

**Donner Summit Public Utility District  
Wastewater Facilities Plan**

**Fact Sheet  
June 21, 2010**

## **Why Not Continue Using the Web-Based IFAS System?**

- 1. DSPUD has been testing and upgrading the AccuWeb system since 2002. To date, satisfactory performance in obtaining consistent ammonia and nitrate removal has not been achieved. Many violations of effluent ammonia and nitrate limits have been and continue to be experienced.**
- 2. It is not possible to predict the capacity and performance of the existing web-based IFAS system. The original system manufacturer, Brentwood Industries, states that they do not have a reliable model and that they have not developed calibration parameters and procedures that would allow the webs to be simulated using BioWin or other process simulation software.**
- 3. Brentwood discontinued offering the webs due to unreliable performance, particularly in regards to nitrification and the impacts of red worms. Red worms have been seen in the DSPUD system and, although they may not have developed to the extent noted in other problem plants, that risk still exists at DSPUD.**
- 4. Entex Technologies, the other manufacturer of web-based IFAS systems, was invited to propose on developing an upgrade/expansion project for DSPUD, but, after careful consideration, Entex declined, indicating that a loose-fill media (such as the New IFAS alternative in the Facilities Plan) would be preferred.**
- 5. Based on the preceding two items, it is clear that the wastewater treatment experts that know the most about the capabilities of the webs, even those that would have a potential economic incentive to promote the use of the webs if it were believed they would be successful, are not recommending the webs for DSPUD.**
- 6. It is not prudent for DSPUD to continue to modify and test the web-based IFAS system, hoping that acceptable performance can someday be achieved, while wasting time and money and risking failure to meet the April 2014 compliance deadline in the existing NPDES Permit. Rather, DSPUD should select and implement a proven reliable treatment technology to serve its constituents from initial installation and into the future.**