## **Letters From You**

The Stockton Record Friday, January 23, 2004

## County water plan praised

Credit goes to officials at the Stockton East Water District for their efforts to stretch local water supplies ("Gaining from the rain," The Record, Jan. 14).

Underground storage of available water is gaining increased consideration throughout California as decision-makers feel the pressure to provide more water.

An exploding population and environmental demands are fueling the increasing thirst for more water.

Efforts such as the Stockton East Water District's will help meet that demand.

So will conservation. However, underground storage and conservation won't satisfy the 46 million residents California is expected to have by 2020.

More water is available in our state. But the lack of surface storage prevents us from capturing it.

Several studies are under way to determine the feasibility of developing additional storage facilities in a manner that won't harm the environment.

Such studies need to be both embraced and encouraged.

Meanwhile, Stockton East Water District officials are to be commended for doing their part.

Mike Wade Executive Director California Farm Water Coalition Sacramento