Ramirez, Janelle

From: Christopher Bunn <christopher@Generalfarminvestment.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 1:42 PM
To: MC Water
Cc: Azhderian, Ara

Subject: CSIP analysis

Monterey County Water Resources Agency

February 10, 2026

Chair Simis and Members of the Board,

As you know, a CSIP landowners meeting is scheduled in March to discuss potential maintenance, modifications, upgrades etc to the CSIP system, and the accompanying need for additional finances.

CSIP is competing for dollars, particularly from the farmer/landowner perspective—both current and future dollars. We are contemplating expensive MCWRA and SVBGSA projects which will play out over the next decade. Because of that, it's vital that we examine CSIP finances. Any savings due to increased efficiencies can be spent on improving CSIP even further, as well as freeing up finances for future water projects.

In addition to fiscal stewardship, the ongoing conversations at the SVBGSA about Demand Management make it even more imperative to get CSIP into as reliable a condition as possible. The 12,000 acres of CSIP are already engaged in Demand Management, and have been for many years, long before SGMA was passed. There's a solid argument to be made that CSIP should not be required to participate in whatever future pumping cutbacks do occur under the auspices of the SVBGSA due to the fact that the Zone 2B acreage is largely irrigated by non-groundwater. This is yet another reason to diagnose the financial and operational health of CSIP.

That said, would it be possible to do a comparative analysis of which agency, between M1W and MCWRA, would be most cost-effective in managing CSIP? It could be that the current approach actually is the best; or, we might discover that the current approach is not the most cost-effective. However, for peace of mind and in light of tight finances in both the industry and local government, it would be prudent to do an analysis. Part of that analysis should be an examination of the division of duties and whether or not there are savings in changing that division.

Thank you for being prudent with the money the ag community pays in assessments.

regards,

Christopher Bunn

president, Salinas Basin Water Alliance