

TO: File

DATE: July 6, 1998

FROM: Jim Stanton

SUBJECT: App. for Transfer, Kim Cranney (Cottonwood Creek)

I visited the subject property. Both farms are served by laterals from the West Canal of the Oakley Canal Co. Cottonwood Creek water runs into the Canal above these laterals. Both laterals are of similar size, and appear to be capable of carrying the claimed flow; they were dry during my visit, but a high-water mark in the north lateral showed a flow very close to the 3.43 cfs being transferred. The laterals feed into ponds (one in each section), and a well in each section feeds into each pond. Re-lift pumps in each pond pressurize sprinklers. Although there are no canal shares appurtenant to this land according to Mr. Cranney, he says that have been able to rent excess canal water the last couple of years after the Cottonwood water was cut off by the watermaster; this water would not be available in dry years, however. The idea of this transfer is to move the appurtenant surface rights off of the land in Sec. 6 that is being dried up of groundwater in order to provide water for a feedlot west of Oakley. This land is irrigated with handlines, and these could be configured so as not to irrigate it in the future; two full corners and part of another will be dried up. Sec. 6 is extra wide, so the NW 1/4 is larger than normal; 150 acres will still be irrigated even after the corners have been dried up. Cottonwood Creek is an active water district, with an elected watermaster to control delivery of these rights. With proper approval conditions, we should be able to approve this transfer unless other water users can prove injury. Forfeiture does not appear to be an issue here.

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