

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Energy Resources Conservation
And Development Commission

In the Matter of:) Docket No. 97-AFC-1
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)
)
The Application for Certification)
For the High Desert Power Project [HDPP])
_____)

**PREPARED SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY
OF GARY LEDFORD ON
WATER
And Related Matters
FOR THE
HIGH DESERT POWER PROJECT**

Respectfully submitted:

February 11, 2000

Gary Ledford

**PREPARED SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY
GARY LEDFORD
ON WATER FOR THE
HIGH DESERT POWER PROJECT**

1. Q. Please state your name, occupation and place of business?

A. My name is Gary Ledford and I am a builder in Apple Valley California.

2. Q. Do you wish the commission to consider new evidence from JPL concerning weather patterns?

A. Yes. I downloaded from the Internet a news release from JPL that indicates that dryer than normal weather patterns are predicted over the next 10 to 20 years.

3. Q. What is the importance of the news release?

A. The importance of the news release is that more creditable weather predictions are making for better planning. In the case of HDPP, the use of 100% consumptive water when the states available water may be decreasing due to rainfall has not been studied, except as a three year draught. These conditions may be far worse.

4. Q. Did you talk to the JPL Scientist about this news release and the JPL predictions?

A. Yes. I called Dr. Patzert 818-354-5395, and he finally returned my call a week later. He told me they feel very confident in their predictions. In fact he stated that their predictions for this year [predicted to be very dry] were so accurate to date that even they are surprised.

I discussed with him the issue of evaporative cooling and the use of water in cooling towers. He told me Water in California and the Western United States is the Number One Issue of this Century.

He told me for planning you must look back, use the 30 years between 1945 to 1976 as a base line. But to expect even less moisture.

To keep it simple, he told me we didn't have enough water for our population during that period and our population has doubled since then.

He further stated that he predicts that we will be building and buying water from Canada within this Century.

5. Q. Why is this news release important to the California Energy Commission?

A. I have advised the committee in this proceeding that MWA has briefed the California Supreme Court on the Highest and Best Use of Water. I believe that this is a State Wide issue and allowing power plants to be developed using State Project Water that taxpayers for years have paid for so that they can have reliable domestic water available is not the Highest and Best Use of our Water Resource.

6. Q. Is it important to this proceeding?

A. Yes. It is well acknowledged that we are in a critical overdraft and that even the Full MWA entitlement will not cure that overdraft. If rainfall over the next 20 years is in a draught format, the local entitlements may go from an average of 65% availability to far less.

27. Q. Does this complete your testimony on the JPL New Release?

A. Yes.

Exhibit "A"

JPL NEWS RELEASE