

BEYOND THE BRINK

Project Proposal



The Chronicles Group Inc.
A Nonprofit 501 (C)(3) Corporation
800 South Pacific Coast Highway #8, MS #328
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
Mobile: (310) 283-8340
www.chroniclesgroup.org

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1. FINANCIAL AND DISTRIBUTION SUMMARY

Much like Chronicles Group's approach to the 2005 Running Dry documentary (which resulted in the foundation for integrating water into US Foreign Policy), a central focus of BEYOND THE BRINK is to create a "new narrative" for the Valley.

In order to complete production of BEYOND THE BRINK the Chronicles Group is seeking Three Hundred Thousand USD (\$300,000).

The budget for the documentary and summarized version is \$300,000 (Please review the Project Budget in Appendix D).

The full-length documentary will initially be released in movie theaters around the world. This will be followed-up by distribution to additional profit-making ancillary platforms, i.e. pay per view On Demand, etc (Please review New World Distribution letter in Appendix A).

Also plans are underway to provide strategic BEYOND THE BRINK feature and Summarized version screenings at water conferences, Public Policy Forums in the United States and throughout the world. This will include the feature documentary's May 2017 World Premier at the World Water Congress in Cancun, Mexico. (Please review World Water Congress invitation in Appendix B).

Also presented are BEYOND THE BRINK financial projections which is estimated to be \$4 million USD (\$4,000,000). (Please review the roll out projections in Appendix A).

2. BACKGROUND AND STORY PREVIEW

The region has been identified as "The food basket of the World" because of its food product diversity.

The Chronicles Group, Inc - a non-profit 591 (c) (3) Corporation - is creating a full-length feature documentary and summarized public policy educational video. The feature documentary will be 90 minutes and summarized public policy educational video will be 20-25 minutes in length. The PREVIEW for BEYOND THE BRINK was created in 2010 and screened at Public Policy events throughout the United States.... It can be viewed at <http://www.runningdry.org>.

2.1 STORY OUTLINE



It's critical to note that the State's overall water system was built to accommodate 10 to 15 million population and now must support 40 million with future projections of 50 million or more Californians by mid-century.

In some cases, those who work in the fields can't afford to buy the food they pick.

The outline of the current storyline is as follows:

- The film will open with the world's drought and water scarcity conditions and its impact on global food supply and international security. It will then dissolve into establishing the San Joaquin Valley is a microcosm of the global crisis. The opening will continue and document the severity and consequences of the California drought and water scarcity crisis and the critical importance of the Valley to continue feeding a growing and hungry country and world.
- It will dissolve into farmworkers' and farmers' early morning preparations, travels, and a day's grueling work in the fields in their effort to provide a critical food supply for the United States and world.
- The film will focus on the region's unique Mediterranean Climate conditions and the significant amount and diversity of crops grown in the region.
- The film will cut to the transportation networks which ship the farm products to grocery markets and restaurants and testimonies from around the United States on the quality of Valley products and its importance to national food security and public health.
- The film will also present the reality of Central and South America - and specifically Chile's Mediterranean Climate region - which competes with the San Joaquin Valley in producing and distributing farm products. This region can compete because of the inexpensive cost of shipping product from Central and South America by container ships to East Coast ports.
- The film will transition to the interconnectivity of the State's water flow and water scarcity realities, with severe drought conditions within the American Southwest and especially in the Valley region. The film will indicate how these conditions could very well threaten agricultural productivity, related businesses, and the San Joaquin Valley's diverse population.
- Since Israel and California share similar climate conditions, in March 2014, an MOU was signed between Israel and California to establish an agreement to share water technology, conservation and management practices. The film will discuss how many Valley farms have adopted Israeli irrigation technology solutions, including drip irrigation to confront drought and water scarcity.
- This segment of the film will include an exploration of the water crisis with an emphasis on the entire watershed, including the headwaters and rivers which flow into the Valley.
- The film will examine the depletion of groundwater and aquifers which is caused by over pumping of the sacred resource.
- The film will include the new Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.
- This discussion will also include analysis of the geology and hydrology and natural and human system realities within the Valley. This will encompass conditions which have caused the profound water shortages, pollution and suffering within the poverty stricken

disadvantaged communities. In addition, significant flooding occurs during extensive rain storms.



- The linchpin for water delivery in California is the Bay Delta. The analysis will explore the depth and dimension and importance of the Delta in supplying surface water to the Valley Farms and Northern and Southern California urban communities. This discussion will contain current conditions, ecological and endangered species aspects.
- Importantly, the film will also include the State's proposal to construct a new conveyance system thru the Delta to supply unencumbered surface water throughout the Valley and beyond.
- The film will also focus on the stifling politics within the Valley environment which has significantly complicated and hampered the ability for rational and logical governance and the application of effective decision making and public policy.
- The extensive existence of Valley Water Districts and Utilities will be explored and evaluated as to their overall efficiency and ability to adequately supply clean drinking water throughout the region.
- This discussion of the Water Districts and Utilities will include the current initiative to "regionalize" where ever possible by building drinking water connections from established water utilities to depleted Disadvantage Communities.
- A presentation of viable solutions will begin with include a reminder that the current California water system was designed in the 1950's when the population was less than 15 million. The population in the State is now over 40 million with projections of 60 million or more during this Century.
- There is a spectrum of solution options on the table that can significantly help in solving the State's - and specifically San Joaquin Valley's – long-term water demands.
- The basis for solutions is the California Water Action Plan which establishes a conceptual foundation for solving the crisis in the valley and beyond.
- Solution options include the extensive utilization of water reuse technology throughout the State, as well as capturing runoff, flood waters and extensive rainwater harvesting on all buildings in the Valley.
- Currently 400 million gallons of wastewater is discharged per day into the San Francisco Bay and along the coast. This water must be captured and recycled back into the system.
- Implementation of the recycled wastewater solution requires a strategic distribution management plan.
- To minimize waste and maximize the potential flow of Delta surface water, the recycled wastewater plan will increase the ability to recharge depleting aquifers and groundwater systems and guarantee the Valley farms will have a lasting sustainable water supply.





- Flood water must be captured and recharged into the depleted groundwater and aquifer systems.
- Options also include the potential for ocean water desalination. This could help urban communities to become self-sufficient.
- Inland use of extensive desalting technology will be a viable option to minimize the existing siltation problems throughout the Valley.
- To assure protection of the headwaters of the rivers which flow into the Valley, ecologically refurbishing the Valley's upper basin and watershed, and adapting to climate change and severe drought conditions, will be necessary above the dams.
- Headwaters protections will also minimize the threat of debilitating forest fires and encourage comprehensive management to maximize stream flows.
- Managing and maximizing farm irrigation practices and solutions to protect farm crops and assure national food security.
- Implementation of a large scale initiative to confront the Valley's water quality and public health crisis with technological solutions.
- The creation of a Holistic Valley-Wide Watershed Regional Planning Model in order to assure logical, efficient designs for large scale infrastructure projects and public policy decisions.
- Rehabilitation of the Bay Delta environs is a priority. This includes refurbishing the Delta's tributaries in order to increase water flow efficiency.
- Rejuvenation of the ecological health and integrity of the Delta is crucial along with increasing the assurance for a predictable and sustainable surface water flow to Valley farms and beyond.
- In order to maintain public safety conditions, Delta levies must be renovated and strengthened to eliminate flooding and the capacity to withstand a dangerous earthquake and storm systems.
- Whenever possible and feasible, public/private partnerships should be established to help finance important technological water and food security solutions.
- Citizen engagement, public information/education, and opportunities for continuous dialogue are critical components within the solution process, necessary for generating political will and the development of lasting public policy.
- The education process includes the integration of water education – particularly as it relates to food and agriculture - into K-thru-12 curricula in schools throughout the Valley and statewide.
- The film will conclude with the sun setting and farmworkers and farmers returning to their homes and families.

Note: University of California Merced and eminent Scientists and Scholars from other UC Campuses will work to explore solutions for the Beyond the Brink Documentary. Please see letter in Appendix C from Dr. Roger Bales, Distinguished Professor of Engineering, Director Sierra Nevada Research Institute, UC Merced, Director UC Water Security & Sustainability Research Initiative.

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3 PROJECT STATUS

Film production for the BEYOND THE BRINK Project began in June 2015. The following is a list of organizations which have provided grant support for the Project:

- 1) National Science Foundation
- 2) Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- 3) California Water Service
- 4) Semitropic Water Storage District
- 5) Negri Foundation
- 6) Self-Help Enterprises
- 7) Rural Community Assistance Development Corporation
- 8) Allen and Charlotte Ginsburg Foundation
- 9) NETAFIM

Production highlights to date have included:

- 1) Filming and interview at Semitropic-Rosamond Water Bank Authority
- 2) Filming a Town Meeting in Arvin, Kern County. This event was organized by the Rural Community Development Corporation (RCAC) and the Community Water Center
- 3) Filming a Town Meeting at the Orange Center School residential area (a few miles South of Fresno). This event was organized by RCAC and Self-Help Enterprises
- 4) Filming and interviews at the Five Points Ranch
- 5) Filming a State Water Resources Board tour of Disadvantaged Communities
- 6) Filming the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley Board of Directors Meeting

- 7) Conducted on-camera interviews at California State University, Fresno with:
 - a. Karl Longley, Dean Emeritus Lyles College of Engineering
 - b. David Zoldoske, Director of the International Center for Water Technology, and
 - c. Sarge Green, Project Director, International Center for Water Technology.
- 8) Conducted on-camera interview with Roman Hernandez, Pastor of the Iglesia Emanuel Church in East Porterville. The Church provides free food, drinking water and showers for poor unemployed farm workers and families within the community. Also shot B-roll of women and men gathering bulks of food and cases of drinking water at the Church.
- 9) Conducted interview with farm labor leader Dolores Huerta, founder of the National Farm Workers Association and instrumental in the enactment of the Agriculture Labor Act of 1975 and also Founder/President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation. In 2012 she was awarded The Presidential Medal of Freedom.
- 10) Conducted interview with Jeff Kightlinger, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The MWD is the largest supplier of treated drinking water in the United States and over 30 percent of its supply flows from Northern California and thru the San Joaquin Valley.
- 11) Filming the Tulare County Water Commission meeting on March 14, 2016.
- 12) Filmed B-Roll and conducted interviews regarding California Water Services, Self-Help Enterprises Tulare County's humanitarian program to provide household water to residences in the Porterville environs.
- 13) Conducted on-camera interview with Martin Kropelnicki, President and Chief Executive Officer, California Water Service.
- 14) Conducted on-camera interview with Paul Boyer, Program Director, Self-Help Enterprises.
- 15) Conducted on-camera interview with Felicia Marcus, Chair, California Water Resources Control Board
- 16) Conducted on-camera interview with Cindy Forbes, Deputy Director, Division of Drinking Water, California Water Resources Control Board

- 17) Conducted interviews with Roger Bales, Ph.D, Director, Sierra Nevada Research Institute, University of California, Merced and Martha Conklin, Director, University of California Merced, Natural Reserve System.

Also, filmed the University of California Wireless Sensor Network Laboratory in the Sierra Nevada Mountains which measures the water balance between the extensive forest vegetation and stream flow into the six tributaries which supports the San Joaquin Valley.

4. KEY PERSONNEL

The Project Team will be led by Writer, Producer, Director, and Executive Producer Jim Thebaut. Mr. Thebaut will be supported by individuals with extensive film development experience who have worked on his prior documentary films.



Jim Thebaut
Writer, Producer, Director,
and Executive Producer

Jim Thebaut.

A) Professional Preparation

Bachelor of Arts, San Francisco State University - 1965 Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, University of Washington - 1972 Master of Science, University of California at Los Angeles - 1967

B) Appointments

President/ Executive Producer, The Chronicles Group, Inc, Redondo Beach, CA - 1998 to present Producer, ABC News, New York - 1996 - 1997 Producer, Arts & Entertainment Network, New York - 1993 to 1994 Executive Producer/Producer, HBO, New York - 1992 to 1993 Vice President of Dramatic Development, Carson Productions, Burbank, CA - 1986 to 1988 Producer, Taft Entertainment Television, Los Angeles, CA - 1985 to 1986 Producer, Lorimar Productions, Culver City, CA - 1982 to 1983 President/Executive Producer, Evergreen Foundation, Seattle, WA - 1978 to 1981 President, Jim Thebaut & Associates, Seattle, WA - 1978 to 1981 Vice President of Environmental Services, Northwest Environmental Technology Laboratory, Seattle, WA - 1974 to 1977 Director of Environment Systems, Richard Carothers Associates, Seattle, WA - 1972 to 1974

C) Products

Project Manager/Executive Producer, Region at the Crossroads Project - 1979 to 1980 Writer, Producer, Director, Executive Producer, The American Southwest: Are We Running Dry?- documentary feature- 2008 Writer, Producer, Director, Executive Producer, Running Dry documentary feature - 2005 Project Manager, Seattle Energy 1990 Study (Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement For Seattle City Light) - 1976 Author, 2013 Report to the US Army Corps of Engineers, Public Policy Water Forums Summary Report - 1014

Writer, Producer, Director, Executive Producer, The Cold War And Beyond - 2002
Writer, Producer, Director, Renewable Energy Desalination in the Middle East and North Africa 20 min video (for the World Bank) - 2012
Consultant/Project Manager, Public information/educational program on the proposed super tanker port in Port Angeles, WA in conjunction with the Northern Tier Pipeline Project - 1978 to 1979
Executive Producer, A Deadly Business, A CBS Dramatic Movie Special - 1986
Writer, Producer, Director, Execution at Midnight and Bad Cops documentary features - 1993 to 1994

D) Synergistic Activities

Television broadcasts, global distribution and educational presentations of Running Dry (2005) and The American Southwest: Are We Running Dry? (2008).

Organized two education/informational Capitol Hill events on February 2005 and May 2007 which led to the enactment of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act.

Organized educational Capitol Hill events on July 2009 (National Water Policy), June 16 and 17, 2010 (Drought, Water scarcity and International Security in the 21st Century). Organized September 2011 (International Water Summit at the United Nations) and November 2013 (Water and Wastewater Policy Forums on Capitol Hill and Los Angeles).

In association with the 2010, 2011 and 2013 events prepared written summary reports for the US Army Corps of Engineers.

In 1980 organized a regional planning awareness project (Puget Sound, WA) entitled Region at the Crossroads. This included the broadcast of two half hour documentaries on 3 local television stations, publication of a magazine, citizen forums and comprehensive educational programs.

Creator of Environmental Impact Statement Decision-making Methodology 1972

Appendix A

Distribution Commitment

Information contained in this proposal is proprietary to Chronicles Group Inc. and is therefore confidential. It is to be used solely for the purpose of evaluating the proposal and, to the extent permitted under law, is not to be disclosed to anyone outside of the evaluation group without written permission from Chronicles Group Inc.



New World Distribution Inc
27068 La Paz Road, Suite 546
Aliso Viejo, California 92656

March 8, 2016

Jim Thebaut
800 South PCH
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Dear Mr. Thebaut:

Re: Letter of Intent – Jim Thebaut – Beyond The Brink

This letter is to confirm the intentions of New World Distribution to distribute the completed film version based on the project entitled “Beyond The Brink” to be produced by Jim Thebaut, subject to NWD’s due diligence and the terms and conditions listed herein:

1. Jim Thebaut, producer of “Beyond The Brink” (hereinafter referred to as “Producer”), on behalf of himself and said film, shall provide all necessary deliverables including but not limited to: Hard Drive with DCP of the feature and trailer of the film as well as all finished poster and dvd artwork of the film and any other document as is reasonably requested by NWD.
2. Producer will provide a private screening of the film for the executives of New World Distribution before any distribution contract can be entered.
3. NWD agrees to keep confidential all non-public information provided by the Producer under this agreement.

Upon successful and satisfactory completion of the film, with the working title of “Beyond The Brink”, NWD will submit to Producer a formal agreement for the

worldwide distribution of the film described herein, and both parties shall negotiate the completion of the purchase in good faith.

We have reviewed the information provided to us regarding your project “Beyond The Brink” and find the project to have the same demographics and marketing similarities to that of some of the documentaries we are currently distributing. Furthermore, we have provided projections based on the actuals of those films and believe with our ability to provide a theatrical release and a social marketing plan, we can attain that goal.

Our team has based our projections on providing a P&A budget of \$100,000 and a world-wide release. We will be working with AMC, Regal and Cinemark, which are the most successful circuits in the industry. We have found through data mining and because our team is Google certified that the subject of this film is known and discussed worldwide. Worldwide recognition is essential to the success of a film and saves millions of dollars in P&A that would otherwise need to be spent for that recognition.

New World Distribution is a 21st Century distribution company with vast experience in studio management, production, marketing, and distribution services of award winning independent and documentary films. We provide marketing and branded media programming as well as major film content to all global entertainment markets and on all media platforms. We have distributed documentaries in over 400 theaters in the US alone, which is a much broader release than the major movie studios do for documentaries.

NWD has Created an extensive environment to perform growth, profitability, media ownership, and the multi-level distribution channels for our entertainment clients. We currently distribute and work with oscar nominated directors. Our latest film acquisitions are Sundance and SXSW film festival premieres.

We hope to work with you on this great project.

Very truly yours,

Cary Floyd

CEO

New World Distribution

PROJECTIONS

TITLE	Distributor	Genre	Budget	P&A	Theatrical	Film Rentals	Video Sales	TV	Digital	TOTAL
Fahrenheit 911	Lionsgate	Doc	\$(6,000,000.00)	\$(12,000,000.00)	\$220,078,393.00	\$99,035,276.00	\$77,027,437.60	\$22,007,839.00	\$2,200,780.00	\$402,349,725.60
Bowling for Columbine (2002)	United Artists	Doc	\$(4,000,000.00)	\$(2,000,000.00)	\$21,244,913.00	\$9,560,210.00	\$7,435,719.00	\$2,124,491.00	\$212,449.00	\$34,577,782.00
Supersize Me (2004)	Roadside Attractions	Doc	\$(65,000.00)	\$(35,000.00)	\$11,529,368.00	\$5,188,215.00	\$4,035,278.00	\$1,152,936.00	\$115,293.00	\$21,921,090.00
Sicko	Lionsgate	Doc	\$(9,000,000.00)	\$(4,500,000.00)	\$24,530,513.00	\$11,038,730.00	\$8,585,679.00	\$2,453,051.00	\$245,305.00	\$33,353,278.00
Food Inc.	Magnolia Pics	Doc	\$(1,000,000.00)	\$(510,000.00)	\$4,417,124.00	\$1,987,705.00	\$1,545,993.00	\$441,712.00	\$44,171.00	\$6,926,705.00
*Beyond The Brink Projections	New World Distribution	Doc	\$(350,000.00)	\$(200,000.00)	\$3,500,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$175,000.00	\$350,000.00	\$3,925,000.00

Projections based on 3 years

Appendix B

Invitation from World Water Congress

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(Received by Email on DATE)

Dear Jim,

It was a real pleasure to catch up last week and to learn more about the documentary you are developing on water issues in California's San Joaquin Valley. As I suggested on the phone, I believe that the subject matter would be of considerable interest to attendees of the XVI World Water Congress and would fall nicely within the Congress's overall theme of "Bridging Science and Policy" (you can find more about the Congress and the theme at: <http://www.worldwatercongress.com/alwwc.htm>). Much of the world is following the drought situation in California and would welcome learning more about the history, circumstances, politics, and corrective actions being pursued.

If the documentary could be ready for a late May 2017 screening, I would definitely encourage you to consider submitting a Special Session proposal following the guidelines provided at: <http://www.worldwatercongress.com/callforSS.htm> (submission deadline is September 1, 2016, but that date will likely get pushed back). I could easily envision a screening followed by a panel discussion with relevant speakers and maybe a reception.

Thanks again, I look forward to hearing from you about the above possibility.

With best regards,

gabriel

Gabriel Eckstein | Professor of Law
Texas A&M University School of Law
Twitter [@GabrielEckstein](https://twitter.com/GabrielEckstein)
Director, [International Water Law Project](#)
Chair, International Scientific Committee, [IWRA XVI World Water Congress](#)
Executive Council, [International Association for Water Law](#)
SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/author=359622>
ORCID iD: [0000-0002-9393-2362](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9393-2362)
office: 817.212.3912 | mobile: 806.441.7172 |
gabrieleckstein@law.tamu.edu

Appendix C

Dr. Roger Bales Letter

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

Sierra Nevada Research Institute
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED
5200 N. Lake Road
MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95343

May 20, 2016

Mr. Jim Thebaut
The Chronicles Group Inc.
800 South Pacific Coast Highway
#8, MS #328
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Dear Mr. Thebaut:

I am pleased to express my interest in working with you on your film project, entitled “Beyond the Brink”, which aims to explore solutions for California’s water security and implications for our nation’s food security. Through our research at UC Merced and other UC campuses we are exploring and defining possible solutions that can be considered by policymakers and all stakeholders in the region. I see your project as an excellent way to make more people aware of possible solutions to the future challenges of climate warming, groundwater sustainability, headwater management and other policy and technical issues..

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roger C. Bales".

Roger C. Bales
Distinguished Professor of Engineering
Director, Sierra Nevada Research Institute

Appendix D

Production Budget

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PRODUCTION BUDGET

Scriptwriting, Director, Producer, Executive Producer	\$70,000
Support Services	
Insurance, Legal, Accounting, Secretarial/transcription	\$30,000
Production	
Camera/Sound, travel	\$45,000
Post Production	
Editing, graphics/Animation, Music, Narration, Stock Footage	\$140,000
Deliverables to Distributor	\$15,000
Total:	\$300,000