



MCWRA Briefing Report: Status Report on Water Rights Permit #11043

May 1, 2013

Subject: Agency Water Rights Permit #11043

Current Status:

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has proposed revoking Agency Water Rights Permit #11043. The revocation process involves a hearing that is tentatively scheduled for August 13-15, 2013. This water right is a critical piece of the Agency's solution to seawater intrusion (SWI) in the Salinas Valley. Permit #11043 identifies up to 168,538 acre-feet of water that can be put to use by the Agency.

Along with SWI, nitrate issues in the groundwater have recently received greater attention, including Assembly Bill 1 (Alejo), which provides \$2M for studies in the Salinas Valley to help find solutions to drinking water issues.

Water Rights Permit #11043 (issued in 1957) is a vital component to the continued implementation of the SWI strategy. Water Rights are valuable public assets, and should not be given up.

History:

SWI has been present in the Salinas Valley (California) since the 1930's. Currently, the Salinas Valley and Monterey County support an \$8B+/yr agricultural empire and a \$2B+/yr tourism industry. The Agency is charged with stopping SWI, and has developed and implemented a strategy to do so.

The Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP), completed in 2010, is the foundation for future water projects. Permit #11043 water can be utilized in a future phase of the SVWP.

Next Steps:

- Continue working with the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) to develop a community-based solution to SWI that utilizes Permit #11043 water.
- Develop testimonial to successfully defend the water rights permit.
- Develop and implement political strategy

Decision Points:

- Are there any non-starter issues with defending this permit?
- Amount of resources necessary to defend the water rights permit

Completion will require:

- Unified solution that is community supported
- Successful political strategy
- Additional resources from County
- Focused effort from Agency staff