From YJWCD Treasurer/Budget Director

To the Directors of the YJWCD

Subj: Long term planning for the District’s Budget

1. As I started preparing the draft budget for 2017 I had to look carefully at the legal stipulations and the timelines that the Board agreed to in 2014. We have a functional end date of August 2020 to define how we intend to use our few remaining water rights or loose them.
2. The two important paragraphs in the court decrees are 18.1 and 18.2 which I have attached for your review. What are the needs? If we cannot define the needs now we cannot defend any project.
3. Our present budget will not accomplish the requirements of paragraph 18.2 unless we start making some critical decisions. The Board must have a specific plan to relocate diversion/storage rights by the end of 2017 or early 2018.
4. The 2018 budget must be dedicated to legal fees to start the actions required to change, abandon, or apply for a grant for the related action.
5. The 2019 budget will either be engineering and project management, if a grant is approved, or legal for sale or transfer of rights.
6. The 2020 budget will be mostly legal for Due Diligence or turning out the lights on YJWCD.

Summary: The District does not have a long term budget (mil levy) that will support survival. Without a viable project the District does not have a meaningful reason to ask for a mil levy increase.

The district absolutely does not have the funds for legal opposition to either procedures or plans. As the district proceeds with its final development project it also must develop a plan to dissolve and save what it can.

Respectfully,

Walt