



Date: 1/27/11

To: Matilija Dam Study Group

From: Meiners Oaks Water District

Subject: Matilija Dam Fines Disposal Areas and the effects on Meiners Oaks Water District

As you are aware the project has many impacts and efforts are being made to minimize the negative impact as much as possible. Meiners Oaks Water District is greatly concerned that the MODA Disposal site or the USA sites if selected for the project will impact the district's water resources.

MOWD operates wells directly down gradient of the proposed sites. Our concerns are:

1. Potential impacts to groundwater quality from percolation of contaminants from the foreign material.
2. Potential impacts to groundwater quality from the decomposing organic material in the slurry.
3. Potential decrease to recharge of groundwater basin by sealing a significant area up stream of potable water wells that currently help serve the community of Meiners Oaks.
4. Potential decreases in aquifer recharge resulting from the redirection of Cozy Dell creek to protect the disposal area.

Due to the potential unknown problems that may occur during high flow conditions, permanently sequestering a portion of the fines material, increase in turbidity levels, changes in treatment techniques and lack of percolation during rain fall events within the affected areas. Any significant increase in the amount of turbidity loads at the influent of Meiners Oaks Water District's treatment facility greatly decreases the amount of water the district is able serve its customers and restore tank levels.

Meiners Oaks Water District cannot support any of the USA or MODA sites unless certain mitigation efforts are completed to insure that the district's ability to stay whole continue serving its customers with quality product for many years to come.

Meiners oaks Water District is also of the understanding that the fines that will be put in place, and dedicated to an area will reside as semi-permanent and/or permanent features of the landscape.

Mitigation efforts by VCWSPD and USACE must include one of the following and including all permitting, site evaluations, CEQA documents, RWQCB documents and related permitting through CDPH, including all initial sampling and any infrastructure improvements needed to be done on Meiners Oaks Water Districts behalf.

1. Upgrade to current surface water treatment facility at Cozy Dell trail head to accommodate the increase in fines material and other contaminating constituents that are a result of the dam removal process. Example: (Constituents detected behind the Matilija Dam currently exceeding the MCL , Mercury – Nickel – Copper – Arsenic) Meiners Oaks Water does not currently have to treat it's water or specifically remove these constituents from it. However, due to the immense cost of altering the current treatment facility, upgrades in licensing for our operators and subsequent cost of by-product removal for many years to come. Because of the inability to pump water during this period, Meiners Oaks Water District would have an increased dependency on CMWD which in turn causes MOWD to increase their rates. This option will not be considered by Meiners Oaks Water District.
2. Drilling a new well or wells for the district, on district property to mitigate the water that would be lost due to the placement of the fines material in the above mentioned areas is the most financially and best long term answer to keep Meiners Oaks Water District whole.

Sincerely,

Mike Hollebrands, G.M.  
Meiners Oaks Water District