

DOUG WILHELM, PUBLIC WATER NOW

THE WORST THING THAT CAN HAPPEN TO LOCAL WATER USERS IS THAT RATES COULD DOUBLE OR TRIPLE AS A RESULT OF AN UNNECESSARY DESAL PLANT. THE WORST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN TO THE WATER DISTRICT IS A MOTHBALLED DESAL PLANT. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED IN SANTA BARBARA, AUSTRALIA AND ELSEWHERE. IT MAKES NO MATTER TO CAL AM, AS THE MORE CAPITAL THEY SPEND THE MORE PROFIT THEY MAKE; AND IF (WHEN) THEY ARE FORCED TO SELL UNDER IMMEDIATE DOMAIN YOU CAN BET THE PRICE WILL BE IN THE SELLING PRICE.

THE MOST RECENT CAL AM WATER USAGE ESTIMATE PREPARED IN 2012 IS CLEARLY OUTDATED. THE DISTRICT NEEDS TO UNDERTAKE ITS OWN ESTIMATE.

WHAT MAKES IT OUTDATED?

- RESIDENTIAL USAGE IS DOWN FROM THE BASE PERIOD UNLIKE CAL AM'S PROJECTION.
- LOTS OF RECORD WILL USE LESS WATER DUE TO STATEWIDE REDUCTIONS OF WATER USAGE.
- THE TOURIST BOUNCE BACK HAS EITHER OCCURRED OR IT WILL NOT OCCUR.
- PEBBLE BEACH WILL NEED LESS NEW WATER DUE TO THEIR CHANGES.
- FINALLY, AS MY UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IS IN ECONOMICS, I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T POINT OUT THAT WATER CONSUMPTION WILL DECLINE WITH HIGHER PRICES. IT'S FUNDAMENTAL, AS MY PROFESSOR SAID "AS PRICES OF ANYTHING GO UP, VOLUME GOES DOWN, EXCEPT PERHAPS FOR DIAMONDS". UNFORTUNATELY CAL AM HAS NOT CONSIDERED THIS IN THEIR VOLUME ANALYSIS, NOR DO THEY HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH THIS LARGE AN INCREASE.