

IT'S YOUR RIVER TOO!

The Casitas Municipal Water District and the city of Ventura claim conflicting rights to the use of the Ventura River. But the river and the fish and wildlife it supports belongs to everyone — including you.

A proposed Conjunctive Use Agreement between the city and the district would divert the entire low flow from the upper river. Fish and wildlife, and the educational and the recreational opportunities associated with them would be degraded or completely lost.



Old swimming hole, Foster Park

But the loss of fish and wildlife resources is only the beginning. The Conjunctive Use Agreement could also deprive thirty private and public water diverters and pumpers of water which has been historically available to them for agricultural and domestic purposes.

The EIR spells out the impacts of the proposed agreement in unusually blunt terms:

- "Surface flow in the Ventura River below Robles Dam will be reduced and the usual year-round flows in the live stretch at Casitas Springs will cease more often and for longer periods of time than they have in the past." (VII-1)
- "The groundwater level in the Upper Ventura River groundwater basin will be drawn down more often and for longer periods than in the past, with a resulting decrease of production in wells between Robles Dam and Foster Park. Hence, groundwater users will have to draw on Casitas Reservoir water a significant part of the time." (VII-2, VI-9)
- "The proposed agreement will reduce the quantity of surface and subsurface water passing Foster Park, thereby reducing the quantity of water available for recharge in the groundwater basin below Foster Park." (VI-9)
- "The quality of surface water downstream of the sewage treatment plant will be adversely affected during late summer months because the sewage effluent will no longer be diluted with the equivalent volume of better-quality water coming from upstream." (VI-11)

A number of public agencies, including the State Water Resources Control Board, The California Department of Fish And Game, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board have expressed concern about the proposed Conjunctive Use Agreement. But the voices of individual private citizens must be heard if the general public's interest in the preservation of the Ventura River is to be taken into account.

The second of two public hearings on the adequacy of the Draft EIR will be held on March 14, 1979 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the district's offices: 1055 Ventura Avenue, Oak View, California 93022 (805) 649-2251. Your attendance could make a difference, whether you offer testimony or simply observe the proceedings.

Written comments can also be submitted to the District up to March 30, 1979.

FRIENDS OF THE VENTURA RIVER, Charles D. Price, President.

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(Two Ventura River Steelhead Taken January 1979)

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