

Water from this Northern California river will be flowing through the Antelope Valley within a year to make it possible for this area to fulfill its promise for the future. To be brought here through the State Water Project, this supplemental water can relieve the present groundwater overdraft in Antelope Valley-East Kern and provide plenty of high-quality water for years ahead.

The Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency has contracted to buy enough State Project water to correct the existing deficiency here and make possible the desirable economic growth that is

necessary to provide the increasing number of jobs we will need in the future.

Even though this State Project water will be available here shortly, we cannot make beneficial use of it unless we construct the local distribution system needed to get it where it is so desperately needed. On Tuesday, we can take that final step toward a solution of our water problems when we vote on the AVEK water project. The information on the following pages will give you facts on which you can base your personal decision concerning the AVEK proposal.

PWS-0138-0001

—History of AVEK—

The Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK), encompassing 2200 square miles in Northern Los Angeles and Eastern Kern Counties, was created by special act of the California Legislature in 1959. This public agency was created after many years of activity by citizens' groups to seek a solution to the increasing overdraft of groundwater resources in the valley. In the years immediately preceding formation of AVEK, local efforts had focused on support for construction of the State Water Project as a source of supplemental water.

AVEK was created because it was apparent that the Antelope Valley-East Kern area, to receive maximum benefit from the State Water Project, should have a special public

agency to contract for sufficient water to meet its full needs for the foreseeable future, to plan facilities to distribute the imported water to present and future purveyors, and to operate such facilities. This opinion was shared by officials of the California Department of Water Resources and by other technical experts consulted.

AVEK immediately undertook studies to determine the water needs of the area. The studies confirmed that the water demands exceed the safe yield of the groundwater basins. As a result, AVEK in 1962 (1) executed a water service contract with the State of California, which, with subsequent amendments, assures this area of an ultimate yearly supply of 138,400 acre feet of water from the State Water

Project; and (2) in 1969 the Board of Directors adopted an engineering and financial proposal to construct the facilities required to make this imported water available for use.

It is important to recognize that AVEK was organized to "wholesale" water to local water companies and districts. This function has been re-emphasized in policy resolutions adopted by the AVEK board of directors. The AVEK system, if approved at the polls on Tuesday, will not be competitive with any existing or future water systems. It will simply make State Project water available to these systems.

Why can't these existing systems bring in State Project water on their own? Why is AVEK necessary?

There is no question that a few of the water companies and districts now operating here might be able to bring in State Project water on their own. But this alternative was discarded long ago for several reasons. Among them:

- (1) Without the coordination offered by AVEK, local water users would find themselves paying for duplicate treatment plants and pipelines, each built too small to be economical. The end result: much higher costs than will be the case with the coordinated AVEK system.
- (2) Many existing water systems do not have the financial resources to bring in State Project

water on their own. Without AVEK, a large part of the area would never be able to take advantage of the supplemental water available from the State Project.

- (3) Without AVEK, any efforts made to bring in State Project water would have to be piecemeal. This would not make possible any reasonable provision for future needs.

Because of AVEK, this area now has a right to enough water from the State Project to meet present needs, plus those of the foreseeable future. Because of AVEK, this badly-needed supplemental water can be provided at lower costs than through any other plan.

Waterworks Districts Say AVEK Project Needed Now

There's nothing debatable about the groundwater overdraft in the Antelope Valley, as far as the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts are concerned.

"The water table is dropping an average of six feet a year," says Joe Cosney, maintenance and operations superintendent for the nine waterworks districts in this area.

Cosney works directly under Ken Putnam, manager of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts. Cosney is probably the best-qualified observer of local groundwater conditions because the local waterworks districts keep detailed records on the 39 wells required to meet present water demands in this area.

These well records are more than enough to dispel any doubt that Antelope Valley needs supplemental water

from the State Water Project through the proposed AVEK distribution system. That's why the eight waterworks districts that are within the boundaries of the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency have already signed a contract for this water through the AVEK system.

Cosney points out that his job is not limited to making sure his customers have plenty of water. It's also important to provide this water at lowest cost, he emphasizes. This is another reason, says Manager Putnam, why the eight waterworks districts are looking forward to water from AVEK.

Putnam explains that it costs a great deal to keep lowering pumps and drilling new wells as the water table drops. For example, a typical new pumping station is esti-

mated to cost in the range of \$150,000. But that's only part of the high cost of pumping water from the declining groundwater basin, he adds. Each additional foot of lift costs more in electricity, and this added cost has to be passed on to water users.

Cosney says that AVEK water will be sold to the waterworks districts at about the present average cost of pumping water from the ground. Based on water schedules announced by AVEK, this supplemental water cost will be relatively stable in the years ahead, as compared with constantly rising costs that would result from continuing to pump the districts' total needs from the ground.

Putnam says a good way to explain the value of the AVEK system to the waterworks districts is to think of AVEK as

taking the place of several new wells.

The history of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts, which are a function of the office of Los Angeles County Engineer John Lambie, parallels the growth of the Antelope Valley.

The first waterworks district in this area, District 4 in Lancaster, was established in 1919. At that time, District 4 included 1,510 acres. Due to continual annexations, it now includes nearly 34,000 acres. Its assessed valuation has grown from \$1,310,000 to more than \$65,000,000. District 4 now has 10,290 service connections, a tremendous increase over the 1,322 homes and businesses it served as recently as 1951.

Keeping up with the water needs of such a dynamic area involves more problems than just drilling more wells and deepening existing wells, Cosney explains. One of the most critical problems is in maintaining the ability of the system to meet peak demands.

Since water use varies from month to month—as well as from hour to hour—the system must have the capability to handle to great deal more than the average daily quantities required. Explaining the ups-and-downs in water use, Cosney reports that daily consumption per person will

range from a low of 80 gallons to a high of over 300 gallons, computed on a monthly average. The daily and hourly variations are much more extreme than that, he adds.

The system has to be designed and operated to provide all the water demanded during the peak hour of the peak day of the peak month. This means a system large enough to handle five or six times as much water as the average daily consumption.

In spite of the vastness of the operations of the waterworks districts in the Antelope Valley, all nine of them are maintained and operated with a total of only 35 employees, including office personnel. Water bills are prepared at the waterworks districts' Los Angeles office through use of electronic data processing equipment.

Cosney says the comparatively low personnel overhead is made possible only because of the efficient performance of individual staff members and the use of telemetry and automatic systems control equipment. These electro-mechanical systems make it possible to monitor the operations of all nine local waterworks districts from central headquarters at 419 West Ave. J in Lancaster.

County: AVEK Plan Best

Los Angeles County Engineer John Lambie, who heads the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts in Antelope Valley, says the Waterworks Districts have contracted to receive State Project water through the AVEK water project in accordance with a long-established pattern.

The Waterworks Districts provide water to well over half the present population within Antelope Valley-East Kern.

Lambie told a Lancaster meeting this week that the Waterworks Districts prefer to obtain supplemental water through "wholesale" suppliers such as AVEK, a method he termed "very satisfactory". He said the Waterworks Districts operate on this basis elsewhere in Los Angeles County, contracting with such wholesale agencies as the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. He said AVEK is the counterpart to MWD in this area.

Addressing a water seminar sponsored by the Antelope Valley Board of Trade, Lambie saw advantages in meeting local water needs through regional water agencies such as AVEK, pointing out:

"Because they include large areas, they can make plans and solve the problems of the delivery of water better than many smaller purveyors such as Waterworks Districts, each of which serves a limited area."

Lambie added that the local Waterworks Districts couldn't bring in State Project water on their own even if they wanted to because the full supply of State Project has been contracted, with no water available here except the quantity already purchased by AVEK.

Lambie praised the AVEK plan, noting that it was developed in cooperation with the Waterworks Districts. He said the Waterworks Districts were also active in providing studies

which led to the formation of AVEK more than ten years ago.

According to the Waterworks Districts chief, the water pricing policies adopted by the board of directors of Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency are "very equitable and reasonable". Because of these pricing policies, he explained, it will be more economical and in the best interests of the public to purchase imported water to supply the needs of future growth rather than drilling new wells.

Lambie concluded his local presentation with this warning:

"As engineer for the Waterworks Districts, we are very concerned with the future of the area and know that imported water is needed, not only to support the present population and consumptive use, but it is imperative to support the anticipated growth of the area."

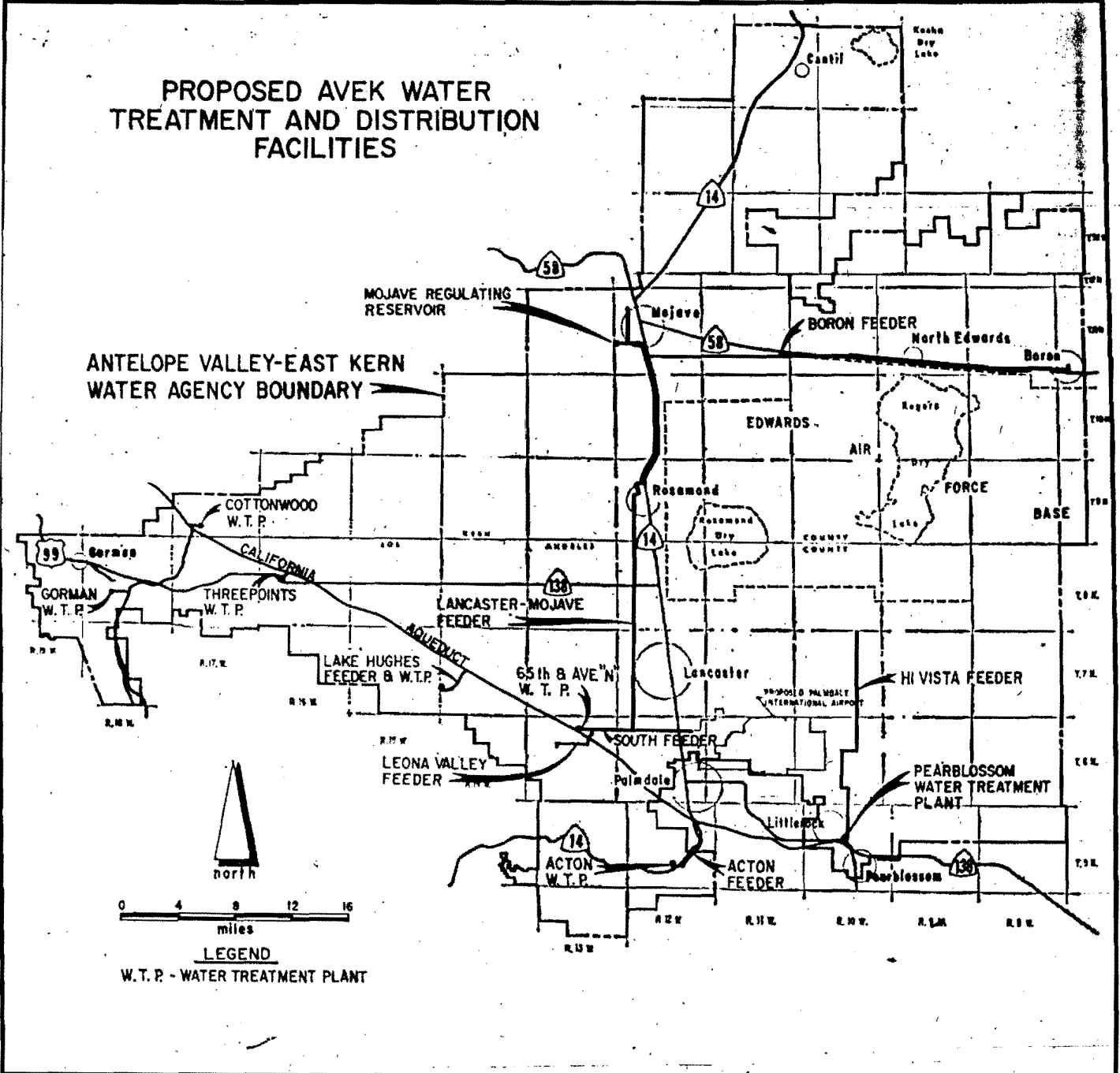
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AVEK Tomorrow

Published by AVEK Citizens for Water and Jobs, Charles W. Taylor, Chairman, Executive Committee: Della Arnold and Chet Vreeland, co-chairmen; George C. Hoffmaier, Treasurer; Jim Jackson, Finance Chairman.

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PROPOSED AVEK WATER TREATMENT AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES



AVEK Project to Serve Nearly Everybody

As explained on page 2, one of the major advantages of the AVEK water project is that it will provide the most water to the most people at least cost.

The bond issue on which you will be voting Tuesday will finance construction of the system shown above. This system will make high-quality supplemental water available to more than 90% of the people now living in the area. Water systems serving every major community within AVEK have contracted to buy this new water, if voters approve the AVEK project.

Besides serving most of the people now living here, the AVEK project is designed to make supplemental water available to many localities where water demands are expected to grow during the next few years. This means that future expansion of the economy can occur where it is most desirable from

the standpoint of the best human environment, and will not be restricted to limited areas where water is presently available.

This kind of broad planning for the future would not be possible without the existence of a regional agency such as AVEK.

At present, AVEK has contracted with local water systems serving the following communities: Lancaster, Rosamond, Gorman, Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes, Mojave, Sun Village, Desert Lake, Acton, Boron, Quartz Hill, Desert View Highlands, Leona Valley and Pearblossom.

When in operation, the AVEK system will also relieve the present groundwater overdraft, in conjunction with similar systems to be operated by Palmdale Irrigation District and Little Rock Creek Irrigation District. All three systems are necessary to solve local water problems.

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Here are the Facts About The AVEK Water Project

WHY DO WE NEED MORE WATER?

The only local source of water for Antelope Valley-East Kern is water pumped by wells from groundwater basins. This supply is limited. Our area is steadily growing and we are using about twice as much water from the ground as nature is putting back. This is called "groundwater overdraft" and causes several undesirable effects: (1) As the groundwater level drops, shallower wells dry up; (2) it is necessary to spend more money to deepen wells and pay the added costs of lifting water from deeper in the ground; (3) as the groundwater supply goes down, the quality of the water tends to get worse and may cause deterioration of the entire groundwater supply; and (4) the lack of an assured water supply prevents growth and limits employment opportunities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE DON'T GET MORE WATER?

Water bills would keep going up as groundwater levels decline while the quality of water in your home would deteriorate. There would be serious economic consequences. In the near future we would have to cut back our water use by 50% to stop groundwater overdraft. Municipal water service would be available to less than one-half the present population, and, in addition, more than 20,000 acres of farmland would go out of production. When this happened, it is obvious what would happen to the value of homes and businesses, as well as jobs.

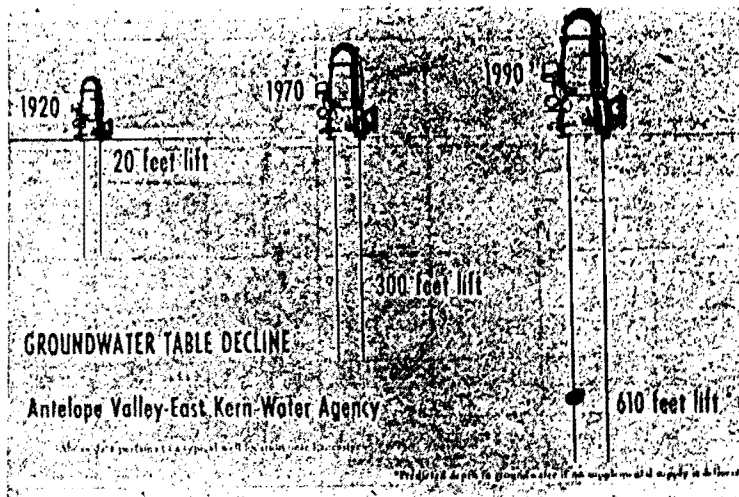
IS MORE WATER AVAILABLE TO US?

The California aqueduct of the State Water Project is now almost completed along the southern edge of AVEK. This canal will be filled with water from Northern California early in 1972 — water that we have purchased to meet local water needs.

AVEK has a contract for 133,400 acre feet of this water yearly (nearly 46 billion gallons). Under this contract, taxpayers within AVEK have been paying a proportionate share of the costs of the State Water Project since 1963 and will continue to do so for the next 65 years. At this time, AVEK people have invested more than \$4½ million in the State Water Project.

HOW CAN WE MAKE USE OF THIS NEW IMPORTED WATER?

It is up to the people of AVEK to finance and build the system required to take our water from the California aqueduct and deliver it where it is needed. A plan to build this system, the "AVEK Wa-



This pictorial graph shows the seriousness of the local groundwater overdraft and why State Project water is needed through the AVEK distribution system. As the water table drops, household water bills increase. Also, there is strong likelihood of court action to limit pumping from the ground-

water basin, a move that would prove costly to the public—probably as expensive as providing all the supplemental water we need. Experts warn that as the groundwater level continues to drop, experience indicates that water quality will worsen.

ter Distribution System," has been developed by the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency. It has taken five years to develop this plan. The seven members of the board of directors of AVEK (who are chosen through public election) used the professional services of technical experts of national reputation. In order to build the first phase of the AVEK water project, it is necessary that AVEK residents approve the sale of general obligation bonds in the total amount of \$49 million.

WHO WILL USE THIS NEW IMPORTED WATER SUPPLY?

AVEK will 'wholesale' water to existing local water companies who will in turn deliver water to homes and factories.

AVEK has signed water service contracts with these local water companies and districts who serve 90% of the population in the area. Those who live in Lancaster, Boron, Rosamond, Mojave, Desert Lake, Sun Village, Quartz Hill, Gorman, Acton, Lake Hughes, Leona Valley, H Vista, Lake Los Angeles or Pearlblossom have a vital stake in the AVEK water project because their local water systems are relying on AVEK as the source of their next water supply.

HOW WILL WE PAY FOR THIS NEW WATER SUPPLY?

At the present time AVEK's share of State Water Project costs is being paid by taxes on property within the Agen-

cy. When the AVEK water project is completed the costs of water and the facilities needed to take it where it is needed will be paid for through (1) water sales (2) property taxes.

WHY WON'T THE COSTS OF THE NEW WATER BE PAID ENTIRELY BY THOSE WHO USE IT DIRECTLY?

Everybody in AVEK now gets his water from the same source—the groundwater basins. People using the new imported water will quit pumping from the underground, leaving more of that water for other people. Since everyone will benefit from relieving groundwater overdraft, it is fair that everyone should pay a share of the costs.

Equally important, the availability of more water for AVEK is a "must" for a prosperous future. The promise of adequate water has underwritten the growth we have had, its arrival will fulfill that promise and provide the base for future development. Everyone benefits, wage earners, water users large and small, and those who have invested in Antelope Valley's future.

WHAT WILL THE AVEK PROJECT COST THE HOMEOWNER?

If your home is worth \$20,000 on today's market, your family's share of the additional cost of stabilizing and ensuring our water supply would be about \$15 per year.

Because property taxes are based on property values, the

largest share of costs for building the AVEK water project will be paid by industries and landowners. Homeowners will pay smaller dollar shares of the costs and will benefit greatly in terms of home values, jobs, and household water bills kept low by ample water supplies.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PAYMENTS FOR THE STATE WATER PROJECT AND THE AVEK WATER PROJECT?

Under terms of the AVEK contract, and basic to our participation in the California Water Project, we are obligated to make annual payments averaging more than \$4 million per year for the next 65 years. This obligation exists without regard to how much water we buy. Obviously there is no way to eliminate this minimum obligation.

WOULD WE SAVE MONEY IF WE DON'T BUILD THE AVEK WATER PROJECT?

There is no question that costs for making use of imported water will be less than the costs of continuing to "mine" the local groundwater basins. This takes into consideration increasing costs for pumping groundwater as well as the economic reversals that can be expected with an inadequate water supply of uncertain quality.

WILL THE AVEK WATER PROJECT INCREASE MY WATER BILL?

AVEK will sell imported water to local water companies

and districts for the same as present average costs for pumping water from the underground. Therefore, use of State Project water should not increase your water bill.

The cost of pumping water from wells is increasing all the time. AVEK expects the price of water from the AVEK water project will be relatively constant. Besides assuring water, a secondary purpose of the AVEK water project is to stabilize water costs for the consumer.

ISN'T THERE SOME OTHER WAY TO SOLVE OUR WATER DEFICIENCY?

The State Water Project is the only practical solution. It has been supported strongly and consistently by Antelope Valley-East Kern people for two decades for this reason.

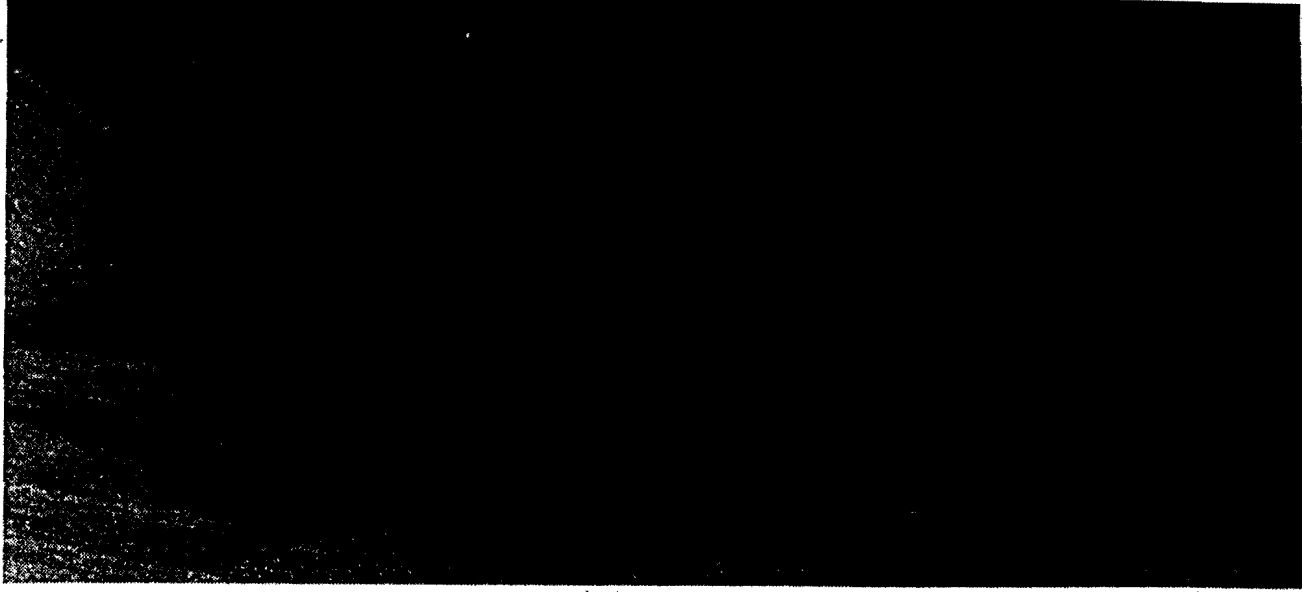
If the State Water Project had not been under construction during the past several years, the Antelope Valley-East Kern area would be returning to desert today. The promise of water from the State Water Project has underwritten the new jobs and investments, especially in aviation and aerospace, now in Antelope Valley.

If voters do not approve the bond issue to finance the system needed to distribute this water, many face loss of jobs and businesses and homes. Those who invest money and create employment will not make a chance on an area that won't solve its water problems.

WHEN IT IS ALL SAID AND DONE, ISN'T THE BOARD OF AVEK SAYING THERE IS NO OTHER PRACTICABLE WAY TO ENSURE ADEQUATE WATER FOR ANTELOPE VALLEY-EAST KERN, AND THEREBY THE FUTURE OF THE AREA?

As a matter of fact this is so. Without water adequate to our needs, our area (or any area) cannot grow. You have to cut your activity to match your water supply. Los Angeles today was assured 70 years ago when leaders of those days started planning a water supply from the Sierras, and 40 years ago when they planned to get water from the Colorado, and 20 years ago when they planned the California Water Project.

The development of Antelope Valley is based on the promise of adequate water through the California Water Plan. We are truly, morally obligated to make good on our promise. If we do not, we can expect cutbacks to match our existing local water supplies, and by any measure those local water supplies are completely inadequate except for the lowest level of activity.



Edmonston Pumping Plant, now almost completed, will lift State Project water over the Tehachapi Mountains on its way toward the Antelope Valley. Said to be the world's largest pumping plant, this installation is one of the many facilities of the State Project that local people will be helping pay for, whether or not voters approve the AVEK water project to make

use of State Project water here. If the AVEK project is not built, the future costs of continuing groundwater overdraft, plus the local share of costs for the State Water Project, will be substantially greater than the total costs for making use of this supplemental water.

People Unite for Water Solution

Support for the AVEK water project bond issue has come from virtually every geographic area and economic group in Antelope Valley-East Kern.

Resolutions urging a "yes" vote have been adopted by chambers of commerce, labor unions, real estate organizations, homeowners, professional clubs and many other organizations representing nearly every occupation.

Both the Palmdale and Lancaster Chambers of Commerce have recommended approval of the project.

Numerous local unions have

taken official actions supporting a "yes" vote, along with the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and the Kern, Inyo and Mono Counties Central Labor Council.

Public officials backing the water project include Los Angeles County Supervisor Warren Dorn, Assemblymen Kent Stacey and the Kern County Board of Supervisors.

AVEK Citizens for Water and Jobs, the volunteer group taking the lead in seeking approval of the AVEK project at Tuesday's election, includes on its Executive Committee hard-working representatives from

Lancaster, Palmdale, Sun Village, Leona Valley, Acton, Lake Hughes, East Side and West Side areas, Mojave, North Edwards, Rosamond, Boron and Edwards. Hundreds of other people have formally declared their support for the AVEK project.

This widespread support is due in large part to efforts made over a long period of time by the Antelope Valley-

East Kern Water Agency to explain details of its plan to all interested citizens. In numerous public meetings, AVEK spokesmen revealed all aspects of the project going before voters on Tuesday, including costs. At these AVEK public meetings, alternative plans were also explained, with reasons why these alternatives were considered less desirable than the

plan being offered. Those attending were given full opportunity to ask questions and propose other solutions.

Thus, when the present AVEK water project was adopted by the AVEK board of directors and an election called, the proposal had already been subjected to extensive public examination. Also, the plan had already gained strong support from a large number of local people.

Water Recreation Slated If AVEK Project Wins

If voters approve the AVEK water project at Tuesday's election, it will set the stage for an outstanding water recreation facility within minutes of Lancaster and Palmdale.

The State of California plans to build a 25,000-acre-foot lake in the Fairmont Buttes area to augment the distribution facilities of the AVEK project. This large reservoir, to be financed by the State, will increase the ability of the AVEK system to deliver peak demands. The reservoir will be open to recreational development, which could be accomplished with funds approved by California voters at last November's general election.

Construction of Buttes Res-

ervoir was not included in original planning for the State Water Project. In the beginning, the Department of Water Resources planned to provide peaking capacity for the AVEK system from Cedar Springs reservoir in San Bernardino County. However, independent studies by AVEK determined that construction of Buttes Reservoir would accomplish two worthwhile objectives. First, it would provide the necessary peaking capacity at less cost, and secondly, it would give Antelope Valley people with a nearby water recreation site that will greatly enhance the entire area.

But it won't happen unless the AVEK water project is approved.

Why is the AVEK water project, like nearly all public works projects, to be financed through sale of bonds?

One good answer lies in the reasons why people borrow money to buy homes. If we couldn't spread the cost of our home over 20 or 30 years, few of us could ever own one.

Let's compare that to the AVEK project. This will be an asset to this area for much longer than the average home. It will serve hundreds of thousands of people who are not yet born. And like a house, its costs will all occur in the beginning — at the time it's built.

Even if it was fair to build the AVEK water project on a so-called "pay-as-you-go" basis, it couldn't be done, just as most of us couldn't pay for our homes that way. We have to borrow the money, and re-

pay it over a period of years as we use the project (or home).

Since it's obvious that we must borrow money for large construction, whether it's a home or a public works project, the question then becomes: what is the cheapest way to borrow money?

In the case of AVEK, general obligation bonds have been found to be the cheapest way. Other borrowing methods, such as "lease back" arrangements, would be more expensive.

But there's another good reason why bond financing is so frequently used in public works projects. Most of them, like the AVEK water project, are designed to serve people for many generations in the future. Why, then, should today's taxpayers be asked to pay all the costs? Should fu-

ture taxpayers get a "free ride"?

By using bond financing, the costs of the AVEK water project can be repaid in small annual payments that will cost the typical taxpayers less than the increase in water costs that can be expected if the project is not built. Also, people who come here later and enjoy the benefits of the project will pay their proper shares of the cost.

There is another major advantage from bond financing for the AVEK project. By assuring enough good quality water, the AVEK project will make possible economic growth here. This will expand the tax base. Therefore, today's taxpayers can look forward to others picking up more and more of the project repayment obligation in the future.

Bonds Considered the Only Practical Finance Method

Straight talk about taxes

Whenever the subject of spending comes up, taxpayers start taking a close look.

And that's good, because there seems to be so much government spending that isn't worth it. If taxpayers didn't squawk, we'd be in a sorry state.

This may seem like a funny way for people to talk who want you to vote "yes" for a bond issue. But the hundreds of your friends and neighbors who are working together to get the AVEK water project going are taxpayers just like you. We're just as concerned as you are about taxes.

So let's look at the AVEK project in the light of taxes. No "snow job", just straight facts.

The tax cost to you for building the AVEK project, and providing the water we need to survive here, can be pinned down pretty closely. That's because the language of the issue you'll be voting on Tuesday contains a tax limitation clause. It says that AVEK cannot sell bonds in excess of 7-1/2 per cent of the assessed value of the Agency. There's nothing wishy-washy about that. It's a real tight lid on taxes. What it means is that when you're told the tax will be so much, you can depend on it.

So how much is the tax going to be?

On a home with a market value of \$20,000, the yearly tax will amount to about \$15. True, that's not much when you consider what we're getting for our money. It's less than a nickel a day per family. But it's still a tax cost. Could we save this nickel-a-day by turning down the AVEK water system?

Without question, the answer is "no". If we don't bring in the water we need to relieve our groundwater overdraft, we all know that our total tax base isn't going to grow much more, and it will eventually start to shrink as different areas begin running out of usable water. Many of our long-term public expenditures are based on reasonable growth in the tax base. When this doesn't happen, the tax load starts building up on existing taxpayers—like us.

This is a generality, so we had a researcher see what it might mean in dollars. He told us that if our tax base stops growing—as it surely will without more water—existing homeowners (we're still talking about a \$20,000 house) will find their tax bills increased by more than \$50 a year. And this is WITHOUT water.

Now, let's think about building the AVEK project without ANY taxes.

This would be an expensive fiasco for homeowners throughout the Agency. As an example, the total assessed value in Lancaster and Quartz Hill combined amounts to 18 per cent of the total tax base of AVEK. Turning it around, 82 per cent of the cost of building the AVEK system as now proposed will be repaid by other property owners, most of whom are not homeowners. Many of them live outside this area. Yet local homeowners will benefit the first and the most from solving our water problem.

If Lancaster were to "go it alone" in bringing in State Project water it's easy to understand why the cost to the individual family would be a great deal more than it will be under the comprehensive AVEK plan.

These are the tax facts about the AVEK project, and we can back them up. That's why we can tell you with complete honesty:

"a vote YES will cost you LESS"

AVEK Citizens for Water and Jobs

Charles W. Taylor, Chairman

PWS-0138-0006

Bad Water Threatens Future

Dale Newton and Larry Granger think backers of the AVEK water project are understating the problem when they warn that local water quality could get worse in the future if we don't bring in State Project water.

"It looks to us like our groundwater has been getting worse for a long time," they told Charles W. Taylor, chairman of AVEK Citizens for Water and Jobs. "We don't think this problem is off in the future at all. It's here now."

Newton and Granger ought to know. They operate Big Valley Plumbing and Supplies, Inc., of Palmdale and Lancaster. They install and service all kinds of water-using equipment and appliances. Newton says he has noticed a steady — and alarming — increase in mineralization from groundwater now being used in homes and businesses in the Valley. He says he can't think of any reason for it other than the steady decline in the groundwater table.

Newton told Taylor about a large business establishment which, in the past, had to decline its heating boiler about once in ten years. Then, he

said, this boiler had to be cleaned yearly. The last cleaning job, he revealed, lasted just three months.

Newton says he hasn't been able to determine exactly why so much water-using equipment is getting "gummed up" faster these days. But he suspects the problem isn't going to get any better until State Project water arrives through the AVEK system.

Granger said Big Valley Plumbing is collecting water samples throughout the area, hoping to learn why so much home piping is deteriorating. He said the problem is becoming critical and expensive for homeowners, with even copper pipe now being eaten away.

Taylor pointed out that water from the State Water Project is expected to be of exceptionally high quality, at least equal to the best water pumped from the local groundwater basin in past years.

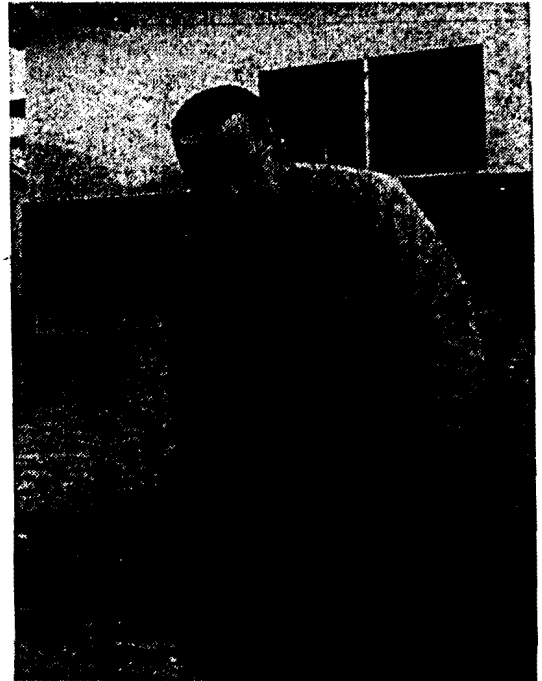
The threat to this area from bad quality water is perhaps as serious as the problem of not having enough water. In several communities here today, the quality of water being delivered to homes is very close to the point of condemnation by health author-

ities. This was foreseen years ago in a report from the U.S. Geologic Survey. The study on which this report was based found large portions of the Antelope Valley-East Kern groundwater basin laden with water of unusable quality. In one locality, groundwater was found to be just a few percentage points better than ocean water.

This problem can't help getting worse as our groundwater overdraft continues. Because so much water has been pumped out from under Lancaster and other population centers, the flow of groundwater has turned toward these pumping depressions, simply because of gravity. A great deal of this incoming water is extremely bad. And it gets worse as it moves through the underground structures.

Because of this alarming water quality problem, it is beside the point to argue about how much water is left in the groundwater basin. There is little question that most of it will be worthless long before it is gone.

The only solution is to bring in good quality water through the AVEK Project to stop the groundwater overdraft.



Herb Spitzer, Manager of Quartz Hill County Water District, is one of many water industry professionals here who see immediate need for supplemental water through the AVEK water project. Water systems in every major community in Antelope Valley-East Kern have signed contracts to buy water through the AVEK system. These local systems serve more than 90% of the present population.

Local Water Systems are Hoping for AVEK Project

If anyone doubts that Antelope Valley-East Kern needs more water through the AVEK water project, the most authoritative answer is available from the many local water companies and districts which deliver water to homes and businesses.

Water systems serving every major community in the area have contracted to buy State Project water through the AVEK water project. These systems provide water to more than 90 per cent of the people living here now.

If there was plenty of groundwater available, would these hard-headed water industry people be looking to the State Project and AVEK for water?

The answer, of course, is "no." The reason for this solid backing for the AVEK project by the local water industry is two-fold. It is obvious that we are over-pumping our groundwater supplies, with big declines in the groundwater table every year. It is also obvious that the quality of groundwater in many communities is getting dangerously poor.

The Quartz Hill area is a good example of how the groundwater overdraft is

sional water man in Quartz Hill put it:

"There's no point in drilling more wells. They would just steal water from each other."

One of the water suppliers in Quartz Hill is now buying well water from an adjacent area at substantially higher cost than will be charged for water from the AVEK project. This is only a stop-gap solution, however, because the adjacent areas are also having to pump deeper for water every year.

In the Lancaster vicinity, spokesmen for the Los Angeles Waterworks Districts make no bones about the need for supplemental water through the AVEK system. Their well records show that the groundwater overdraft is increasing, with the average yearly drop in the water table approaching seven feet. Not only does this keep increasing the cost of producing water and delivering it to homes, say Waterworks Districts officials, but it also magnifies the danger of water quality deteriorating. An official of the Waterworks Districts has warned the local public that it's a general rule that water quality degrades as the groundwater supply is depleted.

is getting such strong support from Rosamond, Mojave, North Edwards, Desert Lake and Boron.

In Boron, the local water system has already been forced to bring water from wells five miles away because local wells have either given out, started producing water of unusable quality, or both. Even the distant newer wells are producing water of marginal quality. If State Project water is not brought to Boron soon, through the AVEK project, local water officials are extremely dubious about a future water supply for that important community.

Rosamond and Mojave are not in as imminent danger from bad water as is Boron. But water suppliers in Rosamond and Mojave have taken a look at the future, their local supplies, and have signed up with AVEK.

Officials of the Rosamond Community Services District say they have two choices for the immediate future: either drill more wells some miles to the west, where water quality is better, or solve their problem with AVEK water. Drilling more wells is considered only a temporary relief, because the continuing overdraft of the total groundwater basin

What Can Happen if AVEK Project Fails?

What would probably happen if the AVEK water project did not win approval at Tuesday's election?

One alternative would be to allow our groundwater overdraft to continue, until the groundwater basin is destroyed. While this would be happening, local people would suffer severe economic distress. New industries would shun this area. Industries we now have would probably begin phasing out many of their operations because of lack of water. Taxes would increase because the tax base couldn't grow. Water bills would keep rising to meet the costs of pumping water from deeper in the ground. In many localities, the water would become of such pure quality that it would not be usable.

probably form improvement districts under AVEK and bring in State Project water through separate systems.

This would be a costly and inadequate solution to our serious water needs. This piece-meal approach to solving local water problems was explored years ago by AVEK and local water suppliers, but it was discarded because it would cost the homeowner and taxpayer a great deal more money than the AVEK project. This kind of unsatisfactory solution would also create "islands" within Antelope Valley-East Kern which would have sufficient water, leaving most of the area high and dry. This, in turn, could lead to expensive environmental problems, along with increasing both water and tax costs for everybody.

The AVEK water project as now proposed is not necessarily the only solution.

Granger think backers of the AVEK water project are understating the problem when they warn that local water quality could get worse in the future if we don't bring in State Project water.

"It looks to us like our groundwater has been getting worse for a long time," they told Charles W. Taylor, chairman of AVEK Citizens for Water and Jobs. "We don't think this problem is off in the future at all. It's here now."

Newton and Granger ought to know. They operate Big Valley Plumbing and Supplies, Inc., of Palmdale and Lancaster. They install and service all kinds of water-using equipment and appliances. Newton says he has noticed a steady -- and alarming -- increase in mineralization from groundwater now being used in homes and businesses in the Valley. He says he can't think of any reason for it other than the steady decline in the groundwater table.

Newton told Taylor about a large business establishment which, in the past, had to decline its heating boiler about once in ten years. Then, he

cleaned yearly. The last cleaning job, he revealed, lasted just three months.

Newton says he hasn't been able to determine exactly why so much water-using equipment is getting "gummed up" faster these days. But he suspects the problem isn't going to get any better until State Project water arrives through the AVEK system.

Granger said Big Valley Plumbing is collecting water samples throughout the area, hoping to learn why so much home piping is deteriorating. He said the problem is becoming critical and expensive for homeowners, with even copper pipe now being eaten away.

Taylor pointed out that water from the State Water Project is expected to be of exceptionally high quality, at least equal to the best water pumped from the local groundwater basin in past years.

The threat to this area from bad quality water is perhaps as serious as the problem of not having enough water. In several communities here today, the quality of water being delivered to homes is very close to the point of condemnation by health author-

ity in a report from the U.S. Geologic Survey. The study on which this report was based found large portions of the Antelope Valley-East Kern groundwater basin laden with water of unusable quality. In one locality, groundwater was found to be just a few percentage points better than ocean water.

This problem can't help getting worse as our groundwater overdraft continues. Because so much water has been pumped out from under Lancaster and other population centers, the flow of groundwater has turned toward these pumping depressions, simply because of gravity. A great deal of this incoming water is extremely bad. And it gets worse as it moves through the underground structures.

Because of this alarming water quality problem, it is beside the point to argue about how much water is left in the groundwater basin. There is little question that most of it will be worthless long before it is gone.

The only solution is to bring in good quality water through the AVEK Project to stop the groundwater overdraft.



Herb Spitzer, Manager of Quartz Hill County Water District, is one of many water industry professionals here who see immediate need for supplemental water through the AVEK water project. Water systems in every major community in Antelope Valley-East Kern have signed contracts to buy water through the AVEK system. These local systems serve more than 90% of the present population.

Local Water Systems are Hoping for AVEK Project

If anyone doubts that Antelope Valley-East Kern needs more water through the AVEK water project, the most authoritative answer is available from the many local water companies and districts which deliver water to homes and businesses.

Water systems serving every major community in the area have contracted to buy State Project water through the AVEK water project. These systems provide water to more than 90 per cent of the people living here now.

If there was plenty of groundwater available, would these hard-headed water industry people be looking to the State Project and AVEK for water?

The answer, of course, is "no". The reason for this solid backing for the AVEK project by the local water industry is two-fold. It is obvious that we are over-pumping our groundwater supplies, with big declines in the groundwater table every year. It is also obvious that the quality of groundwater in many communities is getting dangerously poor.

The Quartz Hill area is a good example of how the groundwater overdraft is threatening the future in this area. Situated on the edge of the groundwater basin, the water districts serving Quartz Hill are probably in the greatest danger of actually running out of water. As one profes-

sional water man in Quartz Hill put it:

"There's no point in drilling more wells. They would just steal water from each other."

One of the water suppliers in Quartz Hill is now buying well water from an adjacent area at substantially higher cost than will be charged for water from the AVEK project. This is only a stop-gap solution, however, because the adjacent areas are also having to pump deeper for water every year.

In the Lancaster vicinity, spokesmen for the Los Angeles Waterworks Districts make no bones about the need for supplemental water through the AVEK system. Their well records show that the groundwater overdraft is increasing, with the average yearly drop in the water table approaching seven feet. Not only does this keep increasing the cost of producing water and delivering it to homes, say Waterworks Districts officials, but it also magnifies the danger of water quality deteriorating. An official of the Waterworks Districts has warned the local public that it's a general rule that water quality degrades as the groundwater supply is depleted.

The most serious groundwater quality problems, however, are evident in the Kern County portion of the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency. This helps explain why the AVEK water project

is getting such strong support from Rosamond, Mojave, North Edwards, Desert Lake and Boron.

In Boron, the local water system has already been forced to bring water from wells five miles away because local wells have either given out, started producing water of unusable quality, or both. Even the distant newer wells are producing water of marginal quality. If State Project water is not brought to Boron soon, through the AVEK project, local water officials are extremely dubious about a future water supply for that important community.

Rosamond and Mojave are not in as imminent danger from bad water as is Boron. But water suppliers in Rosamond and Mojave have taken a look at the future, their local supplies, and have signed up with AVEK.

Officials of the Rosamond Community Services District say they have two choices for the immediate future: either drill more wells some miles to the west, where water quality is better, or solve their problem with AVEK water. Drilling more wells is considered only a temporary relief, because the continuing overdraft of the total groundwater basin will only be speeded up. Rosamond CSD spokesmen say the only real solution is to start using good quality State Project water through the AVEK project just as soon as possible.

What Can Happen if AVEK Project Fails?

What would probably happen if the AVEK water project did not win approval at Tuesday's election?

One alternative would be to allow our groundwater overdraft to continue, until the groundwater basin is destroyed. While this would be happening, local people would suffer severe economic distress. New industries would shun this area. Industries we now have would probably begin phasing out many of their operations because of lack of water. Taxes would increase because the tax base couldn't grow. Water bills would keep rising to meet the costs of pumping water from deeper in the ground. In many localities, the water would become of such pure quality that it would not be usable.

The end result would be economic disaster.

This probably wouldn't be allowed to happen. If the AVEK water project as now proposed should be turned down, certain areas would

probably form improved districts under AVEK or bring in State Project water through separate systems.

This would be a costly and inadequate solution to our serious water needs. The piece-meal approach to solving local water problems was explored years ago by AVEK and local water suppliers, but it was discarded because it would cost the homeowner a taxpayer a great deal more money than the AVEK project. This kind of unsatisfactory solution would also create "islands" within Antelope Valley-East Kern which would have sufficient water, leaving most of the area high and dry. This, in turn, could lead to expensive environmental problems, along with increasing both water and tax cost for everybody.

The AVEK water project as now proposed is not necessarily the only possible way to bring in more water. It is simply the cheapest way to get the most water. It is the only way to meet the water needs of the entire area. Any other scheme would cost more for less water.

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