

October 11, 2004

Middle Republic NRD  
Board of Directors

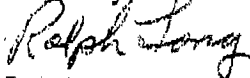
Dear Directors,

We own and operate 6 irrigation wells in the MRNRD. I am writing to express my immense disapproval of the proposed water program. The proposed 13" is not an adequate amount to raise a crop without forced change to our cropping rotation. It is unacceptable for the state to have the right to reduce our allotment on a dry year (aka. Water Short Year). We need to be certain at the beginning of the planting season of the amount of water we have allotted to be able to manage that amount successfully. It would seem obvious that our need would be greater for water on a dry year. A reduction of water on a dry year would set our crops up for certain disaster.

I am asking two things:

1. Please consider raising the allotted amount from 13" to 16", with no reduction on dry years.
2. Post pone your decision until the other 2 NRDs make their final decision, so that all irrigators can be treated equal and fair.

Sincerely,



Ralph Long  
O'Neil Cattle Company