

## COMMENTS ON HB 2705

Representative Helm and Committee Members

## COMMENTS OPPOSED TO HB 2705

I encourage you to allow this bill to die in committee.

This imposes a costly and meaningless requirement on users. Our water district was established over 100 years ago and provides irrigation water to mainly agricultural users. Our irrigation canals are maintained by volunteers. You are also ignoring the benefit to the county that this system of irrigation canals provides. It is an integral part of the removal of storm water to avoid or minimize flooding in our county. The county has been trying to address significant flooding problems for years and without the benefit of the irrigation district, the problems would be exacerbated.

Your expectation that the irrigation district spend thousands of dollars to install measuring devices for the water used is not reasonable. For one thing, any data it provides would be meaningless since the difference between the point of diversion and the outflow are impacted by evaporation and any precipitation that occurs since the ditch serves to remove storm water from the area. In addition, there is not just one headgate, but additional areas where water is diverted from the primary channel. As I read the bill, every area where water is diverted from the primary irrigation channel may also be required to install one of these measurement devices as well as every person with a water right who is pumping water from the irrigation canal.

This bill is poorly crafted and unreasonably costly to those with water rights. It is my strongly held belief that if the money had to come out of the state budget, this bill would not have been given a hearing. Assuming that the State is the only group having to deal with budget problems is not accurate. Having the State add to the financial problems of local communities and individuals is counter productive.

There is no justification for the cost this imposes on irrigation rights holders as any benefits are minute compared to the costs.

They tried to put in a measuring device 10 or 15 years ago. It did not work.

I urge you to vote against sending this bill out of committee.

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