

a management area for conjunctive use management may be initiated by either an NRD or the DWR, Director of Water Resources. The NRD initiated process is set out in detail by Section 34, beginning on page 37; the DWR initiated process set out in Sections 55 through 67, beginning on page 61. Section 34 provides that NRD, on its own initiative or upon request, may request that the DWR perform a study to determine if a conjunctive use management area should be established. The criteria which must be satisfied is whether the use of hydrologically connected ground and surface water is contributing or in the reasonably foreseeable future is likely to contribute to (a) conflicts between ground water users and surface water users; (b) disputes over interstate compacts or decrees; or (c) difficulties fulfilling provisions of other formal state contracts or agreements. The DWR initiated process is limited to (b) and (c) in the preceding sentence, and defining that the NRDs have failed to adequately manage hydrologically connected water resources. In other words, the NRD has authority to establish conjunctive use management area if conflicts exist, or may soon exist between ground and surface water users, and may establish for additional purposes that the DWR can establish a management area. Thirty-seven seventy-one provides that NRD can initiate the process of establishing a conjunctive use management area only when a party requesting that action can make a showing that they are economically damaged by depletions of surface or ground water because of overuse, and can only actually establish a management area when studies and hearings occur. Provide...Number 2, it provides that the DWR can initiate and seek establishment of a conjunctive use management area only upon a finding that the hydrologically connected water resources are creating noncompliance with interstate compacts or decrees, or other formal state contracts or agreements. The amendment eliminates more vague language in the bill describing circumstances to be addressed through conjunctive management. The wording in that section is atrocious. If Senator Chambers were here, I'm sure he'd be taking it apart. I hope that you will find approval for the amendment and return some of the necessary management control powers to the local entities, the NRDs. While I'm up, I would like to...I would like to ask Senator Beutler if this meeting he's going to have with the interested parties, if he would be willing to include some ground water irrigators?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler, would you respond to a