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BOS # 15

Leg # 14-1342

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Save EDWPA!

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Historically the County (and or its water purveyors) have erred in a few critical opportunities to obtain additional water rights and or supplies!

#1 In early history, probably about 1880, the County passed on an opportunity to obtain the water rights that were then purchased by the City of Sacramento on the Crystal Basin area. No Money to make purchase!

The right to use the water for hydro electric purposes were granted to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District at its formation; those rights were the basis for what is now the SMUD Upper American River Project (UARP)


#2 In the early 1950s the County had a competing project for the UARP! However because it had just been promised the Sly Park Project, our leaders felt we had enough water and instead made the 1957 agreement with SMUD. Again, No Money to do the project. SMUD now has the project bonded for about \$900 million.

#3 Just a little later than the UARP fiasco, the Placer County Water Agency created the project consisting of the French Meadows and Hell Hole Reservoirs; these are filled with water from the Rubicon River, of which about 35 % runs off of El Dorado County. Having made an agreement with SMUD for Stumpy Meadows, the County declined to participate in the PCWA project. Oh, by the way, No Money to do the project.

#4 And probably the greatest fiasco of all, the South Fork American River Project (SOFAR) was worked on from the mid 1960s and by 1987 we had a license to construct the project and a water rights license. The enviros beat us out of our financing ! This happened because the County, the Water Agency and the purveyors in the County wasted over five years determining how the profits from the project would be shared! That time was used by the enviros to organize their opposition and they beat us. Again, No Money to do the project!

This County has been at the watering trough and screwed it up at least four times; will we let our people down again?

About five years ago we embarked on two major efforts to obtain more water. The first is by the water agency to obtain the "Fasio" water that is 15,000 af from Folsom Reservoir. The second is the effort by the El Dorado Water and Power Authority (EDWPA) to obtain the water rights for the 40, 000 af for which we have negotiated a storage agreement with SMUD.

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To construct our own storage facility would probably take ten to twenty years and cost at least \$100 million. And, do not forget the importance of the 15,000 af of "drought water" we have a storage rights for in the bottom of the SMUD facilities!

We have had many obstacles at EDWPA and have overcome them with perseverance!

For both of our water rights projects we are endangered by the activities surrounding the Delta water issues. And because of that, we may be looking at future changes in water rights law! It is my strong belief, from many years in the water arena, that if we stay the course we are on we will prevail! We will probably not get everything we are requesting, but at least a major part of the ask.

Step aside now, change or slow the process and we will be on the sidelines again watching others make use and earning money from "our" water.

I urge you, **Please stay the course!**

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