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To <i>Art Godwin</i>	From <i>Joe Spano</i>
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATIONS BRANCH
 5545 EAST SHIELDS AVENUE
 FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93727
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June 13, 1996

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DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

Mr. Brian Kumimoto
 Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources
 1716 Morgan Road
 Modesto, CA 95351

RE: Use of the San Joaquin River for Domestic Supply

Dear Mr. Kumimoto:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm your June 13, 1996, telephone conversation with Joe Spano of this Department regarding the Department of Health Service's position regarding the suitability of the San Joaquin River as a domestic water supply source for new public water systems. Our Department objects to possible consideration of the San Joaquin River as a domestic water supply source for new public water systems. Any and all available alternatives must be evaluated because we will not support issuance of a domestic water supply permit for the San Joaquin River.

The final report of the Sanitary Survey of the State Water Project, which was conducted by Brown and Caldwell Consulting Engineers for the State Water Contractors in October 1990, documents the problems with the raw water quality in the San Joaquin River as it relates to the California Aqueduct and the State Water Project. The report concludes that the San Joaquin River water is the poorest quality of the sources contributing to the Delta. In the past we have objected to proposals that include the use of the Delta Mendota Canal as a potable source, the San Joaquin River is a much more contaminated source than the Delta Mendota Canal.

The San Joaquin River receives sewage discharges from several major cities in the Central Valley. None of these sewage discharges is treated beyond secondary treatment so minimal pathogen removal is achieved. In addition, the river continuously receives subsurface agricultural drainage from Mud and Salt Sloughs. The drainage is from row crops, orchards, dry rangelands, and livestock confinement areas.

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The Department will support the use of the groundwater supply available in the area with appropriate treatment for the high total dissolved solids concentrations found in the raw water. We would be glad to meet with you to further discuss the needs of any proposed developments.

Sincerely,



Cindy A. Forbes, P.E., Chief
Central California Section
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

cc: Cliff Sharpe, Chief, DWFOB
Bob Hultquist—DWTOB
Joe Spano—DWFOB
Cliff Sharpe—DWFOB
Rich Haberman—DWFOB
Carl Carlucci—DWFOB