments concerning the proposed adoption of this policy resolution. The Board of Directors of Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency will conduct a public hearing on this matter on April 25, 1989 at 7:30 P.M. in the Agency offices at 6500 West Avenue N, Quartz Hill, CA 93536 to take testimony and consider all written comments received.

At the close of the hearing, the Board may consider adoption of the Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact and the Policy Resolution.

Please send your written comments to Wallace Spinarski at P. O. Box 3176, Quartz Hill, CA 93536.

DATED: March 21, 1989.



WALLACE G. SPINARSKI
General Manager

Attach.

RESOLUTION NO. R-89-7

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
ANTELOPE VALLEY-EAST KERN WATER AGENCY
ESTABLISHING PRINCIPLES OF PROGRAM FOR
GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION

PREAMBLE

The Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) was formed by a special act of the California Legislature in 1959. This was the same legislative session which adopted the Burns-Porter Act for submission to the electorate in June 1960 to commence construction of the State Water Project.

Sponsors of the AVEK enabling legislation were concerned citizens of the Antelope Valley region who had organized a groundwater basin association because of concerns with the lowering water table resulting from excessive pumping. Construction of the State Water Project, and routing of the East Branch of the California Aqueduct along the southern rim of Antelope Valley, presented the opportunity for the Antelope Valley region to obtain an imported water supply in place of overdrafting groundwater. In creating AVEK, the State Legislature provided the governmental entity empowered to contract for an imported supplemental water supply on behalf of the region, and to manage its distribution and use to benefit the lands overlying the groundwater basin.

The Legislature granted AVEK the powers necessary to acquire, construct and operate a waterworks system for the storage, conveyance, supply or other use of water; to acquire, control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, reclaim, recapture and salvage any water; and to distribute water to persons in exchange for ceasing or reducing groundwater extractions.

In 1962, AVEK entered into a Water Supply Contract with the State of California to secure a maximum annual entitlement to 138,400 acre-feet of imported water from the State Water Project. The East Branch of the California Aqueduct became operational in 1972. The voters of AVEK approved a \$71 million bond authorization to construct a water treatment and distribution system called the Domestic Agricultural Water Network (DAWN) in 1974. AVEK began delivering imported State Project water to its customers in 1975.

From the beginning, it has been AVEK's policy not to engage in the retail distribution of water for consumptive use. Instead, AVEK supplies water primarily on a wholesale basis to retail water purveyors, or sub-agencies, who then deliver the water to their customers. It has also been AVEK's policy to price State Project water so as to encourage the voluntary cessation or reduction of groundwater pumping in exchange for the use of the imported water supply. To date, AVEK has delivered approximately 600,000 acre-feet of imported water under these policy guidelines.

AVEK policy also stated "It is the Agency's objective and responsibility to supply the imported water needs required by sub-agencies at the time and in the amount required to insure the continued economic growth of both the sub-agency and the total Agency." The DAWN project facilities have provided the backbone treatment and transmission system to accomplish that purpose. The sub-agencies within AVEK are experiencing the economic growth foreseen in the policy statement.

In order to assure the health and safety of our communities, water supply must be both adequate in quantity and reliable for delivery upon demand. Therefore, the sub-agencies within AVEK must secure the water supply capability necessary to meet the basic health and safety needs of their inhabitants, either by drilling their own groundwater wells or by receiving assurance from AVEK of a dependable water supply. Imported water from the State Water Project, however, is only a supplemental supply, and is subject to shortages and outages occasioned by drought, earthquake, equipment failure, accidental contamination, routine maintenance and political disputes over water rights and development of project water supplies.

If AVEK were to begin a program of acquiring or constructing groundwater wells to provide the necessary backup reliability to the imported water, the local sub-agencies could avoid the expense of having to drill and develop wells to provide that backup supply. The local sub-agencies would need groundwater wells only as necessary to provide a percentage of their annual base water use, or as necessary to meet daily peak system demands not provided in the AVEK system. Therefore, it should be AVEK's goal to develop and maintain a groundwater pumping capability equal to at least 75% of the imported water supply

demand. In addition, AVEK should acquire, construct and maintain areas for recharge of water to the groundwater basin. Such recharge could be accomplished with captured storm waters, reclaimed wastewater, or imported water supplies consisting of surplus State Project water, excess AVEK entitlement, or banking of water for other State Water contractors.

The primary objective of AVEK in this program should be to maximize conservation of water in storage in the groundwater basin. The United States Geological Survey has estimated the long term safe yield of the groundwater basin in the AVEK region as being 76,000 acre-feet per year. The contractual entitlements of State Project water imported to AVEK, Palmdale Water District and Littlerock Creek Irrigation District total a maximum of 158,000 acre-feet per year. Groundwater conjunctive use and banking, wastewater reclamation and improved water conservation practices by consumers would provide total water supplies to the Antelope Valley sufficient to support a population in excess of 1,000,000 people and its attendant economy.

Predicated on the facts, assumptions and conclusions contained in the Preamble above,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency that in order to sustain the continued economic growth of the Agency and its sub-agencies through the management of the available water resources in a manner that maximizes the most efficient utilization of said water resources, the Agency shall budget for capital expenditures to acquire or construct groundwater recharge and pumping facilities; shall provide for funding the operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of such facilities from Agency rates and charges; and shall operate such facilities in conjunction with the imported water supply from the State Water Project for wholesale distribution by AVEK to its retail sub-agencies to supplement their locally developed water supplies.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

I. Background

1. Name of Proponent Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency
2. Address and Phone Number of Proponent 6500 West Avenue "N", P.O. Box 3176
Quartz Hill, CA 93534 (805) 943-3201
3. Date of Checklist Submission March 14, 1989
4. Agency Requiring Checklist A.V.E.K.
5. Name of Proposal, if applicable Program for Groundwater Development and Conservation (See Amendment #1)

II. Environmental Impacts

(Explanations of all "yes" and "maybe" answers are required on attached sheets.)

	YES	MAYBE	NO
1. <u>Earth.</u> Will the proposal result in:			
a. Unstable earth conditions or in changes in geologic substructures?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Disruptions, displacements, compaction or overcovering of the soil?	_____	<u>X</u>	_____
c. Change in topography or ground surface relief features?	_____	<u>X</u>	_____
d. The destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
e. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
f. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet or lake?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
g. Exposure of people or property to geological hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>

	YES	MAYBE	NO
2. <u>Air</u> . Will the proposal result in:			
a. <u>Substantial</u> air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality?	—	—	<u>X</u>
b. The creation of objectionable odors?	—	—	<u>X</u>
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?	—	—	<u>X</u>
3. <u>Water</u> . Will the proposal result in:			
a. Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters?	—	—	<u>X</u>
b. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff?	—	—	<u>X</u>
c. Alterations to the course of flow of flood waters?	—	—	<u>X</u>
d. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?	—	—	<u>X</u>
e. Discharge into surface waters or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?	—	—	<u>X</u>
f. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters?	<u>X</u>	—	—
g. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions, or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations?	<u>X</u>	—	—
h. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies?	—	—	<u>X</u>
i. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves?	—	—	<u>X</u>
j. Significant changes in the temperature, flow, or chemical content of surface thermal springs?	—	—	<u>X</u>
4. <u>Plant Life</u> . Will the proposal result in:			

	YES	MAYBE	NO
a. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?	—	—	X
b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants?	—	—	X
c. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?	—	—	X
d. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop?	—	—	X
5. <u>Animal Life.</u> Will the proposal result in:			
a. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects)?	—	—	X
b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals?	—	—	X
c. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?	—	—	X
d. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat?	—	—	X
6. <u>Noise.</u> Will the proposal result in:			
a. Increases in existing noise levels?	—	X	—
b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?	—	—	X
7. <u>Light and Glare.</u> Will the proposal produce new light or glare?	—	—	X
8. <u>Land Use.</u> Will the proposal result in a substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area?	—	X	—
9. <u>Natural Resources.</u> Will the proposal result in:			
a. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources?	—	X	—
b. Substantial depletion of any non-renewal natural resource?	—	—	X

	YES	MAYBE	NO
10. <u>Risk of Upset.</u> Will the proposal involve:			
a. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions?	---	---	<u>X</u>
b. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?	---	---	<u>X</u>
11. <u>Population.</u> Will the proposal alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate to the human population of an area?	---	---	<u>X</u>
12. <u>Housing.</u> Will the proposal affect existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing?	---	<u>X</u>	---
13. <u>Transportation/Circulation.</u> With the proposal result in:	---	---	<u>X</u>
a. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement?	---	---	<u>X</u>
b. Effects on existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking?	---	---	<u>X</u>
c. <u>Substantial</u> impact upon existing transportation systems?	---	---	<u>X</u>
d. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?	---	---	<u>X</u>
e. Alterations to waterborne, rail or air traffic?	---	---	<u>X</u>
f. Increase in traffic hazardous to motors vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians?	---	---	<u>X</u>
14. <u>Public Services.</u> Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services to any of the following areas:	---	---	<u>X</u>
a. Fire protection?	---	---	<u>X</u>
b. Police protection?	---	---	<u>X</u>
c. Schools?	---	---	<u>X</u>
d. Parks or other recreational facilities?	---	---	<u>X</u>

	YES	MAYBE	NO
e. Maintenance of public facilities, including <u>roads</u> ?	---	---	<u>X</u>
f. Other governmental services?	---	---	<u>X</u>
15. <u>Energy</u> . Will the proposal result in:			
a. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?	---	<u>X</u>	---
b. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources of energy?	---	<u>X</u>	---
16. <u>Utilities</u> . Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:			
a. Power or natural gas?	---	---	<u>X</u>
b. Communications systems?	---	---	<u>X</u>
c. Water?	---	---	---
d. Sewer or septic tanks?	---	---	<u>X</u>
e. Storm water drainage?	---	---	<u>X</u>
f. Solid waste and disposal?	---	---	<u>X</u>
17. <u>Human Health</u> . Will the proposal result in:			
a. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?	---	---	<u>X</u>
b. Exposure of people to potential health hazards?	---	---	<u>X</u>
18. <u>Aesthetics</u> . Will the proposal result in the obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?	---	---	<u>X</u>
19. <u>Recreation</u> . Will the proposal result in an impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?	---	---	<u>X</u>
20. <u>Cultural Resources</u> .			
a. Will the proposal result in the alteration of or the destruction of a pre-historic or historic archaeological site?	---	---	<u>X</u>

	YES	MAYBE	NO
b. Will the proposal result in adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object?	—	—	X
c. Does the proposal have the potential to cause physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?	—	—	X
d. Will the proposal restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	—	—	X
21. <u>Mandatory Findings of Significance.</u>			
a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	—	—	X
b. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term impact on the environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief definitive period of time while long-term will endure well into the future.)	—	—	X
c. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project may impact on two or more separate resources where the impact on each resource is relatively small, but where the effect of the total of those impacts on the environment is significant.)	—	—	X
d. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	—	—	X
III. Discussion of Environmental Evaluation	—	—	X
IV. Determination (To be completed by the Lead Agency)			

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
See Attachment #2

I find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

Date _____

Signature _____

For _____

RELATIVE TO "YES" AND "MAYBE" ITEMS ON THE CHECKLIST

- 1.b This project is a policy statement by the Agency and it, by itself, will not result in any construction of facilities. However, the projects that may be constructed as a result of this policy may result in disruptions, displacements, compaction or overcovering of the soil. However, these will be addressed by individual environmental analysis for each project as they are defined.
- 1.c This project is a policy statement by the Agency and it, by itself, will not result in any construction of facilities. However, the projects that may be constructed as a result of this policy may result in change in topography or ground surface relief features. However, these will be addressed by individual environmental analysis for each project as they are defined.
- 3.f The projects which result from this policy may result in alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters. However, these will be addressed by individual environmental analysis for each project as they are defined.
- 3.g The projects which result from this policy may result in change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions, or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations. However, these will be addressed by individual environmental analysis for each project as they are defined.
- 6a. During the construction of projects that may result from this policy noise levels may increase. However, these will be addressed by individual environmental analysis for each project as they are defined.
8. The projects that results from this policy may result in changes in land use. However, each project will be reviewed on its own merit at the time they are developed and an individual environmental review will be made of each project as they are defined.
- 9.a There may be an increase in the use of natural resources as a result of projects which may result from this policy. However, these will be addressed by individual environmental analysis for each project as they are defined.

11. The growth rate may be altered as a result of projects proposed as a result of this policy. However those projects will be reviewed on their own merits at the time they are developed and an individual environmental review will be made of each project as they are defined.
- 15.a Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy may result due to projects proposed as a result of this policy. However, those projects will be reviewed on their own merits at the time they are developed and an individual environmental review will be made of each project as they are defined.
- 15.b Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources of energy may result due to projects proposed as a result of this policy. However, those projects will be reviewed on their own merits at the time they are developed and an individual environmental review will be made of each project as they are defined.