

bill has. And I'm not going to go on about that; Senator Bromm will be speaking of that later. This is the conjunctive use bill. This is the bill that puts together, in a general way and in a specific way, for the first time in our history, the surface water law and the ground water law, the surface water users and ground water users, and recognizes that, from time to time and place to place in the state, ground water and surface water, indeed, are interrelated, and that there ought to be some mechanism in law for resolving conflicts between those users, surface and ground water, who share that interconnected water, just as we have already provided in law a system whereby ground water users, who share the interrelated ground water, can resolve conflicts among themselves. What you are considering now is the committee amendment. The committee amendment is the bill. But much more important than that, the committee amendment is the final product of the Governor's Water Council. It is substantially, in effect with respect to almost every concept, what has been recommended to the Legislature by the Governor's Water Council and again, without going into the Water Council, others will explain their efforts, the composition of that council, and how they reached these particular conclusions. But this is the Water Council's bill. These committee amendments are essential to the bill. These committee amendments are the amendments that protect the rural interests, that protect the ground water users. Built into these amendments are all the things we heard going out to the public over the last year. You may recall that 108 was filed last year. This summer and fall there was another round of public hearings, we went all around the state. The Water Council met again and these amendments are the result of their second review and recommendation to the Legislature with respect to conjunctive use. My job this morning is going to be to tell you what's in the bill, others will tell you the reasons why we need the bill. And I think before I start to tell you what's in the bill, I have to back up a little bit so that everybody understands how we got to where we are. But the water law in this state was essentially centered around and focused on and geared towards surface water from the very beginning of the state, up until recent times, for the obvious reason that technologically it was the surface water that we knew how to use. The ground water, by and large, was not economically feasible to use. Over the years the surface water law has been put into our constitution and put into our statutes, and it basically follows the principle of first in time, first in