**ATTACHMENT 2**

**MEMORANDUM**

**FROM: RICK ILLGNER**

**TO: EARIP**

**DATE: January 21, 2011**

**SUBJECT: INTEREST IN VISPO**

The VISPO work group sent letters to all EAA irrigators in mid-November explaining the VISPO and inviting them to informational meetings to learn more. Two informational meetings were held, December 6 in Uvalde and December 7 in Castroville. Approximately 150 persons attended both meetings (approximately 35 in Uvalde and approximately 115 in Castroville). As previously reported, there was more dialogue at the Castroville meeting.

Following the meetings, all irrigators were sent a second mailing on January 5 that contained a cover letter, a sheet of Frequently Asked Questions and a response sheet that showed the payments for the five and ten year program options. Letter recipients were asked to submit their responses by January 14.

To date, approximately 14,000 acre-feet (AF) of interest has been expressed in the VISPO as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Base** | **Unrestricted** |  | **Total** |  |  |  |
| **5-Year** | **6,862** | **2,169** |  | **9,031** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **10-year** | **4,322** | **642** |  | **4,964** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** | **11,184** | **2,811** |  | **13,995** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **Atascosa** | **Comal** | **Bexar** | **Medina** | **Uvalde** | **Total** |
| **5 - Yr. Base** |  | **200** | **242** | **1,186** | **888** | **4,346** |  |
| **5 - Yr. Unrestricted** |  | **400** |  | **527** | **535** | **707** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **10 - Yr. Base** |  |  | **40** | **335** | **3,354** | **593** |  |
| **10 - Yr. Unrestricted** |  |  |  | **266** | **376** | **0** |  |
| **Total** |  | **600** | **282** | **2,314** | **5,153** | **5,646** | **13,995** |

The attached sheet (Attachment 4 to the Agenda) shows more precise details of the responses and comments. The comments ranged in scope from “it’s a good idea” to “I’m 100% against it”.

The VISPO Work Group met on January 21 and discussed ways to improve the program in response to concerns expressed by agribusiness. The Work Group will meet again prior to the EARIP meeting on January 28 to continue these discussions. A presentation will be made to the EARIP at the January 28 EARIP meeting.