

TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT  
AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 12, 2009

Board:

Barbara Balen, Chairperson  
Bob Behee, Alternate

Staff:

Pete Kampa, General Manager  
Tom Scesa, District Engineer  
Sheri Barnett, Human Resources Director / Acting District Secretary

**Review of Proposal by Tuolumne County Farm Bureau for Inclusion in the Water Rules and Regulations.**

Mr. Kampa provided clarification on how the District's Water Rules and Regulations define connection and capacity fees. Supply, treatment, storage and transmission are all used to calculate the District's capacity fees. The district's challenge is to analyze options for increasing source water availability. Expanding Lyons, lining ditches and purchasing water from PG&E have been reviewed. It was more affordable to line ditches for water loss prevention than purchase water from PG&E.

Proposals have been discussed for the last 2 ½ years with the agricultural community. The proposal does not give water rights, but allows the ability to enter into an agreement with the district to supply water at an alternate rate.

Sasha Farkas, representing the Tuolumne County Farm Bureau water committee, believes that the proposal would help the smaller agricultural users, such as vegetables, grapes, orchards and similar crop growers. There is also livestock usage. Using TUD water irrigation for the cows rather than grazing in the high country may have additional benefits, including water shed protection.

Bob Behee expressed concerns of the risk of a protest filed from development groups of unfair rates. Our attorney advised us that we must treat everyone the same, but there is flexibility. The agreement can be modified in the future if necessary.

Barbara Balen would like us to track participation after implementation to see if agricultural pursuits increase. Barbara believes encouraging more agricultural users would benefit our local economy. Per Sasha, there would be positive economic benefits.

The proposal if approved would become part of the District's Water Rules and Regulations. Barbara strongly feels we need to start thinking in a larger community way to know what is possible. Both Barbara Balen and Bob Behee recommend approving the proposal as is to the board.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.