34th KZGN News Talking Points Editorial

The topic of today’s editorial is: Did the council do the right thing last night in not offering support for the Kern County Land Use Management Plan?

There are two opposing sides to the water over draft issue we have in the valley. Here’s what most everyone agrees to:

1st, everyone agrees that many wells are dropping at an alarming rate.

2nd, everyone agrees water conservation is everyone’s responsibility.

3rd, we have been talking about doing something for years, and still we are not doing much.

What the county proposed did not do anything to correcting the problem. It was mainly a use of zoning law to try and restrict the future use of currently undeveloped land. Supporters of the plan argued it’s not perfect, but at least it does something. We cannot continue doing nothing. Many people suggested we slow down and take a better look at the problem and get more suggested solutions. Everyone also agreed that a lot of studies have been done. But most agree more studies need to be done as well. The city not taking a position of support is telling in that they didn’t agree with the county plan as proposed. I don’t know what is next, but it will surely fall under the new state established requirement that all over draft areas will need to set up governing water use boards by 2017, to correct overdraft problems. And if we don’t do it ourselves, the state will come in a dictate to us what we will do in the future.

In conclusion, the city’s in action is really not a big deal, but leaving the issue unresolved and letting the state come in and take over, is not good. Maybe we do need to slow down a little and get the involved boards to work closer together for a more comprehensive approach.

I’m Tom Wiknich, and that’s what I think. If you have any comments about this editorial, or would like to discuss or recommend a topic, I’d like to hear from you. Please email them to info@kzgn.net.