



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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District Three

USE OF MARSHALL-DAVIS WELL WATER AT DIABLO GRANDE

When the Diablo Grande project was approved by the Board of Supervisors in 1993 a condition was placed on the project that limited the use of groundwater. That condition reads as follows: "groundwater pumping at the Marshall-Davis wells for use at Diablo Grande shall terminate not later than five (5) years following the use of Marshall-Davis well water within Diablo Grande." The project was also conditioned so that Marshall-Davis well water could not be used for any residential development within Diablo Grande at any time. After April 30, 2001, Marshall-Davis water can only be used at Diablo Grande for emergency purposes.

These conditions were the result of negotiations between Diablo Grande and the County Farm Bureau. The County agreed to impose these limiting conditions on its approval of the project in order to address concerns that the County Farm Bureau had about the possibility of Marshall-Davis groundwater becoming the permanent, long-term water source for Diablo Grande.

In the recently completed, "Diablo Grande Water Resources Plan" "Final Supplemental EIR" the limitations on the use of the Marshall-Davis well water was recognized. In response "number 1" to concern 1 of the Del Puerto Water District and the County Farm Bureau, it is clearly stated that there will be no change to the limits imposed on the use of Marshall-Davis well water. The conditions listed are that Marshall-Davis wells are limited to providing no more than 1,200-acre feet per year for a period not exceeding five (5) years and no residential use of water is allowed.

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The only 1998 approval that exceeded what was previously approved in 1993 was Tentative Map No. 97-01 which authorized a 336 lot subdivision. Evidence was presented by Diablo Grande and the Western Hills Water District that water to serve the subdivision would come from the California Aqueduct after being purchased from the Bravo and Berrenda Mesa Water Districts not from Stanislaus County groundwater.

The Board has not approved any residential development at Diablo Grande that will be using Stanislaus County Valley floor shallow groundwater. Before Turlock Irrigation District shallow groundwater could be used in the future at Diablo Grande, it would take the approval, after public hearings, of the Turlock Irrigation District Board of Directors, the Board of Directors of the Western Hills Water District and the approval of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. The Farm Bureau's position that what has currently been approved by the County somehow threatens the valley floor's groundwater resources is not supported by evidence in the record.

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