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FLOOR DEBATE

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this, but we put in an additional \$4 million or \$5 million to match federal funds to take land temporarily out of irrigation. And you may remember that was the time when the discussion began about whether we're going to use General Funds to continually bail out this process in the Republican Valley or whether we were going to start to construct a long-term solution and some incentives to ensure responsibility in terms of how things...how the NRDs structure things down there. And that year, and I'm reading from the existing language in the appropriation...the Appropriations Committee put in, we had a discussion, you voted for it. It says: It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Natural Resources develop and propose a system of fees and charges to provide an ongoing source of funding for this program beginning in 2006-2007. Okay, that's the instruction that we gave to the Department of Water Resources more than a year ago. They have done nothing. The executive branch has done nothing in that regard. And so they apparently just ignore what we asked them to do. And the very next paragraph in this appropriation section is committing another \$2.7 million, the Bostwick buyout provision, of General Fund money to pay people not to irrigate. It's like we wrestle with the problem. We ask for a solution. They ignore the solution. They come back with the same problem. And every time they try to put us over a barrel and get more and more General Fund money to bail out the situation without proposing long-term solutions. So we put in more intent language when we did the Bostwick thing: It is the intent of the Legislature that this appropriation is of a one-time nature and shall not be a part of an ongoing budget. Well, are they going to pay any attention to that or are they going to ignore that one more time? Now you may have read in the paper we're buying out Frenchman Valley irrigation rights and we're buying out one other irrigation district irrigation rights, Riverside. I don't know how much we're paying for those. I haven't looked into them yet. But I'm simply taking time to bring this to your attention so that you are aware of the repetitive nature of the giving of General Funds, the statement that we don't want to do that, and the ignoring of the statement. And so I hope when the water bill comes up for discussion that this Legislature will have the backbone to do some things that mean we mean it. We don't want to continue to bury ourselves in General Fund appropriations to