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**To:** Donald Morris; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Comments for the Groundwater Basin Workshop

**From:** Donald Morris [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 21, 2018 10:14 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Comments for the Groundwater Basin Workshop

Fellow owners in the Basin.

I'm disappointed that I haven't been able to attend the workshops and am not up on what has been decided/discussed. I would like to give an input on my experience and perceptions. My well water table cycled nearly 20 feet every year but returned until the late 90's when it started progressively getting deeper, in concert with the large plantings of grapes. My Well was drilled in the late 40's and irrigated about 40 acres of alfalfa, but that was a hobby, not a business and was discontinued.

When we joined to form a water district, I was disappointed as to the approach for water usage, which appeared to me to be that the current large users would get a reduced portion and low level users would be forever locked out. Obviously, the investment in the property deserves consideration, but all our deeds have the same rights and I believe, after a transition, that all should be left on some semblance of the same rights, not a pure confiscation of deed rights. My general outline of a "fair and legal" process would be.

- 1: Determine the long term acceptable draw on the aquifer( I suspect that it is 1/2 or less of current usage)
- 2: Set a transition period to reduce the usage to #1 draws based on total acreage owned (5 years?)
- 3: Concurrent with #2 and possibly extending beyond #2 time period, transition from current users having full access to the decreasing draw to a system where each owner has acreage access to their portion and may use, save, or sell/lease their allotment to a pool of users or individually to a user.

This would acknowledge the different levels of investments, but transition to a system that leaves each deeded owner of water rights equal standing based on acreage. Those that choose to not irrigate, could still have land value by leasing their rights to users and the users could maintain some fraction of their plantings. The district should also be inventive to secure/create additional capture and creation of additional sources and sell based on cost. Without #3, the process is a pure confiscation of property rights by a quasi-government agency to the benefit of others without compensation and is a selective destruction of property values. Fairness requires a transition and equal rights at the end.

Donald H Morris