

TO: HUBERT C. LAMBERT, STATE ENGINEER

FROM: DONALD G. STEWART, DIVISION HEAD

DATE: APRIL 18, 1968

RE: RESPONSE TO MEMORANDUM CONCERNING MILFORD VALLEY HEARING

1. It appears that the State Engineer has no alternative other than to hear at a public meeting the petition of some of the Milford Valley water users requesting that the withdrawal of water from the underground basin be reduced approximately 10,000 to 20,000 acre-feet annually by cutting priorities.
2. The petitioners must be advised that it is their responsibility to adequately present at this hearing facts that will substantiate their request for later priorities to be cut to reduce by 10,000 to 20,000 acre-feet withdrawal from the Milford Valley Basin.
3. The State Engineer at this meeting, beginning with his introductory statement, should make it very clear that the burden lies with the petitioners to show that there is no alternative at this time other than to cut priorities because the users cannot, using standard and accepted methods of farming, economically draw water from their wells at the present depths of pumping or at any increased pumping levels.
4. The State Engineer may introduce a suggestion to the Milford Valley water users that a study be made of the whole economic aspect, taking into consideration the varying sizes of the farming units, the sizes and production of wells, the pumping levels, the power costs, the crops grown, other farming costs, and the margin of profits; and with the information from this type of study, the Milford Valley users together with the State Engineer might see the economic impact on the valley of cutting 10,000 acre-feet of water from the later priorities from all users proportionately or of cutting priorities at all.
5. At such time if it is felt that priorities must be cut, then the State Engineer should make a comprehensive study of the water rights of the surrounding tributary valleys and adjust the priorities of the later diversions that would affect inflows to the Milford Valley Underground Water Basin.

DGS/mt