

'... lawmen  
arrive, you  
make me feel  
alive ...'

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-Lyric source Page 11

# THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY MIRROR

## Not all delighted with GCID water transfer

Valley Mirror reports

NORTHERN SACRAMENTO  
VALLEY — Not every agency is  
a happy camper.

The Chico-based  
AquAlliance, Barbara Vlamis,  
executive director, criticized the

Willows-based Glenn-Colusa Ir-  
rigation District board's decision  
Thursday to sell 5,000 acre-feet  
of its river water allocation to the  
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water  
Authority (SLDMWA).

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## Transfer, from Page One

Part of the action involves  
pumping 5,000 a/f of Tuscan  
Aquifer water to replace it.  
AquAlliance brought opposition  
to the meeting on the groundwater  
substitution transfer item, on the  
regular agenda.

The organization notes the  
wells were funded by state and  
federal grants with little environ-  
mental review because the stated  
purpose of construction was "re-  
search" to "test" the aquifer's  
response to pumping.

AquAlliance took the stance to  
the GCID board that its general  
manager, Thad Bettner, promised  
the public that before the wells  
were employed to do ground-  
water substitution transfers,  
there would be a comprehensive  
environmental impact report/  
statement (EIS/EIR) produced  
to analyze impacts and protect  
neighbors from a dropping and/or  
a destabilized water table.

Reliance is on the Tehama  
County Flood Control minutes of  
Sept. 23, 2008. There has been no  
EIR/EIS drafted for the project,  
but the GCID board moved for-  
ward with the water sale anyway,  
said AquAlliance.

GCID acknowledges in its  
board material that the sub-  
stitution sale "will be viewed  
negatively by some."

Mr. Bettner explained that the  
SLDMWA would contribute up  
to \$50,000 to cover anticipated  
litigation over the controversial

water transfer from the North-  
ern Sacramento Valley aquifer to  
the San Joaquin Valley water  
purveyor.

Mr. Bettner, reached Friday  
noon in Sacramento where he  
was attending meetings, said the  
sale is not final, the acre-foot  
price is "yet to be negotiated" and  
environmental reviews may be  
done.

He said GCID may do a  
California Environmental Policy  
study or just issued a "neg dec,"  
a negative declaration, since the  
arrangement is so "short term."

One board member thought  
the "buyer" should put up even  
more litigation money for the  
inevitable legal challenge to the  
groundwater transfer.

Jim Brobeck, who attended  
the meeting representing  
AquAlliance, said, "I am dis-  
appointed that the GCID board  
had no response to my detailed  
concerns about the project and  
voted unanimously to move  
ahead with the ground water  
substitution transfer.

"Finding out GCID and the  
San Joaquin Valley water pur-  
veyors are assembling a large  
litigation war chest to push this  
precedent setting groundwater  
project, in spite of local opposi-  
tion, should be a wake-up call  
for neighbors in the Sacramento  
Valley who have nothing to gain  
and everything to lose."

Irrigation water is now about  
\$190 per acre foot, Mr. Bettner  
said. That price with water buy-  
ers is yet to be negotiated but at  
the average price it would come  
to \$950,000.