

A black and white photograph of a body of water, possibly a lake or a wide river. The water is dark and textured with small ripples. A bright, horizontal line of light reflects off the water's surface, likely from the sun or a distant light source, creating a strong contrast with the dark water. The reflection is slightly blurred, giving it a soft, ethereal quality.

# Escalante Water Users Presentation to the State Engineer

May 15, 2007

# Response to the State Engineer

- Request that the State Engineer allow for the local water users to develop a win/win water management plan.
- The law allows for a local resolution versus one developed by the State Engineer.
- Allow a 1-year timeframe for the local water users to develop a win/win resolution.

# Local Resolution phase 1

- Through efficiency, water users will agree to reduce "use" "not acres" from 4 acre feet per acre to 3.2 acre feet per acre (20%) within 10 years.
  - This reduction will encourage and insure conservation and efficiency
  - Metering by way of Power Company recorded kWh use combined with flow tests to insure compliance
  - Measurement of the 3.2 acre feet will be averaged on a 5-year basis to allow for wet and dry weather cycles

# Local Resolution phase 2

- Water users will also agree to “collectively” cut water use/acreage by an additional 10% over a 10-year period.
  - This reduction will be on a voluntary basis with compensation to Sellers set at market value.
  - Funding will be generated 50% by an annual assessments to local water users and 50% by appropriation from the State Legislature.
  - If there are no voluntary reductions, for each 10-year period there will be a 2.50 percent across the board reduction at the end of each 10 year period.
- Water users will be compensated for the across the board reductions at market value.

# Example of 10% reduction

- › A 10 percent reduction over a 40 year period equates to 60 acres per year.
- › The cost to fund a buyback of 60 acres a year at \$4,000 equates to \$240,000 a year
  - 50 percent state funds = \$120,000
  - 50 percent Local users funds = \$120,000
- Users assessment per acre = \$5.00 per year

## Example of 10% reduction cont.

- If you have 1,000 acres of water your annual assessment would be:
  - $1,000 * \$5.00 = \$5,000$  per year
- If you would like to volunteer to sell back you could sign up for up to 60 acres per year of sell back:
  - $60 * \$4,000 = \$240,000$

## Example of 10% reduction cont.

- Impact if no voluntary sell backs occur by the end of the first 10-year period, and if you own 1,000 acres of water right:
  - Your mandatory reduction will = 25 acres
  - Your compensation will = \$100,000
  - You will have paid annual assessments over the 10-year period of \$50,000

# What are the next Steps?

- › Begin the political process to educate and gain acceptance of the conceptual plan from legislators and state officials.