

Excerpt from the November/December 2007 Newsletter:

CONSERVATION -- Exercises in futility

In the Response to Comments, Volume I, to the EIR to the Inyo-LA Long Term Water Agreement (LTWA) pg. 2-29 it is stated:

"However should it be believed that a significant effect on the environment (as defined under CEQA) has or will occur due to the project, any person may bring the matter to the attention of Los Angeles or Inyo County and/or employ any other available legal right or remedy, including CEQA."

I first invoked this passage at a Technical group meeting in early 2006 and called attention to the meadow degradation in parcel BLK094 due to excessive pumping for the Blackrock Hatchery. I have written about this degradation in this newsletter for years and the data documenting the degradation are overwhelming. How did the Technical Group address my complaint? I was ignored.

I again invoked this passage and called attention to the Blackrock meadow degradation over a year later at the Technical Group meeting May 4,2007. This time I was told by DWP's Gene Coufal to write a letter.

On behalf of the Bristlecone Chapter I wrote a letter explaining the problem, citing the relevant data, and proposing a solution. I delivered the letter to the Standing Committee at its meeting in Bishop on July 9, 2007. This letter is available for downloading at www.ovcweb.org. With a cover letter written to the Technical Group I delivered the letter to DWP and the Inyo County Water Department offices in Bishop July 13, 2007.

The next meeting of the Standing Committee will occur November 19. Will the Standing Committee discuss this problem as I requested at the July meeting?

The next meeting of Technical Group remains unscheduled. It cancelled its meeting for July 23,2007 and, therefore, has not met since last June, before I had written up the complaint. Will the Technical Group discuss this problem as I requested at the May meeting?

Former Bishop Mayor Betty Denton told the Inyo Supervisors in 2005 that the only thing DWP understands is litigation.

It appears this statement may apply to Inyo County as well as DWP.

Daniel Pritchett, Conservation Chair