

**RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 756  
(BOULDIN ISLAND)**

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March 17, 2015

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California Department of Water Resources  
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Sacramento, CA 94236  
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**Subject: Reclamation District No. 756  
Comments on the IS/PMND, Emergency Drought Barriers Project**

Dear Mr. McQuirk:

Reclamation District No. 756 (RD 756) is pleased to submit the following comments on the Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/PMND) for the Emergency Drought Barriers Project sponsored by the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

1. Section 2.8 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION
  - a. The construction, operation, and removal of the West False River barrier have the potential to impact RD 756 operations. Local agencies should be included on the weekly call with USFWS, NMFS, and CDFW during construction, operation and removal of the barriers. See Mitigation Measure BIO-8: Implement Adaptive Management Program, Page 3-46.
2. Section 3.15 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY
  - a. There is a lack of information on salinity in the San Joaquin River. Page 3-88 states, "However, the West False River barrier could slightly increase seawater intrusion in the San Joaquin River (e.g., San Andreas Landing) and adjacent channels located upstream of False River." No data is provided indicating what the EC will be and when these changes will occur; specifically for the output data locations shown in Figure C-1, including Fisherman's Cut, False River (Upstream of Barrier), and San Joaquin River at San Andreas (RSAN032). This data needs to be provided to fully disclose impacts of the barriers.
  - b. The document fails to include discussion of agricultural impacts resulting from increases in salinity in the San Joaquin River upstream of the West False River barrier. There is a potential for increases in salinity intrusion up the San Joaquin River with the barrier in place. The document does not address this potential increase in channel salinity and the consequences to agriculture on the west side of Bouldin Island. Water quality impacts in the San Joaquin

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River should be addressed and a mitigation measure proposed for properties near the West False River barrier.

This concludes RD 756's comments on the IS/PMND. Please contact me at (925) 932-0251 if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,  
RECLAMATION DISTRICT No. 756



David A. Forkel, Chairman

cc: MBK Engineers