

Statement of Ed Murray
Mayor of the City of Lindsay

Good Morning.

My name is Ed Murray. I am the Mayor of the City of Lindsay. Lindsay is in Tulare County on the east side adjacent to the foothills. Lindsay has a farm-based economy. Our population is 10,700 citizens of which about 82% are Hispanic. We have about 4,000 people employed, 2200 of those jobs are agriculture related.

In the winter of 1990-91, our area was devastated by a major freeze, then we had our two largest employers shut down. The city's unemployment rate soared to 67%. Our crime rate tripled. We had a mock funeral in our city park to bury the past, including frozen oranges. Since that time, Lindsay has been on a rebirth. Lindsay has spent 5 million dollars on a sewage treatment plant with capacity until 2025, and we installed a 4 million gallon water storage tank to better serve our water need. Most all our underground water mains have been replaced. Our city passed a tax to repair or replace every street in our city on a 10 year rotational basis.

In the spring of 2004, we opened a plaza and Mercado where every Friday night we have a Farmers Market-Street Fair attracting between four and five thousand people. We are in the process of building a new library, a sports court in the center of town, infill housing in the downtown area, and redesigning our streets and sidewalks in our shopping area.

About six years ago our hospital closed. We have begun the process of building a 13 million dollar wellness center.

The City of Lindsay has a contract with the Bureau of Reclamation to help supply our water needs. The contract is for 2,500 acre feet of water per year. Last year, the city's total usage was 2,737 acre feet. From these figures you can see how important the San Joaquin River is to the City of Lindsay. We have two active wells and 1 standby. Our main well is 3 miles outside the city. In the past few years, we have drilled 6 test wells. They were of no use because of quantity or quality of water.

I do not believe the water supply would ever be shut off to the city, but if our main industry lost any portion of its water supply it could have a devastating effect on our community. We need to insure a steady water supply with consideration given to the economic and social impact on the people who have made our area a great place to live and raise a family. Please help us save our water so that we can enjoy a good quality of life.