

Marie Zeman

From: Dave Harms [dsharms@cox.net]
Sent: Sunday, November 06, 2005 5:57 PM
To: Marie Zeman
Subject: Letter to Mr. Walsh and Board

Hello Marie: Attached is a letter and its Attachment A that I request be forwarded to Mr. Walsh, the Board, Mr. Ruiz, Citizens Rate Study Committee and other appropriate staff regarding the GWD proposed Ag rate increase. Please do this tomorrow for their review before Tuesday night's meeting. Thanks for your help. Sincerely, David Harms

1152 N. Fairview Ave.
Goleta, Ca. 93117
6 Nov. 2005

Mr. Kevin D. Walsh
General Manager and Chief Engineer
Goleta Water District
4699 Hollister Ave.
Goleta, Calif. 93110-1999

Re: My response GWD Proposed Ag Water Rate Increase
Proposal, public meeting 8 Nov. 2005

Dear Mr. Walsh:

In the previous public meetings regarding Ag rate increases it has been stated that the general public strongly values agriculture as a part of the Goleta Valley. Therefore, the public no doubt feels that with the urbanization trends, that Ag needs to be supported more than ever. There should be no increased pressure from GWD or any government agencies to discourage agricultural activities.

This latest GWD proposal to set water budgets based upon an artificial past 13 year history is not valid. The years 1992 into 1996 were moratorium years in which Ag usage was not typical due to the moratorium. In our particular case, we were not only honoring the moratorium, but our young orchard was not fully grown and into normal full production. About 1996, we began seeing a more normal irrigating pattern. This GWD proposal would have put us in a penalty condition in every year beginning with 1996 to the present. (Please see Attachment A). It is not fair to jeopardize an operation like ours with the "average usage" including inordinately low water use years.

If any new rate policies really need to be developed (I personally see no need for change) then they must include providing water at Ag rates for at least the following criteria:

1. Orchard / Crop Change. A farmer must be able to have the latitude to change his crops to carry on his business without fear of heavy water penalty fees.
2. Long Irrigating Seasons. Each year is different. Farmers are subject to weather conditions and must water accordingly. GWD must not penalize us for watering to maintain our orchards/crops in healthy productive conditions.

The Master Plan Water Supply Assessment provided by Kennedy/Jenks Consultants to the GWD in March 2005 concludes that there is adequate water available through the year 2025 for all users in the GWD area. This projection includes allowances for increased agricultural use.

GWD staff continues to imply that there is an excessive agricultural water use problem. The Kennedy Jenks study claims that supplies are adequate. We certainly do not have a water shortage crisis or a projected one.

No rate changes are justified. We must leave the existing rate structure in place to assure a viable agricultural base can continue to exist in the Goleta Valley.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

David W. Harms

Cc: Directors
Citizen Rate Study Committee
Appropriate Staff

**ATTACHMENT A. Impact of GWD Proposed AG Water Rate Change on Harms
Persimmon Orchard**

Year	Usage cft	Usage Acre Feet	Avg. acre feet/yr.	Actual Cost/Year ag rate \$	GWD Proposed Charges \$	Cost Increase Impact
1992	587	1.3		529	529	0
1993	738	1.7		642	642	0
1994	1056	2.4		891	891	0
1995	1205	2.8		1116	1116	0
1996	1643	3.8		1608	1914	306
1997	2168	5.0		2112	3891	1779
1998	1799	4.1		1842	2549	707
1999	1633	3.7		1693	1973	280
2000	1932	4.4		1962	3011	1049
2001	1654	3.8		1717	2051	334
2002	1813	4.2		1988	2731	743
2003	1822	4.2		2196	2962	766
2004	2326	5.3		2830	5261	2431