

Vocal critic of AVEK invited to attend hearing

A vocal critic of Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency has been invited to appear before the Water Agency board of directors next Tuesday night to clarify his statements concerning local groundwater conditions.

John N. Englund, Lancaster, has been requested to augment his earlier presentation to the Water Agency board to help resolve discrepancies between Englund's claims and contradictory information given the Agency board by officials of Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts in this area.

At a public hearing on Jan. 23, Englund submitted a presentation alleging that

groundwater tables in the Lancaster vicinity are rising. His presentation was signed by Englund as president of Community Government Research Corporation, Inc. In the written presentation, he cited figures attributed to Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 4.

However, Englund's claim that water tables are rising was vigorously challenged at an Agency hearing on Feb. 13 by Kenneth R. Putnam, Division Engineer for the Waterworks and Utilities Division of the Los Angeles County Engineer's Department, which operates the Waterworks Districts. Putnam noted that Englund had com-

pared groundwater levels for various times of the year.

"To say that this proves that levels are rising is a false statement," the county water official said of Englund's statement.

Putnam went on to emphasize that a complete and proper analysis of groundwater measurements proves that local groundwater levels are continuing to decline and "there does not appear to be any reversal of that situation coming in the immediate future".

Putnam concluded his testimony with the statement that the Waterworks Districts favor the present plans by Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency to build a system to deliver State Project water to local community water systems.

Water Agency director W. M. (Bud) Redman, who has been serving as hearing officer, commended Englund for participating in the hearings, called to consider alternatives to the Water Agency plan.

"We are hopeful that Mr. Englund's appearance at the hearing on Feb. 27 may give the concerned public the information needed to evaluate his views in comparison with contrary information provided this Agency by the Waterworks Districts, U.S. Geological survey, California Department of Water Resources, farmers and other local users of groundwater," Redman said.

Monagan assesses Reagan's plans for State's surplus

By BOB MONAGAN

Minority Leader, Assembly
Some weeks ago, in his State-of-the-State message, the Governor announced the state treasury contained an \$850 million surplus. On Thursday, Feb. 8, he again appeared before the people and proposed a program to reduce state taxes, a program largely made possible due to our abundant surplus.

The Governor's plan backs up his statement of January 11 in which he said that he favored returning the state surplus to those who created it—the taxpayers. Specifically, he proposes a return of the great bulk of the State's \$850 million surplus to Californians by means of a tax credit on this year's income and a delay in the one cent sales tax increase that is slated to be effective on June 1st of this year. The tax credit will be rebated on 1974 income tax liabilities.

A smaller portion of the surplus will be used for capital

beyond a certain level unless the California Constitution was again amended.

Fifteen years from now, state revenues are projected to be \$47 billion, a figure that is five times larger than the \$9.8 billion currently raised by the State. The "revenue control" factor which the Governor's program proposes would gradually, over a fifteen year period, reduce the 8.75 percent of total state revenues which the State presently raises from taxpayers down to 7.15 percent.

The issue of equal educational opportunity in the State has not been settled. More millions of state dollars may be needed to correct the situation.

Further, if the federal government continues its "cut and squeeze operations," the State may need its surplus to assure the continuance of important programs.

Nevertheless, the Governor, with this proposal, continues to assure in the direction of new

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