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David Carle, Drowning the Dream: California's Water Choices at the Millennium

the future development of additional water sources. As the nation's fastest growing state, Nevada must secure additional water sources if it is to sustain its growth.

New Mexico (Chapter Seventeen) and Texas (Chapter Nineteen) have allowed groundwater mining, resulting in significant overdrafting. The authors believe both states now realize their policies' implications and now monitor the situation more closely. Oklahoma (Chapter Eighteen) has experienced downturns in two primary water users: the oil and gas industry, and agriculture. Although the downturn has hurt the state economically, it has proved beneficial to its groundwater supply. In addition, Oklahoma now closely monitors and manages its groundwater.

The authors have exhaustively reviewed the groundwater status of nineteen western states. *Groundwater Management in the West* offers an insightful look at groundwater problems facing the arid west.

Brian L. Martin

DAVID CARLE, DROWNING THE DREAM: CALIFORNIA'S WATER CHOICES AT THE MILLENNIUM, Praeger Publishers, Westport, Connecticut (2000); 235pp; \$45.00; ISBN 0-275-96719-0, hardcover.

Projections of future water demand lead to water development. Water development leads to population growth. Population growth leads to increased demand for water and new projections. According to David Carle, California is drowning its dream through this cycle. In *Drowning the Dream*, Carle presents his theory that water development in twentieth century Southern California negatively transformed California's environment and thereby the quality of human life. Carle asserts this transformation and its consequences were the result of human choices. His text analyzes the history of California's water and population, the choices to bring in water, and the effects of those choices. Carle suggests an alternative for the next millennium.

Drowning the Dream begins with an overview of California's history. Carle describes the early Southern California landscape populated by grizzly bears and the greatest concentration of Native Americans on the continent. It touches on the years of Spanish exploration and settlement, and then on American settlement. Carle narrates events that expanded California's population and impacted its environment, such as the gold rush, statehood, the railroad, real estate interests, and the citrus boom.

In Parts Two through Four, Carle analyzes past water developments from the Eastern Sierras, the Colorado River, and Northern California and their effects. Carle observes that each of the three projects followed the cycle of projection, growth, demand, and projection.

In Chapter Six, Carle first describes the layout of the Sierra Nevadas, the people in this area, and the effect of water transfers on

the residents of Owens Valley. In Chapter Seven, Carle analyzes Los Angeles' acquisition of water from Owens and Mono Lakes in the Sierra Nevadas. Los Angeles voters first approved the purchase of water rights and the aqueduct to deliver the water in 1905. Public approval was obtained through the government's scare tactics, severe warnings of water shortages, and population increases. Carle asserts the population of Los Angeles grew from 220,000 in 1905 to just under 2 million in 1950 as a direct result of Eastern Sierra water. In Chapter Eight, Carle wonders whether Southern California realized its development would lead to negative impacts on the environment and the quality of life. Finally, Carle considers a Los Angeles without Sierra Nevada water in Chapter Nine.

In Chapter Ten, Carle discusses another cycle that occurred when the Metropolitan Water District ("MWD") of Southern California campaigned in 1931 to obtain Colorado River water. The campaign put out an image of water shortage as the desert waiting to reclaim the cities. Carle describes MWD's acquisition and diversion of Colorado River water through the Imperial Valley. This process included disputes and negotiations with the Imperial Irrigation District, seven states, and Mexico. Colorado River water flowed into Southern California in 1941. The addition of Colorado River water tripled the population of Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange and Ventura counties by 1970. By 1999, MWD provided sixty percent of the water to approximately 18 million residents in Southern California. Eventually, Southern California's diversion from the Colorado River far exceeded its interstate compact allotment, giving rise to more demand. In Chapters Eleven and Twelve, Carle addresses the relationships among population growth following World War II, air pollution, and water development.

In Chapter Thirteen, Carle describes the landscape of Central and Northern California. Carle considers Southern California's final water development in Chapter Fourteen. To remedy the perceived imbalance of water supply and demand within the state, water was shifted to Southern California from the rest of the state. Carle described the project's promotion and its effect on urban expansion. The water development was "feeding Southern California's addiction to growth." Carle notes California's urban interests are again seeking new water sources. Apparently, too much water was still not enough.

Carle asserts the three projects share the mindset of continuous water development to supply growing populations. The projects also share the stigma of having caused disturbing effects on both the environment and human life, not only in the area from whence California took the water, but also in the urban regions of Southern California. Carle points to such effects in Chapters Nine, Twelve, and Fifteen.

In Part Five, Carle considers California's options for water sources, assuming the development mindset does not change. Using today's choices, urban California could either convert water away from its farms or its environment. The author, dissatisfied with both of those

possibilities, offers his suggestions. What must occur, according to Carle, is a change in the development mindset. Instead of developing water for projected populations, as has occurred throughout California's history, California must place a moratorium on water development and stabilize its population. This solution can be achieved by following four suggestions. First, California must visualize stability and attain a state of CALMBY: Cherish and Love My Back Yard. Second, California must live within water limits in drought years. Third, California must stop converting farm and environment water to urban use. Finally, California must support local and global efforts toward population stabilization.

Carle believes California has a choice regarding its water future. In the new millennium, the state can continue along its historic path or it can make changes to stop drowning the California dream.

Sara Wagers

GREGG EASTERBROOK, *A MOMENT ON THE EARTH*, Penguin Books

Publishing, New York, New York (1995); 745pp; \$14.95; ISBN 0-14-015451-5, softcover.

A Moment on the Earth challenges the traditional pessimistic conceptions of how to address environmental conditions. Gregg Easterbrook, a contributing editor to *The Atlantic Monthly* magazine, recalls his experiences covering environmental issues and the progress that has been made over time, especially in the western world. Easterbrook rejects the "doomsday" prognosticating of many environmental activists and commentators, and suggests we adopt a new philosophy of environmental optimism as a society.

A Moment on the Earth opens with an introduction discussing modern attitudes about environmental conditions and an explanation of how the book will progress. First, Easterbrook looks critically at the way man views his image in nature and how nature views its image with man. Next, after establishing the symbiosis between nature and man, Easterbrook analyzes a number of environmental conditions (water in particular) and assesses the impact of man. Finally, Easterbrook introduces an environmental philosophy where actions consider the needs of both man and nature, instead of pitting the demands of either interest against one another.

In the first section, *The Long View: Thinking Like Nature*, Easterbrook criticizes the relationship that traditional environmental advocates have created between man and nature. Easterbrook argues that man is not separate from nature, nor is man a special threat to nature. Easterbrook sees the intellect of man as nature's greatest ally, and refutes the notion that the so-called "natural condition" of the world was better without the human fingerprint. Easterbrook contends the natural world has no problem with a dam, factory, or urban sprawl. A bird, fox, or deer will adapt to the new condition, but man condemns