

San Joaquin Valley adopted, though that certainly is what we believe should be done and it is what we are trying to put forward.

Mr. MOSHER. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. DADDARIO. Yes, Mr. Mosher.

Mr. MOSHER. In the last sentence on page 5 of your testimony, you mention the problem of taxes. Would this tax be in the form of a user tax or would it be a conventional real estate tax?

Mr. WARNE. What we actually had in mind and what we have proposed would be an ad valorem tax which would amount to maybe as much as 4 cents on a hundred dollars of valuation, and a user tax or a charge against the discharger who would put water into the drain so that you have two charges really; one on the discharger who would pay on a metered basis for the use of the drain, and the other on the whole community which we believe would pay in accordance with the responsibility that it has for the creation of the drainage problem.

Everybody within the basin contributes to the problem.

Mr. MOSHER. This relates to your earlier testimony in which you referred to the apportionment of costs both to specific and to general beneficiaries.

Mr. WARNE. Yes.

Mr. MOSHER. But, in effect it would be a user tax. You would be paying for the privilege of discharging.

Mr. WARNE. The one who had had immediate access to the drain would pay for the privilege of discharging waste waters into it. I think there is some thought that perhaps the problem is pervasive enough so that part of the cost ought to be carried by the general taxpayer.

Mr. MOSHER. This would be a tax based on real estate values.

Mr. WARNE. Or from whatever the general taxing source was, yes, from the general fund source of the State.

These are problems that have not been resolved. I think at times drainage programs affecting irrigated lands in our State have been delayed until there have been ruinous situations created.

Mr. MOSHER. Basically, these are political problems, aren't they?

Mr. WARNE. Basically they are political problems.

Mr. DADDARIO. You mentioned that part of the problem of drainage waste, was the progressive deterioration of water due to continuous reuse.

Mr. WARNE. Yes.

Mr. DADDARIO. Are we doing enough to forestall this deterioration? Can we build up the reuse cycle over a period of time?

Mr. WARNE. Let me give you an example. I suppose it is the best we have in our State. The example of Santa Ana River Basin in southern California which at its very upstream edge has excellent water. In the head waters of the Bunker Hill Basin in San Bernardino County, the uppermost reach of the Santa Ana River the waters are splendid. We have a situation in the Santa Ana River Basin in which the stream is intermittent, ground waters basins are the real repository of the water supply, and the whole valley has for years depended on pumping water from the ground water basins. There has not been sufficient water in the stream, naturally collected, to supply the needs of the people who live there. So that as the water is