

Th3a & 4a

A-3-MRA-19-0034 / 9-19-0918

California-American Water

SUPPORT LETTERS

Packet 3

Updated

September 11, 2020

Kim DiBenedetto
26426 Oliver Road
Carmel, CA 93923

September 10, 2020

Via Email: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Hon. Chair Steve Padilla and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
45 Fremont, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105- 2219

Re: Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Hon. Chair Padilla and Commissioners:

As a resident of the Monterey Peninsula I wish to express my strong support for the desalination plant that will be constructed by California American Water. Our Peninsula continues to suffer a water shortage, and a building moratorium for far too long. The key to affordable housing not only in our area but in our state is inventory. Each year we need to produce 300,000 units of new housing just to keep up with the population growth. Today we currently average under 100,000 statewide. The lack of water in our area keeps prices inflated and hurts the very people who service our economy by making them drive long distances for work.

The very fact that the Coastal Commission approved the test wells demonstrates the effort that California American Water has put into the project. Now with new data that suggests that Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) may never produce more than the current five-year average of 1,164 acre feet or that the Pure Water Monterey main project is behind, over budget, and may never produce more than 2/3rds of the water projected, demonstrates the necessity and overwhelming need for an operating desalination project now, not ten years from now. Ten years from now will only increase costs and drive people away from our beautiful scenic coastline because they cannot afford to live here.

The desalination project is the only part of the portfolio that is drought resistant. The desal plant will make it possible for business to recover from the Covid-19 disaster, public officials to make smart land use decisions and communities to build the housing we need to support our firefighters, teachers, and other workers by lifting the moratorium we have been living under since 2010. Please support and approve California American Water's permit request that is before you.

Respectfully,

Kim DiBenedetto

Carmen Martin, MA
26384 Carmel Rancho Lane
Suite 200-H
Carmel, CA 93923

September 15, 2020

Via Email: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Hon. Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
45 Fremont, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105- 2219

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Hon. Chair Padilla and Commissioners:

For the last 30 years struggle over growth and development has distorted the consideration of any new water supply project on the Monterey Peninsula. I've lived here since 1980 and each water supply project that might lift this community above virtual permanent drought has been fought by those who claim social justice while simultaneously working to keep "those people" from their neighborhoods.

In the early 1990's the Water Management District spent millions of dollars studying the water "situation" when obvious technical solutions were at hand. Instead, Water Management District in-fighting and lackluster leadership allowed the no-growthers in the community to kill two drought proof water supply projects – the desal project and the dam.

Now many of those same individuals and organizations who used social justice in the past are using it today as a weapon against the current desal project. These same entities and individuals would work to kill any project that might provide enough water to build both affordable housing and infill projects on lots that have been empty for the last 30 years.

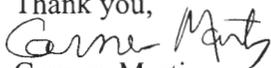
Now even the Water Management District is getting into the no-growth act. They recently sent a letter to the commissioners saying that they no longer support the desal project. They have spent millions of our property tax and ratepayer dollars on unfulfilled water projects, but now in the eleventh hour they decide desal not needed?

In a recent poll 72% of respondents said that they supported the desal project and so the letter sent by the Water District certainly does not reflect the consensus of the community. Since there are several members of the District's board of directors who support the purchase of CalAm, it is all too apparent the goal is to kill the desal to reduce the purchase price. It's unconscionable that the desal would be used for this purpose.

It is especially egregious since the opponents to the desal project claim "social justice" as the reason for their opposition. The Coastal Commission must apply social justice concepts across all of the communities on the Monterey Peninsula including Carmel Valley, not only for the City of Marina.

Social justice demands that enough water is produced to enable the construction of sufficient housing units to provide homes for people employed on the Peninsula who are "those" people the desal opponents are trying keep out of their neighborhoods. Reject this approach and approve the desal permits.

Thank you,


Carmen Martin

DAVID E. CHARDAVOYNE, P.E., BCEE

57 Cielo Vista Drive
Monterey, CA 93940-6072

Mobile: 210.722.8226
E-mail: dchardavoyne@ymail.com

September 11, 2020

VIA EMAIL [CalAmMonterey@Coastal.CA.Gov]

California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Re: Support for Cal-Am's Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project

Dear Chair Padilla and Commissioners:

As the former recent General Manager of Monterey County Water Resources Agency for 7 years, following 22-year career being in responsible charge of water utility systems across the United States, I am intimately familiar with the dire water situation on Monterey Peninsula and the options available for its resolution.

As a utility professional, I am convinced that the correct and most feasible solution for Monterey Peninsula's current water situation is construction and operation of the desalination project already approved by the California Public Utilities Commission. I've studied the numbers in the past; no amount of overstating supply by some and understating demand by others should be allowed to enter into your Commissions' approval process.

Accordingly, I strongly urge you to immediately approve the Coastal Development Permit for the Cal-Am Desalination Project.

Sincerely

David E. Chardavoyne



**PEBBLE BEACH
COMPANY**

September 10, 2020

Via Email: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Hon. Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal-Am Desal Project Permit

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners:

Pebble Beach Company (PBC) would like to join with the broad coalition of governments, businesses, residents, and environmental organizations in support of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. We urge you to approve the required Coastal Development Permit for the project.

The Monterey Peninsula community has been at work for more than 40 years to develop a long-term, sustainable, drought resistant water supply for the Monterey Peninsula. The comprehensive, six-year environmental review for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project was completed by state and federal agencies and unanimously approved by the California Public Utilities Commission in 2018. Objections raised by project opponents, including groundwater impacts, environmental justice, water rights, and project alternatives - to name a few - were all exhaustively analyzed, and ultimately dismissed. The question of how much water the Monterey Peninsula requires has also been carefully studied, deliberated, and ultimately settled by the California Public Utilities Commission in 2018. The decision before you today is the crucial, final step of approval needed to bring the Water Supply Project to fruition.

REAL ESTATE DIVISION

4005 Sunridge Road, Pebble Beach, California 93953

PBC has a long history of leading the golf industry and Monterey Peninsula with innovative and responsible water resource management. In the early 1990s, we financed and developed the \$70M Pebble Beach water reclamation project – today this project supplies 100% of the water needed to irrigate all the golf courses in the Del Monte Forest. To date, we've saved more than 7.07 billion gallons of potable water for the Monterey Peninsula. Needless to say, we're staunch supporters of recycled water, and now have almost three decades of experience relying on recycled water. Importantly, we've learned that the supply of recycled water is extremely dependent upon the community's potable water use that, in turn, supplies the "raw product" for the reclamation process. As residents and businesses conserve more and more potable water, (as we have been doing on the Peninsula for years now), they, in turn, generate less and less waste water to be recycled. From our own 30-year experience, we know firsthand that the supply of recycled water is neither constant nor guaranteed over time. In addition to the long-term impact of conservation, the supply of recycled water also shrinks dramatically during times of drought. Neither of these issues afflicts the Cal-Am desalination project before you today: Unlike reclamation, it is entirely independent of the impacts of conservation and drought. For that reason, Cal-Am's project is essential. Recycled water alone simply cannot meet the Monterey Peninsula's water supply needs on a sustainable, long-term basis.

PBC would also like to call your attention to pages 115-132 of the Coastal Commission Staff Report. Collectively referred to as "Updates," the Staff Report relies on the incorrect, misleading findings of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's projections of future water supply and demand. Unfortunately, the Staff Report fails to consider numerous agency and public comments, including those of the State Water Resources Control Board, all of which discredit the Water Management District assumptions and findings. Specifically with respect to PBC, the Staff Report falsely assumes that we will not use our full water entitlement and, along with other questionable assumptions, erroneously calculates a reduced water demand for the greater Monterey Peninsula. PBC's vested right to use our water entitlement has been consistently upheld by every concerned agency, and we intend to fully utilize the entitlement. In fact, we've already used or allocated for use all but 60 acre-feet (out of our total 365 acre-foot entitlement). We bring this error to your attention for two reasons: (1) false assumptions call into question the overall credibility and integrity of the report, and (2) we sincerely hope that the Coastal Commission will not allow erroneous data and incorrect assumptions to influence your decision-making today. We believe the supply and demand numbers presented by MPWMD are erroneous and fail to take into account the complexity of water dynamics here and the long- and short-term needs of the community.

We also believe that the current MPWMD Board has an inherent conflict of interest because several if not a majority of board members have avowedly been pursuing a public buy-out of

Cal-Am. Torpedoing Cal-Am's desalination project will make that goal much more attainable. Instead of focusing on a hostile takeover of Cal-Am, the entire MPWMD Board should be laser-focused on the agency's primary mission: To create a reliable long-term water supply to meet the needs of the Monterey Peninsula. For that reason alone, we urge you to rely on the much more comprehensive and unbiased study of our water supply and demand approved by the California Public Utilities Commission with far more rigorous analysis and public review.

PBC strongly believes that we need both desalination and recycled water to provide our community with a long-term, adequate, secure, and flexible water supply. We are approaching the finish line to resolve our community's long-term water supply crisis, after 40 years in pursuit of that goal. We urge you to support the project to the fullest extent of your powers.

Sincerely,

PEBBLE BEACH COMPANY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Stivers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "D" and "S".

David L. Stivers, President

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

James Kendall <jkendall@mahoneycommercial.com>

Fri 9/11/2020 10:36 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

To whom it may concern,

I am in favor of the Cal Am Desal Plant. This community will wither up and die on the vine (pardon the pun) without it. Please allow us to utilize the greatest water supply on earth and convert it into water for human uses.

Thank you,

James Kendall

DRE #02010395

W: (831) 646-1919 Ext. 112

C: (831) 275-0129

E: jkendall@mahoneycommercial.com

www.mahoneycommercial.com

501 Abrego St. | Monterey, CA 93940

**MAHONEY
& ASSOCIATES**

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

I have not verified any of the information prepared by other parties and contained/attached in this email transmission. Please satisfy yourselves as to the issues discussed in these documents.

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Jeff Mitchell <jeff.mitchell@kion546.com>

Fri 9/11/2020 10:36 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

I am in total support of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. This is the only way we will be able to have a sustainable water source without rationing. I urge support of it.

Best,

Jeff Mitchell
Local Sales Manager
KION 5/46 CBS
Telemundo 23
Central Coast CW
NPG Digital
831.521.9228 (mobile)





September 11, 2020

Via Email: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Hon. Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
455 Market St., Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Approval of the Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Hon. Chair Padilla and Commissioners:

The Associated General Contractors of California represents approximately 1,000 general contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers who work on projects ranging from \$100,000 to over \$100 billion across the state. We believe the construction industry is vital to the success of the Monterey Peninsula. Together, our members actively create opportunities to build and strengthen our region. On behalf of AGC of CA, I am writing to express our continued support of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project and the issuance of the Coastal Development Permit.

The Monterey Peninsula has faced drastic water conservation measures due to stringent constraints on water supply. While Monterey District customers have become leaders in the State regarding water conservation, the current shortfalls and demands on water supply cannot be met solely through conservation. A new supply of water must be provided to meet the current and future demands of the community. Moving forward with the desalination project will meet these demands and will protect and promote the overall livelihood of the region and its economy.

The approval of the project permit will also allow for compliance of the cease and desist order issued by the State Water Resources Board to halt the utilization of the Carmel River to serve the Peninsula. The project will not only ensure the protection of the Carmel River and its threatened species, but will also provide a sustainable, long term water supply that is built in an environmentally responsible manner which



incorporates state of the art design and desalination technology to reduce the impact to biological resources.

As the benefits of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project are clear, AGC of California asks that the Commission move forward with the project and the proceed with the issuance of the Coastal Development Permit.

Sincerely,

Rosa Trevizo
Regional Government Affairs Manager
Associated General Contractors of California



Tim Frahm
California Central Coast Steelhead Coordinator

9/11/20

Via Email: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Hon. Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners
Atten; Tom Luster, staff
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105- 2219

Re: Support for California American Water's Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project

Hon. Chair Padilla and Commissioners:

This letter conveys the comments of Trout Unlimited on the Coastal Development Permit for California American Water's Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project.

Trout Unlimited (TU) is America's largest and oldest coldwater fish conservation group. Since 1959 TU has worked across the country to conserve, protect and restore native trout, salmon and steelhead, and their watersheds.

Specifically, on the Monterey Peninsula, our goal is to recover steelhead on the Carmel River.

In the 2013 *South-Central California Coast Steelhead Recovery Plan* prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Carmel River steelhead run is identified as a Core 1 population, which is the highest priority for recovery in the plan.

The Carmel River however, is dramatically impacted (impaired) by water diversions, primarily for domestic water use. The California State Water Resource Control Board has determined that until those diversions are abated, steelhead population in this river will have no chance to reach recovery numbers.

This proposed de-salinization facility is part of a portfolio of projects (including recycled water, strict conservation efforts and conjunctive use projects) which will allow the greater Monterey Bay area to abate river diversions and still provide adequate domestic water. It is the only component of this portfolio that is drought impervious and which can provide continuing sources of domestic water during periods of extended low rainfall and climate change.

Trout Unlimited: America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organization
Central Coast Steelhead Office: 76 Valle Vista, Carmel Valley, CA 93924
Cell: (650) 759-4416 • Email: tfrahm@tu.org • www.tu.org

In July 2020, responding to the Governor's Executive Order N-10-19, the State of California published the California Water Resilience Portfolio report. An excerpt from the Executive Summary includes:

Because no single solution can fully address the state's water challenges, the portfolio embraces a broad, diversified approach. Goals and actions are organized into four categories:

Maintain and diversify water supplies

Protect and enhance natural ecosystems

Build connections

Be prepared

The Executive Summary of the Portfolio report ends with:

Carrying out this portfolio will require a new emphasis on cooperation across state agencies and with regional groups and leaders. Likewise, this portfolio will advance Newsom Administration priorities to build climate resilience across all sectors and make possible opportunity and prosperity for all Californians. This water resilience portfolio will serve as an important step toward achieving these ambitious goals.

We believe that this project achieves the goal of diversifying water supplies, protects and enhances the Carmel River and helps this region prepare for drought and climate change for this coastal region of California.

This project will increase the quality, quantity, and stability the Carmel River streamflow and improve conditions for threatened steelhead and other species while sustaining the economic health and well-being of Monterey County's diverse residents, communities and businesses.

We strongly recommend that the Commission approve Cal Am's application for a Coastal Development Permit.

Sincerely,



Tim Frahm
California Central Coast Steelhead Coordinator

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Cindy Merzon <cindy_merzon@calcoastal.org>

Fri 9/11/2020 11:29 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

Good Afternoon,

On behalf of Monterey County businesses, I am writing to encourage you to support and approve the Cal Am Desal Project Permit. Jobs, economic recovery and affordable housing opportunities require an adequate, reliable water supply. It's time to stop delaying the only option on the table that is capable of meeting the terms of the Carmel River cutback order and supply our community with a long-term sustainable water source.

I urge you to support local business and economic needs for our community by approving the Project Permit for the Cal Am Desal Project.

Best,



Cindy Merzon, *Director*

Cal Coastal Small Business Development Center
tel: 831 676 2022
website: CalCoastalSBDC.com
address: 106 Lincoln Ave., Salinas, CA 93901

Connect with us!



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215 W Franklin St, Suite 312

Monterey, CA 93940

September 11th, 2020

Chair Steve Padilla
California Coast Commission
45 Fremont St, Ste 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Chair and Members of the Commission:

The people of the Monterey Peninsula need water. Yet we have been denied and delayed by many bureaus and lawyers for decades, blocking what we need.

Your staff has had input on this project for years. It was your staff that first recommended slant wells for our desalination plant. Yet now we are told by your staff they do not recommend the project.

I am concerned that water is used as a weapon in our area. There are voices calling for delay due to technical, cost and need reasons, when in fact, these voices do not want the people of the Monterey Peninsula to have ample water. Specifically, I call out the Public Water Now PAC as an operator in bad faith. Please do not let your agency or your staff be infected with their lies.

This project has faced a Byzantine history of permit processing. It is time for that process to end. Please do what you can to help the people of the Monterey Peninsula to obtain the water needed for our health, our hygiene, our gardens and our economy.

Please vote to approve the desalination project before your commission.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gorman, Candidate
United States Representative, CA 20

A-3-MRA-19-0034 Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit**Smith, Joe <joe.smith@Sothebyshomes.com>**

Fri 9/11/2020 11:23 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

To whom it may concern,

I have lived on the Monterey Peninsula all of my life. I remember when the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District was formed to get us more water. All they have done is get us less water. I urge to you approve a permit immediately for this project to move forward. The people of the Peninsula have waited too long for a water project to give us the water that is needed for the current population, business growth, and fill in development for lots of record. Without this project the main tax income from visitors will be affected in a negative way. That will affect all residents.

I urge your approval of the permit

Joseph B Smith
602 Congress Ave.
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Wire Fraud is Real. Before wiring any money, call the intended recipient at a number you know is valid to confirm the instructions. Additionally, please note that the sender does not have authority to bind a party to a real estate contract via written or verbal communication.

MONTEREY COUNTY

WATER RESOURCES AGENCY



PO BOX 930
SALINAS, CA 93902
P: (831) 755-4860
F: (831) 424-7935

BRENT BUCHE
GENERAL MANAGER

STREET ADDRESS
1441 SCHILLING PLACE, NORTH BUILDING
SALINAS, CA 93901

September 11, 2020

Honorable Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attention: Tom Luster
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Via Electronic Mail: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Re: Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project

Dear Commissioners,

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency ("MCWRA") has a long-celebrated history utilizing recycled water. In collaboration with our sister agency, Monterey One Water ("MIW"), the Monterey County Water Recycling Projects ("MCWRP") have delivered over 250,000 ac-ft of recycled water to the agricultural lands around the town of Castroville over the past two decades. The implementation of the MCWRP has allowed MCWRA to reduce groundwater pumping in the area and slow seawater intrusion. However, seawater intrusion continues to progress and Castroville's municipal water supply is one of the most impacted. Without a reliable municipal supply, residents, businesses, and industries in the coastal communities of the northern Salinas Valley cannot thrive. The Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project addresses the water supply needs of the Monterey Peninsula with the additional benefit of providing a long-term sustainable water supply for the severely disadvantaged community of Castroville. For the reasons discussed below, MCWRA reiterates its support for Cal-Am's Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project.

The Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project's Compliance with the Agency Act

In 2016, several parties (MCWRA, Cal-Am, Coalition of Peninsula Businesses, Landwatch Monterey County, Monterey County Farm Bureau, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, MIW, Planning and Conservation League Foundation, and the Salinas Valley Water Coalition) entered into a Return Water Settlement Agreement ("RSWA"), which addresses a concern raised early on about the location of the slant wells for the desalination plant, which overlay the western portion of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin ("SVGB"). Specifically, the issue was whether the production source water for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project would conflict with the anti-export provision of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Act ("Agency Act") and infringe upon the groundwater rights of those in the SVGB. Specifically, Section 52-21 of the Agency Act states that no SVGB groundwater may be exported for any use outside the SVGB.

The Water Resources Agency manages, protects, stores and conserves water resources in Monterey County for beneficial and environmental use, while minimizing damage from flooding to create a safe and sustainable water supply for present and future generations.

In order to meet the requirements of the Agency Act, Cal-Am committed, through the RWSA, to make available for delivery "Return Water" equal to the percent of SVGB groundwater, as distinguished from seawater in the source water. The MCWRA Board of Supervisors approved the RWSA, thereby finding that the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project does not violate the Agency Act. MCWRA is entitled deference in its interpretation of the Agency Act. The California Public Utilities Commission agreed with MCWRA and approved the RWSA, finding it was reasonable, consistent with the law (including the Agency Act), in the public interest, and fully supported by the record. Coastal Commission staff failed to recognize the benefits of the RWSA solution, and MCWRA urges the Coastal Commission to consider the past findings that the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project is compliant with the Agency Act.

Pure Water Monterey Project and Expansion Project

When the MCWRP were designed over twenty years ago, it was assumed that the amount of wastewater flowing into the treatment plant would increase over time and provide additional recycled water for use in the region. This assumed increase in flows has not materialized and in fact has declined, mainly due to water conservation measures being implemented by residents, businesses, and the agricultural industry. The overall trend is for the use of water conservation measures to increase in the future, which will most likely further diminish inflows.

For the past five plus years, MCWRA has worked collaboratively with M1W on the establishment of new source waters for both the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project growers and the Pure Water Monterey Project. However, MCWRA did not support certification of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report ("FSEIR") on expansion to the Pure Water Monterey Project. The Expansion Project's new source waters have not been quantified sufficiently for MCWRA to agree that there is an adequate amount of treated wastewater to meet current contractual obligations, as well as additional demand. Furthermore, there are too many unanswered questions regarding the availability and rights to source waters, future operations, and the resulting adverse impacts for MCWRA and its stakeholders. The M1W Board of Directors recognized these constraints and chose to not certify the FSEIR. MCWRA strongly believes that the now tabled Expansion Project will not serve as a sustainable water supply for the Monterey Peninsula.

MCWRA is committed to assist in securing a long-term sustainable water supply for the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas Valley communities. In that regard it is the MCWRA's conclusion that currently the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project is the only project that addresses that interest. MCWRA urges the Coastal Commission to issue the Coastal Development Permit for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project.

Sincerely,



Brent Buche
General Manager

cc: Paul Sciuto, General Manager - Monterey One Water
Eric Tynan, General Manager - Castroville Community Services District
Dave Stoldt, General Manager - Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
Keith Van der Matten, General Manager - Marina Coast Water District

H2O - Our Future

A group of concerned citizens who live and work within the MPWMD jurisdiction

To – California Coastal Commission

**Subject Staff – Report: De Novo Appeal and
Consolidated Coastal Development Permit**

Appeal No: A-3-MRA-19-0034

4 pages including this cover.

H2O - Our Future

PO Box 668 Monterey Calif. 93942

Hon. Steve Padilla, Chair & Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster 455 Market St, Suite. 300
San Francisco. Calif., 94105

Sent VIA – Email to calammonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Re: Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034

Honorable Chair Padilla & Commissioners,

“ H2O – Our Future” is a grass roots organization which has sprung up over the last several months. Our current following is over 10,000 and growing daily. We are a group of concerned citizens, ratepayers, and organizations who live, work, and depend upon the economic vitality of the area covered by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and the Cal Am service area. Many of our members have been actively involved in one way or another with the ongoing water issues which plague the area of concern. We have come together because the government agency created to address and solve our water problems has failed us and our water purveyor has been subjected to numerous restrictions, regulations, and conditions, which if not met, will continue to and will increasingly have an adverse effect on our lives.

A committee of the group has read and analyzed the Staff report and we submit these comments for your consideration.

Sea Level Rise – We understand that sea level rise is a concern and needs constant monitoring and evaluation but during the life of the wells and the need for relocation in the future it is only speculation that the wells could be at increased risk from this issue. We must note that major infrastructure projects are always in need of periodic maintenance, upgrade, and possible relocation. If the Commission would consider direct ocean intake as approved in southern California this concern would be greatly reduced and in fact would eliminate some other issues.

Groundwater Resources – We believe the independent Hydrogeologist’s report speaks for itself regarding the accusations that Marina’s water would be at risk. This has been proven to not be the case. Therefore all the concern and testimony in the past and coming in the future regarding this issue is moot and should no longer be an issue.

Wetlands - This is of concern but believe monitoring after operation of the wells would be advisable. Staff seems to put a lot of emphasis on these wetland and vernal pools. With all the land to the north of the proposed site in dunes and crops we contest what wetlands? Same for all the lands to the east which are currently being converted to cropland we ask what wetlands? The only wetlands of concern are within the City limits of Marina which are relatively far from the well sites and according to the hydrology study are not connected to groundwater. We believe Staff needs to look at what is taking place in real time instead of trying to portray a situation which no longer exists. This will be a recurring theme in our letter.

Terrestrial ESHA - As stated above, things must be looked at in real time and in historical context. To portray something as being pristine and almost virgin like when it has been extremely impacted for over 100 years is heinous. The 35 acres of concern have been in a state of extensive use for over 100 years and are not the habitat of any of the listed species. Conditions change on a daily basis within the operations area of the sand plant and this is not conducive to providing habitat. To be slightly facetious we are sure some bird habitat will be disturbed when the sand plant buildings are removed. Are these to remain? Lastly, for all the time and effort spent on this element of the report does anyone realize that most if not all of the area to provide the well sites is currently under a new mound of sand approximately 30 feet in height? Yes, this area has been covered with a huge mound of sand for reclamation purposes when the plant is closed. The ground habitat that may have been there is gone.

Fill in Coastal Waters – In order for the project to move forward modifications to the existing outfall needs to be done. We believe this is minimal to its effects to the ocean and along with the placement of buoys be allowed.

Project Alternatives - Many of the group who reviewed the Staff report are longtime residents of the area with extensive experience and knowledge of what has taken place over the years regarding our water situation. In 1997 Assemblyman Keeley interfered with the legislated remedy to address our water problems, the creation of the MPWMD, by submitting AB 1182. This legislation was to direct the CPUC to study and provide an alternative to a Carmel River dam in case a dam project did not go forward. The dam was going to provide 24,000 acre feet of water to not only supply our communities with what they needed for present use but into the future. It also was going to provide water for habitat and restoration of the impacted Carmel River. Needless to say this threw the future of our community into the hands of State bureaucrats with no need of a solution and no sense of urgency. They finally came to a decision in 2018. Now we have an alternative to an alternative and the amount of water is being reduced at every turn.

The reason for Staff putting so much time and effort into this element is it is required but it was mainly a result of the unveiling of the Stoldt (GM MPWMD) Supply and Demand report. We can't make this any clearer; we don't want to live the next 20-30 years as we have the last 44. The PW expansion would be a great project to pursue once the Cal Am project is in place. This would provide redundant back up for any of the sources of water which may not be able to provide water as planned.

Stoldt's report and Staff's analysis does not take into account the effects of limited water over a 40 period of time on our communities and economic vitality. According to US Census figures there has been net zero population growth over the 40 years in the communities where the Census can accurately make a count. The unincorporated area of our area of concern is hard to determine but should follow the trend within the verifiable Census areas. We will pursue this theme in the next section.

Environmental Justice – What justice has there been over the last 40 years? **None.** Communities of concern are spread unevenly throughout the whole of the affected area we are discussing, not just the ones identified in the Staff report. The water inequity has caused housing prices to go up. Limited supply with great demand equals an increase in price. Our area is an economic hub which supplies jobs

Letter and Resolution supporting Cal Am desalination project approval

Michael La Pier <mike@montereyairport.com>

Fri 9/11/2020 11:09 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

 2 attachments (467 KB)

Resolution No. 1723.pdf; 20180904 CPUC Desal Support Resolution.pdf;

Good afternoon,

On behalf of the Monterey Peninsula Airport District, I would like to re-submit the attached letter of support and adopted resolution supporting the approval of the proposed Cal Am desalination project by the California Coastal Commission. These documents were previously submitted in 2018 after approval and adoption by the Board of Director of our organization.

Please consider them part of the public record for the Coastal Commission associated with the Thursday September 17, 2020 meeting in which this matter will be considered.

Thank you.

Michael La Pier, A.A.E.

Executive Director

Monterey Regional Airport

200 Fred Kane Dr. Suite 200

Monterey, California 93940

(831)648-7000

mike@montereyairport.com

RESOLUTION NO. 1723

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA AIRPORT DISTRICT IN SUPPORT OF
THE AMERICAN WATER WORKS COMPANY DESALINATION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, water is a precious commodity necessary to sustain life, vegetation, and the lifestyle of the region; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey region has a history of chronic water shortage; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, a Court ruling ordered the reduction of water pumping from the Seaside Aquifer, and in 2009, the State of California issued a Cease and Desist Order imposing a great reduction of water withdrawals from the Carmel River; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey region must find an alternative water supply or face severe water rationing, which would have an extremely negative impact on the local economy and those living in the area; and

WHEREAS, the American Water Works Company ("Cal Am") has proposed a desalination project that would produce an estimated 6,900 acre feet of high quality potable water per year; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Cal Am desalination project will also support the regional Groundwater Replenishment Project, which would recharge the Seaside groundwater basin by injecting high quality purified water; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Cal Am desalination project is sustainable, drought-resistant and would improve and protect drinking water supplies, while also diversifying the community's water supply portfolio for a more secure water supply.

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Monterey Peninsula Airport District believes that the Cal Am desalination project is one component of many which will help solve the regional water crisis, will have a positive effect on the local economy and those living in the area, and will produce economic viability and sustainability for the Monterey Regional Airport.

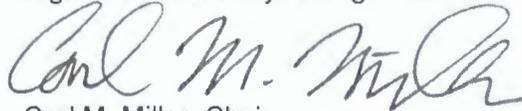
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA AIRPORT DISTRICT: the Board of Directors of the Monterey Peninsula Airport District supports the Cal Am desalination plant and believes that the proposed desalination project should be implemented as soon as possible to protect drinking water supplies, which will ultimately protect the region and its economy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Monterey Peninsula Airport District encourages the California Public Utilities Commission and all other regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over the proposed Cal Am desalination project to expedite its approvals for the desalination project to enable the local community to have a secure and diversified water supply portfolio.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA AIRPORT DISTRICT: This 15th day of August 2018, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS:	Cursio, Leffel, Nelson, Sabo, Chair Miller
NOES:	DIRECTORS:	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS:	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS:	None

Signed this 15th day of August 2018


Carl M. Miller, Chair

ATTEST



Michael La Pier, AAE
District Secretary



September 4, 2018

Alice Stebbins
CPUC Public Advisor's Office
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Proceeding # A. 12-04-019

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carl Miller, Chair
Mary Ann Leffel
William Sabo
Matthew Nelson
Gary Cursio

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Michael La Pier, AAE
Executive Director
Scott Huber
District Counsel

Dear Ms. Stebbins:

On behalf of the Monterey Peninsula Airport District I am pleased to provide your organization with a Resolution of Support of the American Water Works Company Desalination Project. This Resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Directors at their August 15, 2018 Regular Board meeting.

The Monterey Peninsula Airport District is a Special District formed by the State of California in 1946. As owners and operators of the Monterey Regional Airport, the five-member Board of Directors is charged with managing the affairs of the Airport through its Executive Staff. As part of that effort, the Board and Staff have committed to the future development of the Airport to serve our region through the promotion of convenient air service and quality facilities. We believe that for the District to meet its goals, a viable and sustainable water supply must be available. The proposed desalination project in our view represents the best available option to ensure the creation of that supply. It is for that reason the Board of Directors chose to make its position known formally in the context of the resolution attached.

We would ask that our Resolution of Support be made part of the Record regarding this proceeding and strongly encourage a favorable decision on the part of the California Public Utilities Commission.

Cordially,

Monterey Regional Airport

Michael La Pier, A.A.E.
Executive Director

Enclosure: Resolution No. 1723 of the Monterey Peninsula Airport District

cc: Michael Picker, President
Carla J. Peterman, Commissioner
Liane M. Randolph, Commissioner
Martha Guzman Aceves, Commissioner
Clifford Rechtschaffen, Commissioner



September 10, 2020

AGENDA ITEM #: Th3a & Th4a

California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 228
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Dear Commissioners:

RE: Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Submitted via e-mail to: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

CalDesal is a non-profit association that educates and advocates for the increased use of brackish and seawater desalination along with salinity management as part of a diverse, secure, and high-quality supply to help meet California's water needs.

We were pleased to see the inclusion of desalination along with salinity management as proposed solutions in Governor Newsom's recently released Water Resilience Portfolio. Maintaining existing supplies and diversifying additional supplies is the first of four core goals of the Portfolio and desalination is identified as one piece to enhance regional water supply through diversification.

The Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project would serve to diversify water supplies and help the region tackle challenges like the need for affordable housing. It would also meet the terms of the Carmel River cutback order. The Project would address the water supply crisis in the Monterey Peninsula, supplying the local community with a long-term reliable desalinated source of water supply.

Desal is a climate change-resilient, drought-proof, and pure water supply that can serve as part of a larger water supply portfolio based on a local area's specific challenges. The time is right for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project to help meet those regional needs. We hope you will support it. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Ridderbusch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wendy Ridderbusch, Executive Director
CalDesal
2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95833

CC: California Coastal Commission Staff

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Martin Perez <martin@acemb.com>

Fri 9/11/2020 11:47 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

**MARTIN H. PEREZ, SET
NICET IV
PRINCIPAL**



AURUM
CONSULTING
ENGINEERS

E martin@acemb.com

T 831 646 3330 F 831 646 3336

60 Garden Court, Suite 210

Monterey, CA 93940

Th3a & 4a

A-3-MRA-19-0034 / 9-19-0918

California-American Water

SUPPORT LETTERS

Packet 3
Updated
September 11, 2020

Luster, Tom@Coastal

From: Grant Leonard <leonardgt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 10:56 AM
To: Energy@Coastal
Subject: Public Comment on September 2020 Agenda Item undefined 3a - Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034 (California American Water Company, et. al., Monterey Co.)

Dear Commissioners,

Please consider this guest commentary that was printed in the Monterey Herald as my written comment for Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034. The town of Castroville is a severely disadvantaged community, but we are willing to work with our neighbors to find a sustainable water solution for all our communities.

It is worth noting that the proposed alternative, the expansion of Pure Water Monterey, 1. would take water from Castroville, 2. is not funded, 3. had its draft EIR rejected by the Board of Monterey One Water, and 4. does not have a commitment for more source water from the Salinas Valley. The expansion of Pure Water Monterey is a paper alternative, not a real alternative.

Thank you,
Grant Leonard
Board Chair
North County Recreation and Park District

Desalination: The Castroville Connection

For people who do not spend their spare time following the Monterey Peninsula water saga, one of the more curious things about the CalAm Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project is why Castroville has anything to do with the project. You'd be forgiven if you thought that the desalination project to bring water to the Monterey Peninsula only involved the CalAm, the Monterey Peninsula cities, and the Pacific Ocean.

However, Castroville, the Artichoke Center of the World, now finds itself at the center of the Desalination project. The reason is rather technical, but basically this is because the desalinated water will be pumped from the coastal dunes between the ocean and the farm fields north of Marina, and a certain percentage of the desalinated water is anticipated to come from the Salinas Valley groundwater basin. State law requires that water from the groundwater basin be used within the area of the groundwater basin, so that percentage of the desalinated water cannot go to the Monterey Peninsula.

Castroville, the small, agriculturally focused community in North County, is the logical recipient of the water from the groundwater basin. Castroville is within the groundwater basin, and Castroville suffers from water insecurity due to saltwater intrusion from the ocean. While the Monterey Peninsula is lacking water due to a state order to protect the Carmel River, Castroville faces a very real future of contaminated drinking water due to seawater intrusion.

The Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project, as currently designed (and already approved by the California Public Utilities Commission) would answer the long standing water needs for both the Monterey Peninsula and Castroville. The Carmel River would no longer be over pumped, and the community of Castroville would no longer face the threat of salty drinking water in our homes.

But Castroville is not merely benefiting from this project, we are also helping to make it a reality by building the critical infrastructure to bring the desalinated water to Castroville. The Castroville Community Services District is a committed partner in the effort, agreeing to funding an approximately \$3 million pipeline to Castroville from the desalination plant in Marina. This is no small effort for Castroville, which is determined to be either economically disadvantaged or severely economically disadvantaged depending on which State or Federal metric you use. The willingness to contribute millions of dollars to desalination speaks to the community's desire to be good partners on this water solution in spite of the community's economic challenges.

Castroville has a long history of partnering on innovative water solutions. The Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP), has been providing recycled water for agricultural use since 1998. CSIP is supported by the Salinas Valley Water Project's rubber dam on the Salinas River, which provides seasonally stored water that is used with CSIP to reduce agricultural pumping, thereby delaying further seawater intrusion into our groundwater supply. Castroville knows the value of finding new, sustainable water sources because we've seen them work before.

The Monterey Water Supply Project offers yet another innovative approach to reduce seawater intrusion into Castroville's groundwater supply, while also meeting the water needs for residents of both the Monterey Peninsula and Castroville. That is why both the Castroville CSD and the North County Recreation and Park District submitted letters supporting the project to the California Coastal Commission. Our hard working, aspiring community is ready to partner on this project and see fresh water flow to homes from Carmel to Castroville.

Grant Leonard
Board Chair
North County Recreation and Park District



**MONTEREY
PENINSULA
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

September 11, 2020

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD CHAIR

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Rayne Technology Solutions

VICE CHAIR OF ECONOMIC VITALITY

JENNIFER KUYPER

Pacific Valley Bank

VICE CHAIR OF EDUCATION +
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

PHYLLIS GRILLO

CSUMB

VICE CHAIR OF FINANCE

DJ (DJUNA) MUNIZ

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Montage Health Foundation

ELIZABETH DIAZ

Armanasco Public Relations

JONATHAN GEISLER

Geisler3

IILEEN GROVES

Bookkeeping Central

ADAM HUGHES

MBS Business Systems

DAWN MATHES

Pebble Beach Company

CLARISSA ROWE

Monterey County Bank

ALEXANDER C. WINKLE

Schwartz Law Group, Inc.

FRANK GEISLER

President and CEO

California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Re: Public Comment on September 2020 Agenda Item 4a - Application
No. 9-19-0918**

Dear Commissioners:

The Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has a vision that “champions Monterey County as an engine of innovation and prosperity.” Restricted and inadequate water supply has compromised the economic and social well-being of the people of the Monterey Peninsula.

The California Coastal Act states the following:

...existing developed uses, and future developments that are carefully planned and developed consistent with the policies of this division, are essential to the economic and social well-being of the people of this state and especially to working persons employed within the coastal zone.

This legislative intent is something the California Coastal Commission must address as it considers actions to permit a desalination plant to increase Monterey Peninsula water supply. The need for “water credits” from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) discourages private and public proposals and approvals for new residential units, including units that are affordable for teachers, nurses, and the households of service workers in the hospitality industry that dominates the local economy.

Attached are some findings that the California Coastal Commission should take into account as it considers the economic and social well-being of the people of the Monterey Peninsula and especially to working persons.

Sincerely,

Frank Geisler
CEO

Annual Population Decline 2018-2020

City	2018	2019		2020	
Seaside	34,382	33,047	↓	33,537	
Monterey	28,473	27,992	↓	28,170	
Pacific Grove	15,807	15,360	↓	15,265	↓
Carmel	3,967	3,939	↓	3,949	
Del Rey Oaks	1,727	1,674	↓	1,662	↓
Sand City	393	383	↓	385	
Total	84,749	82,395		82,968	

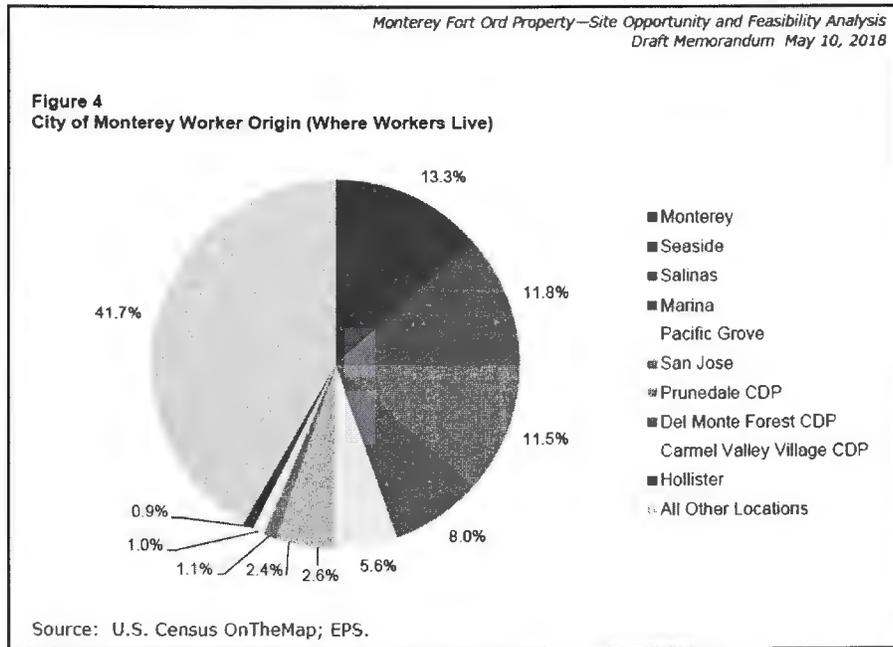
Public School Enrollment Decline

District	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Monterey Peninsula USD	10,111	9,833	9,373
Pacific Grove USD	2,035	1,981	1,911
Total	12,146	11,814	11,284

Lack of Progress on Regional Housing Needs Allocation

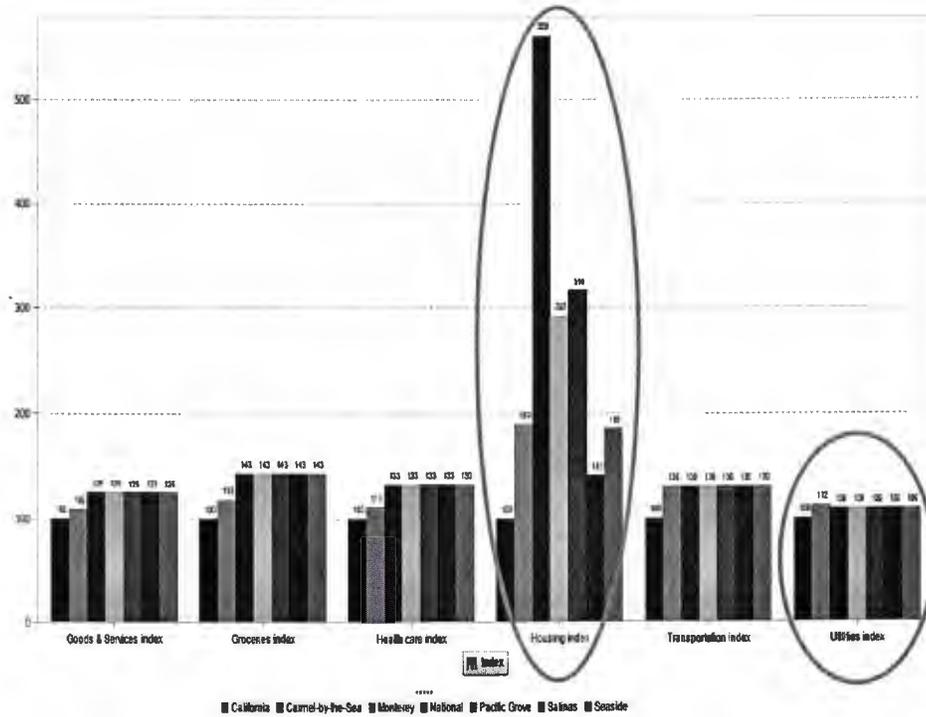
City	Very Low Income % Complete	Low Income % Complete	Moderate Income % Complete	Above Moderate Income % Complete	RHNA TOTAL	TOTAL UNITS	TOTAL RHNA REMAINING
Carmel	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	53.85%	31	7	24
Del Rey Oaks	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27	0	27
Monterey	12.10%	0.00%	1.68%	27.21%	650	95	555
Pacific Grove	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	35.42%	115	24	91
Sand City	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	17.39%	55	4	51
Seaside	0.00%	0.00%	4.17%	4.88%	393	11	382
Total					1271	141	1130

86.7% of Monterey Workers Live Elsewhere

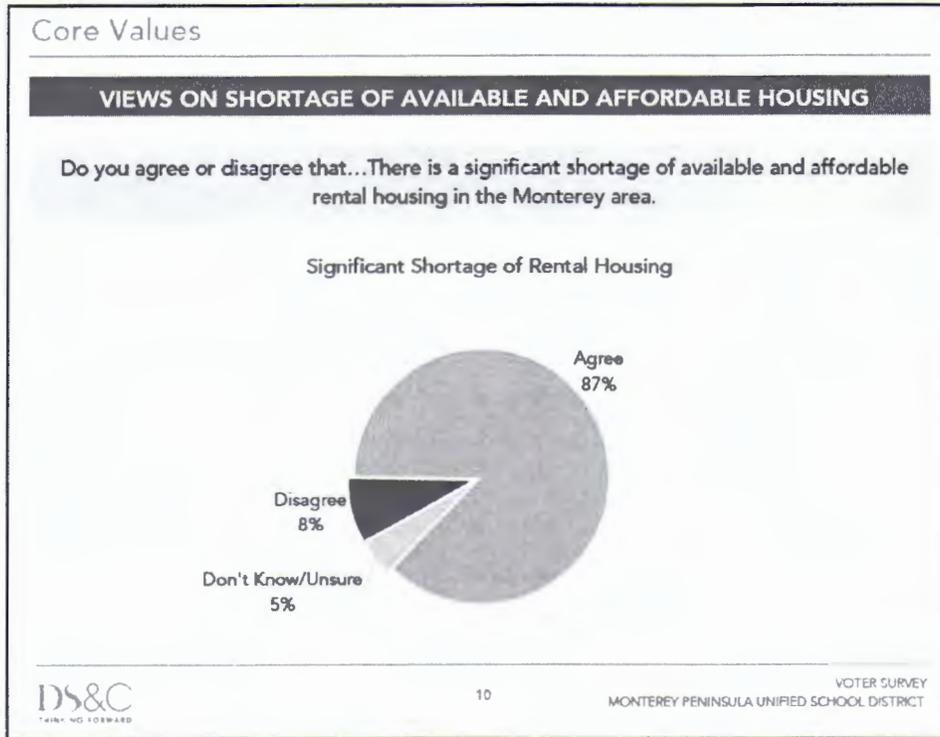


Housing Is Worst Cost Burden for Monterey Peninsula

Exhibit A3-8
Breakdown of Cost of Living Index in Six Monterey Cities (2013-2015)



Perception of Shortage of Rental Housing



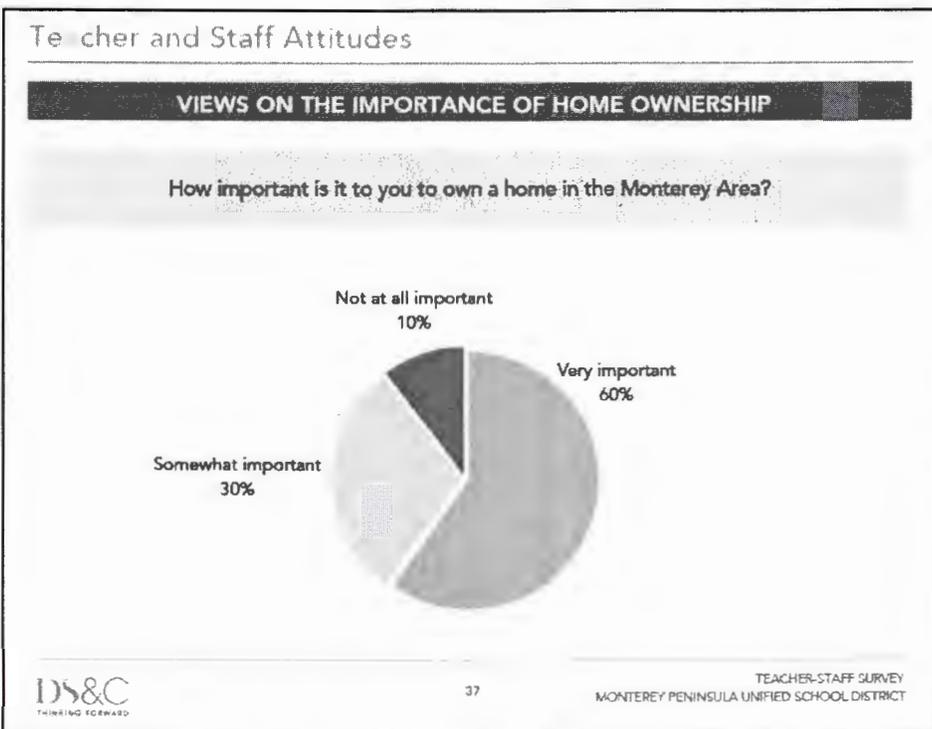
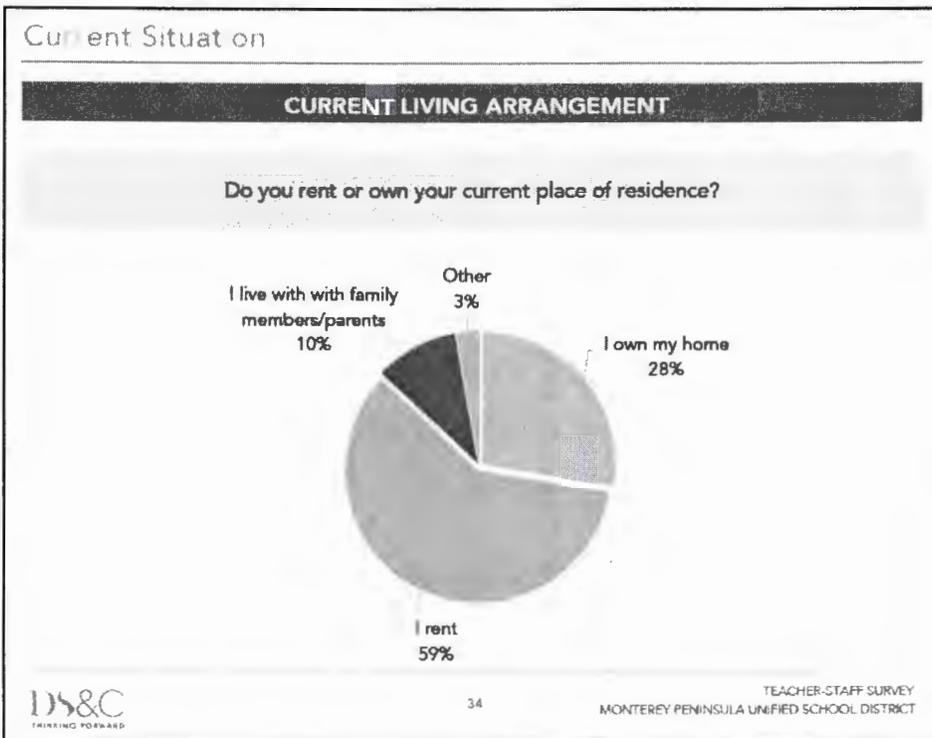
Housing Is the #1 Problem

FAIRBANK, MASLIN, MAULLIN, METZ & ASSOCIATES 220-5600-WT PAGE 4

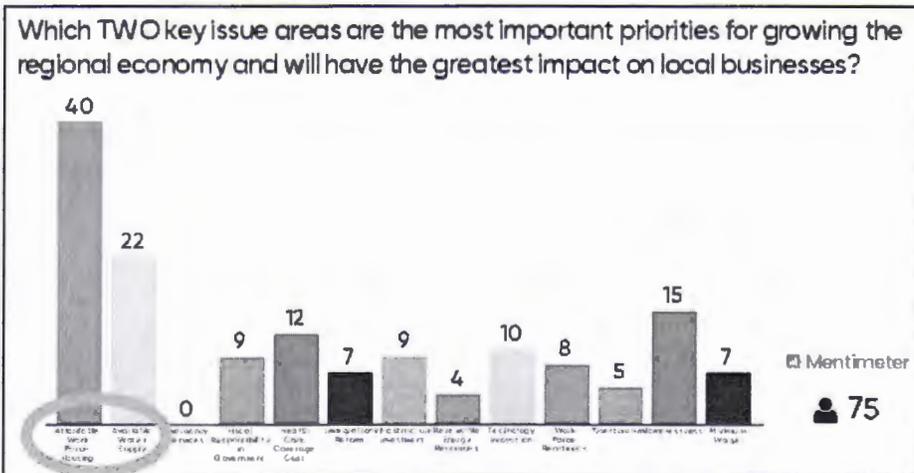
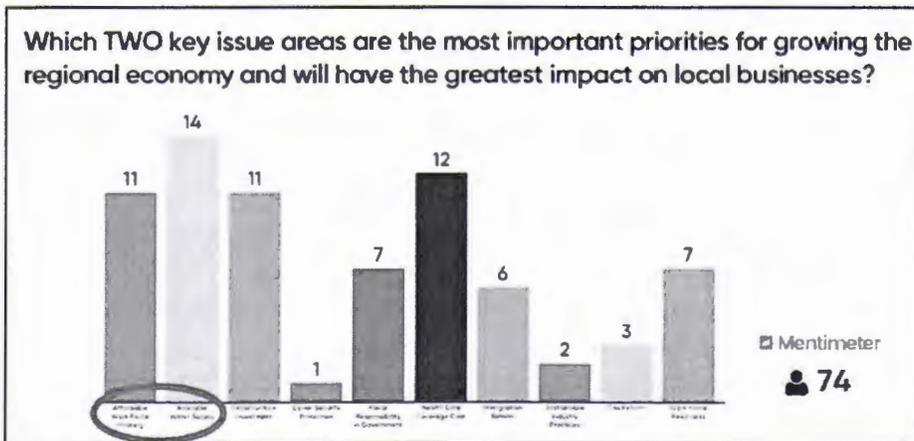
8. Now I'm going to read you a list of things some people say may be problems facing Monterey. For each, please tell me whether you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem for Monterey residents. (RANDOMIZE)

	EXT SER	VERY SER	SMWT SER	NOT A PROB	(DON'T READ) DK/NA	EXT/ VERY SER
[] a. (T) Crime	8%	15%	42%	32%	4%	22%
[] b. (T) City streets in need of repair	17%	23%	38%	21%	1%	40%
[] c. (T) Waste and inefficiency in City government	15%	21%	29%	13%	22%	36%
[] d. (T) The amount you pay in local taxes	13%	17%	32%	33%	5%	30%
[] e. (T) Traffic congestion	20%	20%	36%	23%	1%	40%
[] f. (T*) The aging condition of community centers and the Monterey Sports Center	4%	9%	31%	46%	11%	13%
[] g. The aging condition of the police and fire stations	8%	14%	32%	28%	17%	22%
[] h. The cost of housing	47%	29%	17%	7%	1%	76%
[] i. Homelessness	40%	34%	23%	3%	1%	74%
[] j. The need to underground utilities	24%	26%	27%	15%	8%	50%
[] k. The aging condition of the library	6%	14%	36%	33%	11%	19%

Monterey Peninsula USD Teachers and Staff - Homeownership Dreams, Harsh Reality



Electronic Surveys of Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Annual Leadership Conference Attendees: 2017, 2018, 2019 - Housing and Water Supply Ranks



Endnotes

<p style="text-align: center;">Annual Population Decline 2018-2020</p>	<p>California Department of Finance Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Estimates/e-1/</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Public School Enrollment Decline</p>	<p>Monterey Peninsula USD Back To School Enrollment Update https://drive.google.com/file/d/14GMafsh_RQ-Nru7eQACs1VgSinmLvRIh/view</p> <p>Pacific Grove USD Review of District Enrollment Projections for Day 6 of school for 2020-21 https://www.pgusd.org/documents/Board/Board-Agendas--Packets/Board%20Packet%20FINAL%202009-03-20.pdf</p> <p>California Department of Education Demographics: DataQuest - Data Requests https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/da/</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lack of Progress on Regional Housing Needs Allocation</p>	<p>California Department of Housing and Community Development Regional Housing Needs Allocation and Housing Elements - 5th Cycle Annual Progress Report Permit Summary https://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/housing-element/docs/Annual_Progress_Report_Permit_Summary.xlsb</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">86.7% of Monterey Workers Live Elsewhere</p>	<p>Monterey Fort Ord Property - Site Opportunity and Feasibility Analysis https://monterey.org/Portals/0/Policies-Procedures/Planning/WorkProgram/FortOrd/18_0510_EPS_Memo.pdf</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Housing Is Worst Cost Burden for Monterey Peninsula</p>	<p>Broad Based Asset Inventory for the City of Monterey https://monterey.org/Portals/0/Newsroom/2019/18_0401_BBAI_Final.pdf</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Perception of Shortage of Rental Housing</p>	<p>Monterey Peninsula USD Voter and Staff Survey Results https://montereypeninsula.agendaonline.net/public/Meeting/Attachments/DisplayAttachment.aspx?AttachmentID=1089578&IsArchive=0</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Housing Is the #1 Problem</p>	<p>City of Monterey Ballot Measure Survey http://www.isearchmonterey.org/OnBaseAgendaOnline/Documents/ViewDocument/ATTACHMENT.PDF.pdf?meetingId=4421&documentType=Agenda&itemId=11851&publishId=9788&isSection=false</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Monterey Peninsula USD Teachers and Staff - Homeownership Dreams, Harsh Reality</p>	<p>Monterey Peninsula USD Voter and Staff Survey Results https://montereypeninsula.agendaonline.net/public/Meeting/Attachments/DisplayAttachment.aspx?AttachmentID=1089578&IsArchive=0</p>



The Honorable Steve Padilla, Chair, and Members
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, California 94105

September 15, 2020

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Transmitted by e-mail to: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Dear Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

MCAR represents our 1,300 members who live and work in Monterey County. We consider the lack of available housing as the most important problem facing the citizens who live and work in Monterey County and on the Monterey Peninsula.

After a decade of support for the portfolio approach to water supply projects - Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), Monterey 1 Ground Water Recharge (GWR) and the desalination project, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) decided in a 4-to-3 vote to no longer support the desalination project.

Making this worse is the data the MPWMD produced purportedly showed that the community does not need a drought proof water supply for the future. We have no idea how this conclusion was reached in that the data is not clear. With ASR producing a fraction of its projected output (1164 acre feet average over the last five years), and the new revelation that the Monterey 1 GWR project may never provide more than 2,200 acre feet per year; a denial of the desalination permits will create a serious water shortage even without a drought. Both of these projects were supposed to produce much more water. The Monterey 1 GWR expansion project is not viable – since there is no water source available for such a project.

The shortage of water continues to create a social justice issue in every community located on the Monterey Peninsula. High rents and long commute times are a fact of life for people of color who work on the Monterey Peninsula, but can't live here, because of the lack of available housing.

Denying the permits plays into the hands of the anti-housing special interest groups who are at the forefront of the effort to kill the current desalination project like the projects they defeated in 1993 and 1995.

The Coastal Commission could signal a real interest in social justice across all the communities located on the Monterey Peninsula by approving the permits which will provide just enough water to create affordable housing necessary for those engaged in industries such as medical, hospitality and agriculture.

The construction of the desalination plant will also allow for the recovery of businesses decimated by the Covid 19 recession and provide water for expanded and intensified business use which now banned by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Please approve the coastal development permits for the California American Water desalination project.
Sincerely,


Suzanne Menendez-Herbst
President

MONTEREY COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

201-A CALLE DEL OAKS PLACE • DEL REY OAKS CA 93940 • P. 831-393-8660 • T. 831-393-8669 • www.MCAR.com

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Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Weyant, Mary K. <Mary.Weyant@ExpressPros.com>

Fri 9/11/2020 9:30 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

 1 attachments (225 KB)

OutlookEmoji-1589230761669b85d22b8-beae-4b43-b547-27f5d8af2f1a.png;

Good afternoon,

I support the Desalinization plan.

My home address is:

739 Mermaid Avenue

Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Thank you,

Mary Weyant | Owner

Express Employment of Monterey County

209 Pearl in Monterey

45 W Alisal in Salinas

Office: 831-920-1857

[1589230761669]

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit**Alex W <alexander.charles.winkle@gmail.com>**

Fri 9/11/2020 9:13 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

Good afternoon,

This email is to support the Desal Project. Water is an ongoing concern for the development and economic growth/sustainability of the region. Without water we cannot properly address the ongoing housing issue which includes essential service employees who cannot find housing while they work in our community. Water also continues to be a barrier for small businesses who want to start or grow within our community.

Jobs, economic recovery and affordable housing opportunities require an adequate, reliable water supply. It's time to stop kicking the can down the road on the only option on the table that is capable of meeting the terms of the Carmel River cutback order and supplying our community with a long-term sustainable water source.

Best,

Alexander C. Winkle

Monterey Resident

Member of Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

263 Monroe Street

Monterey, CA 93940



HALF MOON BAY
CYPRESS INN ON MIRAMAR BEACH

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
CANDLE LIGHT INN
CARRIAGE HOUSE INN
SVENDSGAARD'S INN
WINDY INN

September 11, 2020

The Honorable Steve Padilla, Chair, and Members
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Ste. 2000
San Francisco, California 94105

Re: Application No. 9-19-0918 and Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034 (Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project - MPWSP)

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners:

When I moved to the Monterey Peninsula thirty years ago, in 1990, this region was suffering from a seven-year drought. I recall there was water rationing and punitive surcharges for the water needed to operate our hotels. Over the ensuing years, residents and businesses worked hard to conserve water, and now our community has the lowest per capita water use in the state.

However, this has not solved our water problem. With the cease-and-desist order placed on the Carmel River, there has been a unified effort over the past eleven years to create a long-term sustainable water supply. To date, the only plan that can meet the demand determined by the CPUC (14,000 afy) is the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project including the construction of a desalinization plant. I urge you to approve the permit that will allow this project to move forward.

Alternative projects that have been proposed are based on questionable claims that water demand for the district is some 40% less than what the CPUC has estimated. I believe these low estimates were manipulated in order to ensure the 2018 ballot Measure J succeeds in having the water district buy out Cal-Am. This measure would only be feasible if it resulted in cheaper water for the district's consumers, and proponents of the measure know the promise of cheaper water cannot be achieved if the desalinization plant is constructed. Unfortunately, the MPWMD has made a choice to pursue this political agenda - one that would leave residents and businesses critically short of our future water needs.

Water which costs a bit more is better than not enough. The Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project is the only viable solution available to deliver enough water for the welfare of our residents and businesses and satisfy the need for affordable workforce housing. It is also the only sustainable water supply project that can protect us from the next seven-year drought.

Please grant the Coastal Development Permit necessary to allow us to solve our long-standing water problem here on the Monterey Peninsula.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Watson
General Manager

Jeff Davi, California Real Estate Commissioner, Retired

P. O. Box 2350
Monterey, CA 93940

Transmitted by fax to 415-904-5400, email to John.Ainsworth@coastal.ca.gov,
Tom.Luster@coastal.ca.gov and CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

September 11, 2020

The Honorable Steve Padilla, Chair, and Members
John Ainsworth, Executive Director
Tom Luster, Senior Environmental Scientist
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Ste. 2000
San Francisco, California 94105

Re: Application No. 9-19-0918 and Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034 (Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project - MPWSP)

Dear Chair Padilla, Honorable Coastal Commission Members, and Staff:

You all have a critical decision to make on September 17, 2020 and I encourage you to vote to approve the Coastal Development Permit for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project!

I am very fortunate to be a third Generation native of the Monterey Peninsula; as such I have lived through our community's water problems for the past 50 years.

I literally grew up on and off water rationing. I remember when we didn't have a "Monterey Peninsula Water Management District." We put our faith in the State Legislature more than four decades ago to create that water district to help us address and solve our water problem.

As a community we still have not solved our water problem, but we are finally only one vote away from a solution, and that vote is yours.

The CPUC, the State Water Resources Control Board, The Supreme Court, and every previous regulatory permit has been obtained. Even your body in the past agreed that the Monterey Water Supply Project is the only viable solution to addresses the problem sufficiently.

No other alternative solves our water problem once and for all- regardless of what is being presented by the detractors of this project.

A little historical perspective: my community is notorious for getting very close to a solution/project and then pulling the plug, each time citing a myriad of reasons crafted solely to kill that solution/project. This occurred in the 1990's over a Carmel River Dam, and it happened again years later over two other desal projects. Ironically, one of the reasons the detractors gave to kill the Carmel River Dam, was to wait for desal, and of course once desal came, they found reasons to oppose those projects, and they are doing it again now, over the Monterey Water Supply Project.

Time after time as soon as we get close to a project, the "no growth" activists align themselves with any and all opposing groups in order to methodically kill the project. Yes, this is happening again right now over this project, they have aligned themselves with the community of Marina, and now they are fighting this project at every level, with the only goal of ensuring it doesn't get approved by you at the September 2020 hearing.

Some of the City of Marina residents are raising social justice concerns to explain why this project should not be built, while other communities like Castroville could raise social justice issues for not building it! Who are you to believe? In all sincerity, neither-- the problem we have is bigger than Marina or Castroville; it's the entire Monterey Peninsula, which includes both Marina and Castroville.

We need this project for many reasons, the State Cease and Desist Order being one. We want to address our water problems for the long-term and we want to avoid ever having to be in rationing again. We want to avoid ridiculous policies that involve having businesses truck in ice from outside the area, or not allowing restaurants to be located in buildings that are not already restaurants. Think about the irony in that, the only commercial buildings where we can locate a restaurant in our community are buildings where a restaurant had to fail before. Wow! So are we to assume that all restaurants close because of bad operators? Never due to a bad location? I have been in real estate my entire life, and we all know the adage, "location, location, location." But on the Monterey Peninsula we can only have a restaurant go into a place where a restaurant previously failed--not where a Blockbuster video closed up, or a Circuit City closed up. So those sites sat vacant for months in our community, while restaurant after restaurant opens up and fails time after time because the use, cannot change or be moved due to our local water credit system. Wow!

Some of the rules our community has constructed to restrict water are ludicrous, equally so are the clever ways we have found to try get around them and try to live a normal life as it relates to water. We are like no other community I know. When I tell visitors or prospective clients about our rules and restrictions, they cannot believe this is happening in a coastal community of California.

Our State and the Monterey Peninsula is facing a significant housing shortage because of decades of underbuilding and (extremely modest Monterey Peninsula) population growth. We have failed to address our needs locally and statewide, but here the difference is that other parts of the state have managed for the most part to address water, while the Monterey Peninsula cannot say that.

The Monterey Peninsula has spent the last four decades fighting about it. We need to join in our Governor's mandate to create more housing for the people who live in our communities. The only way to truly address the "housing issues" in our state is simply to build more of it. In our community we cannot provide housing without water, and we will not have water without the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project.

Do not be fooled by the statements that we have a recycled water project that we can use, or that can be expanded-- that is not enough water. Yes, we have a recycled project and it is currently running more than 40% under projections; its expansion EIR was never certified by its lead agency. The other project is the aquifer storage project -- that is also dramatically underperforming. We need desal to pick up the slack of these underperforming projects so we get out of water poverty.

Some solutions being talked about at the state level to address our housing shortage include allowing accessory dwelling units (ADU's) which are basically "granny units." Our community could do a lot to address our housing shortage just by adding Accessory Dwelling Units to existing homes, but we can't do that without water. The Monterey Peninsula Water Project will allow us to approve and create these sort of housing solutions that have been needed for years.

So I am asking --wait, not asking, begging you, just as I did in 2018 at the CPUC hearing in San Francisco, and last November at your hearing-- for this body to make the right decision for our community that has been unable to make the right decision for itself since the 1980's. Vote to approve the Coastal Development Permit for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project once and for all!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Davi". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

Jeff Davi,
Third Generation Monterey Peninsula Resident
Retired California Commissioner of Real Estate

MONTEREY COUNTY



Monterey County Board of Supervisors

John M. Phillips
Supervisor District 2

Josh Stratton
Chief of Staff

Claudia J. Link
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P.O. Box 787
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District2@co.monterey.ca.us

September 11, 2020

Hon. Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Chair Padilla, Staff and Commissioners:

My name is John Phillips, and I am the Monterey County Supervisor for District 2, the Northern part of the County. I am also the sole County representative on the Monterey One Water (MIW) Board. My district, in the area I have lived for almost fifty years, includes the town of Castroville, an extremely disadvantaged community where the water supply is being severely negatively impacted by saltwater intrusion.

The desal project will provide much needed, reliable potable water to Castroville and surrounding areas, but that will not happen if Coastal Commission staff recommendation is followed.

The staff report concludes that based on this recent unverified and factually unsupported water demand analysis, that the expansion of the Pure Water Monterey Water recycling project will now provide sufficient water to meet the demand for the entire Monterey Peninsula. That just isn't so, and that isn't just my opinion. I refer you to the letter you received from the Monterey County Water Resources Agency which comes to the same conclusion.

The CPUC rejected expansion as an alternative-as did the MIW Board. The Pure Water Monterey project is not yet operational as we had hoped. There are significant and ongoing problems with the Pure Water treatment, including significant water chemistry issues. The injection wells for the treated water are not functioning properly and Pure Water Monterey is unable to deliver the originally projected water volumes. At this point, we do not know if Pure Water Monterey will ever function as designed, let alone be capable of delivering expanded volumes of water. We are now in the process of trying to rebuild two shallow wells that collapsed and are now

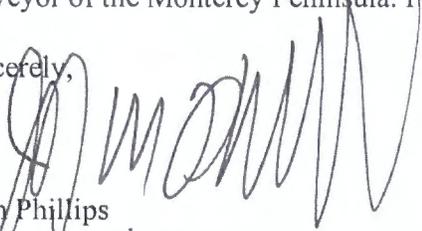
preparing to drill two additional deep wells at a considerable expense. A majority of our Board has concerns and questions about the viability of the expansion project including the availability of source water that have been contested by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency and the City of Salinas.

The M1W Board conducted a thorough examination of the EIR prepared for the Pure Water Monterey Expansion Project and found numerous deficiencies – namely that it failed to do a cumulative impacts analysis of the expansion project and the desalination project. Instead the EIR claimed that if the expansion project were built and the desal project came along subsequently, the expansion project would be mothballed. This is an absurd statement, particularly as the ratepayers of M1W would be on the hook for the capital expense of the project regardless.

Beyond the operational issues, Pure Water Monterey is simply not capable of becoming the water supply for the entire Monterey Peninsula. In addition to the inadequate environmental analysis, there is no agreed upon source water for the expansion of Pure Water Monterey and neither the Monterey County Water Resources Agency nor the City of Salinas have agreed to supply the water for the Pure Water Monterey expansion.

In my considered opinion, M1W is not legally, financially, or physically capable of becoming the sole water purveyor of the Monterey Peninsula. Please don't be misled by representations to the contrary.

Sincerely,



John Phillips
Supervisor, 2nd District
County of Monterey, Board of Supervisors

Steve & Bonnie Adams

September 10, 2020

27585 Via Sereno
Carmel, CA 93923

Via Email: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Hon. Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Appeal No A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Hon. Chair Padilla and Commissioners:

Please approve California American Water's application for a Coastal Development Permit for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project.

We have lived in Carmel for 30 years and were so frustrated to learn that the staff of the Coastal Commission is recommending denial of the project. We have watched the intensive EIR process and community outreach for the past 10 years – not to mention all the years before that watching project after project fail – cripple our community.

There is now a portfolio of projects that will provide water to allow us to meet the conditions of the CDO. These are desal, reclaimed water and ASR. Of these, the main component, the one that will provide a sustainable long-term water supply, is desal. Reclaimed water and ASR are both important but are dependent on rainwater and source water both of which are not guaranteed. Pure Water has yet to produce water and the expansion project doesn't have an approved EIR.

Without desal which offers a reliable water supply, there will be no workforce housing and a curtailed tourism industry which is already struggling from the pandemic devastating our local economies. We are looking at severe rationing if the milestones of the CDO are not met. Our community has already conserved beyond any other county in California. Additional rationing will affect our quality of life.

Please don't push this on to another generation to have to expend time and even more money examining unfounded alternatives. We are so tired of the long drawn out political battle. We are at the finish line. It is time for you to do the right thing and approve the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project on September 17th. Our community depends on it.

Sincerely,

Steve & Bonnie Adams

Sean Damery
P.O. Box 80
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

September 11, 2020

Hon. Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

Greetings from Carmel Valley. My name is Sean Damery and I am the Regional Vice President for Ensemble Hotels and General Manager of Bernardus Lodge & Spa. This letter is to share with you my support of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. Water is a challenge on the peninsula that not only affects us as individual residents but as business owners and operators. Our vibrant hospitality industry brings revenue to the county – a benefit to all – resulting better schools, roads, and quality of life. To maintain and support these necessities, we have to allow our hospitality industry to grow. Currently, the hospitality industry is limited by an inability to expand or remodel. This is preventing not only job growth but limits our opportunity to bring more revenue to the county via transient occupancy tax and transient dollars that spread throughout small businesses in the community.

I appreciate your time and please approve the desalination plant project for the betterment of the community and to support successful growth.

Thank you,

Sean Damery
Regional Vice President and General Manager
Bernardus Lodge & Spa



MONTEREY COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

September 11, 2020

The Honorable Steve Padilla, Chair, and Members
John Ainsworth, Executive Director
Tom Luster, Senior Environmental Scientist
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Ste. 2000
San Francisco, California 94105

John.Ainsworth@coastal.ca.gov, Tom.Luster@coastal.ca.gov, CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Re: Application No. 9-19-0918 and Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034(Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project - MPWSP)

Dear Chair Padilla, Honorable Coastal Commission Members,

The Monterey Commercial Property Owners Association was founded in the 1970's as a group of people who take a caring role in the city of Monterey to support the work done by the city and actively provide for communication between the City Government and the community at large.

In 2012 the community of the Monterey Peninsula proposed a water supply project to finally reduce the over-pumping of the Carmel River. The project had been negotiated and signed by an array of stakeholders including water related entities (MPWMD), municipalities, environmental organizations, local activist; an impressive list of signers demonstrating a broad consensus. For far too long the community had taken excess water from the river and now it was time to begin to produce the water by other means.

For a community that thrives on a stunning coastline, historic farming production from rich farm valley soil and mountain ranges carved by rivers of rainfall it is highly appropriate that the same community should stop harming the environment by damaging the Carmel River. That the project also allows the environmental devastation of the last sand-dredging operation on the West Coast to be repurposed as a component of the solution furthers the environmental goal of the community. Adding to the environmental goals of the project, recycled water would be a major component of the water supply. The anchor of the project was a desalination plant for those times when rainfall is

not sufficient, when river flow is not present and the community still requires water to meet the needs of the people. The cost of water was being shifted from the health of the Carmel River to the people who use water.

Subsequent to recently adopting a position that desal was not needed, the MPWMD has prepared to go back to the State Water Resources Control Board to ask to eliminate the conditions of the cease-and-desist order and continue over-pumping of the Carmel River setting a clear precedent of future expectations; when we need water we will turn to the Carmel River for supply. This points to the precise danger of not approving the desal wells. Recycled water alone fails to meet needs of this community.

The Monterey Peninsula does not exist in a bubble as evidenced by the vehicle, airplane and bicycle traffic coming and going constantly. Workers, students, leisure-seekers, tourists, many people from the region and beyond come and go every day. Having a reliable and sufficient water supply for the Monterey Peninsula is good for the entire region while having a failed system causes harm not just on the Peninsula but beyond to the surrounding communities as well. Some of these communities themselves are building new subdivisions as they pump water directly from the aquifers of the Salinas Valley. Meanwhile in Monterey building has come to a stop for years. Help the Monterey Peninsula reach a point where we are providing the housing supply needed by our community and doing so in an environmentally responsible manner. Please approve the desalination plant wells so we can do so.

John Steinbeck championed the everyday man and the beauty of this region when he wrote *Cannery Row*. *"The Carmel is a lovely little river. It isn't very long but in its course it has everything a river should have. It rises in the mountains, and tumbles down a while, runs through shallows, is damned to make a lake, spills over the dam, crackles among round boulders, wanders lazily under sycamores, spills into pools where trout live, drops in against banks where crayfish live. In the winter it becomes a torrent, a mean little fierce river, and in the summer it is a place for children to wade in and for fishermen to wander in. Frogs blink from its banks and the deep ferns grow beside it. It's everything a river should be."*

Please look beyond the Staff Report and allow the desalination plant to move forward. It is time for this community to live up to its responsibilities to respect the Carmel River as we have been asking to do for many years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Tilley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

John Tilley
Monterey Commercial Property Owners Association

Scott Dick, Ed.D.
PO Box 484
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

September 15, 2020

Via Email: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Hon. Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
45 Fremont, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105- 2219

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Hon. Chair Padilla and Commissioners:

For the last 30 years struggle over growth and development has distorted the consideration of any new water supply project on the Monterey Peninsula. The drought in the 1970s exacerbated this conflict such that members of the California Legislature created the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (District). The District's sole mission is to create, develop or purchase a sustainable, drought-proof water supply¹.

In the early 1990's the District studied and spent the funds necessary to move forward on a desalination plant. The need for a drought resistant water supply was acknowledged even before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) encumbered CalAm with the cease and desist order CDO 95-10.

However, the messages sent to the public by the District were confusing at best and disingenuous at worst. The resulting public sentiment created such a negative narrative that the 1993 election for funding the desalination plant failed mostly due to the resistance to the possibility of development.² Among the opponents of the desalination plant was the chair of the District who fought the desal plant in favor of the proposed Los Padres dam.

In 1995 the dam project was again fought by special interest groups opposed to growth. Their intentional strategy was outlined in a journal article published years later that labeled the dam as the "developers" dam. The intent was to marshal wide-spread opposition to its construction and this strategy was successful. In interviews conducted later, the leader of the opposition credited the defeat of the dam with the scare campaign that painted the project as the "developer's dam" which if constructed would create a future "San Jose by the Sea."³

It seems obvious that opposition to a sustainable and drought resistant water supply has always been based on opposition to growth. It seems to still be the case in 2020 as well.

After a decade of support for a portfolio of water supply projects – including desal, the District recently voted 4 to 3 to send a letter to the Coastal Commission staff removing that support based on a faulty supply and demand study created by the General Manager (GM) of the District who is neither an engineer or a hydrologist.

¹ Appendix A, page 1: Title - Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (highlighted portion) page 1 of Civil Grand Jury report.

² Appendix B: *Heuer Will Campaign against Desal Project Approval.*

Appendix C: *Desal Advocate Not Giving Up Hope; Says Dam's Cost Could be Too High.*

Appendix D: Fran Farina (District board of director), *Meeting with PUC Staff notes.*

³ Appendix E, pages 5 & 6, Extract from *Coalition building between Native American and environmental organizations in opposition to development, the case of the new Los Padres Dam project, Sep, 1998.*

One can only speculate why now after 10 years they would oppose the desalination plant. Perhaps it is either because they are invested in the purchase of California American Water and see the construction as a threat to that purchase.⁴

Or they oppose growth and a functioning water supply such as a desalination plant that would provide a path to growth. However, they seem to have forgotten that the purpose and only reason for the existence of the organization is to provide a viable and drought proof water supply project.

This is especially egregious since the opponents to the current desal project claim “social justice” as the reason for much of their opposition. The coastal commission must apply social justice concepts across all of the communities on the Monterey Peninsula, not just for the City of Marina.

Aggregate social justice across the Peninsula demands that enough water is produced by a portfolio of projects to enable the construction of sufficient housing units to provide homes for people employed in the hospitality, agricultural and medical services industries as well provide for the recovery of businesses shuttered or shattered due to the Covid-19 “recession.”

The community has for almost 30 years suffered water poverty that has created ludicrous conditions for residents and businesses alike. For example, in early 2018 a business applied for a use permit to operate a juice bar in an empty storefront in Monterey. The applicants had to agree to such conditions as all the fruit used shall be washed and cut in their San Jose location and then transported to Monterey. They also had to agree that all ice required in the store would be trucked in from other locations.⁵ In that case in February 2018, staff of the DISTRICT recommended against allowing “intensification of use” due to several arguments related to the lack of water. The staff report said:

“...the ongoing lack of available water is a hardship experienced by many property owners and prospective businesses within the District.” Also, ...“The ongoing water supply shortage on the Peninsula has severely limited the ability of both property owners and potential tenants to find a location with enough available onsite water to conduct business...”⁶

Nothing has changed with the water supply from then to now. Apparently the staff in 2018 did not know that the GM of the DISTRICT decided the “ongoing lack of available water” was no longer a hardship. Does this mean the juice bar can make its own ice? Of course not, because the water referenced by the GM in his supply and demand analysis doesn’t exist. New data on water production from both ASR and GWR shows the water produced will fall short of the supply projections by several thousand acre feet per year – even without a drought.

Now, is the time is to end both social justice inequities and what in essence are land use decisions by water strangulation. Please issue the permits necessary for the construction of the desalination plant.

Respectfully,



Dr. Scott Dick

⁴ Many elected officials in Monterey County, including city council members and mayors supported the recent Measure J, the initiative to study the feasibility of purchasing California American Water.

⁵ Appendix H, page 16 & 17. Item: *Public Hearing, 11. Consider Application for Variance to allow Non-Residential Group II Water use capacity at 458-460 Alvarado Street, Monterey (APN:00-572-029)*. 2018.

⁶ *Ibid.*

APPENDIX A

MONTEREY PENINSULA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

ISSUE

Does the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District contribute fair value to taxpayers for the taxes, fees, and charges it collects?

INVESTIGATION

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) was formed June 6, 1978 by enabling legislation in Statutes of 1977, Chapter 527, found in West's California Water Code Appendix Chapter 118.

For 20 years the MPWMD has been subject to pressure groups attempting to produce adequate water through studies, investigations, and regulations responding to the State Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and State Water Resources Control Board.

In the last ten years, despite having collected \$34,065,000, of which \$14,000,000 was for capital projects and methods to provide and improve adequate water supplies, MPWMD has made little progress based on the 1998 MPWMD Annual Report. This is an expenditure of \$303 for every man, woman, and child in MPWMD.

MPWMD has imposed stringent regulations and rationing requirements on citizens; however, there is little reduction in water use, and its major proposals for a tax-supported dam and desalinization plant were defeated by the electorate.

Within the boundaries of MPWMD, there are private water companies which have provided, and continue to provide, water service to citizens and businesses.

Further, MPWMD overlaps a portion of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) and has had to share responsibility for stream maintenance and aquifer control with both the Agency and private water purveyors.

The PUC requires that private water purveyors proceed to supply water at appropriate prices to residents by either building a dam, importing water, or developing additional legal supplies of water.

Vote Planned in June**Heuer Will Campaign against Desal Project Approval**

By Stan Hall

With the grand jury's criticism heavy in the air, directors of the water management district got ready Monday to ask citizens to approve a desalination plant on Monterey Bay although their senior member said he would actively oppose it.

"I will urge a no vote," Dick Heuer of Carmel Valley said during a board study session to provide the district's staff direction on how to proceed with the vote on June 8.

The key remaining step is to get the city councils of Carmel, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Seaside, Sand City and Del Rey Oaks to agree to be included in the water district's so-called improvement zone No. 5 by March 1.

Any city opting out would not receive any additional water from the desal plant, although its residents still would have to pay higher user fees, reflecting the "drought protect" existing user would get because of it.

The proposed zone would cover the most heavily populated areas within the water management district's boundaries. Despite his personal opposition, Heuer said he would urge all cities to agree to be included so that their citizens could vote on the project and expressed confidence all would go along. As a general rule, anyone who pays water bills to Cal-Am, Water West or Seaside would be inside the zone boundaries.

After the meeting, Heuer, as he has before, said he would oppose desal's approval in June because he felt the district's first priority should be a new dam.

"I expect I will actively campaign against it," Heuer told the Sun. "If this vote is successful, I'm confident it will kill what I've worked for for nearly 10 years"—a new dam on the Carmel River.

As he has before, Heuer argued that ap-



DICK HEUER

proval and construction of a desal plant, which would provide 1,500-acre-feet of water a year for new growth and intensified use, would leave residents no reason to approve around \$100 million for a new Los Padres dam. Water from the desal project will meet the demands from additional growth that will be permitted on the peninsula, but it will not provide the environmental benefits that a dam will, he said.

Chairman Dale Hekhuis and director Ken Long, who will succeed Hekhuis at the board's Jan. 28 meeting, in particular, challenged Heuer's opposition. They often cited the grand jury's recent criticism that the water district hasn't provided any new supplies in its 12 years of existence and

recommendation that if it doesn't do so soon, it should be abolished.

Heuer argued that the district should know by 1994 whether it has a chance to win approval for a new day. "It's premature to make a choice between the two projects," he said.

"It's premature to say that we'll know about the dam in 1994," Long countered.

Noting that the district never had put a specific project before the voters for their approval before, Hekhuis said, "The grand jury report made it very clear that we need to do something to show people that we're able to produce a new project."

"It's not enough just to do something," Heuer said, "we need to do the right thing."

Mayor David Pendergrass of Del Rey Oaks, an appointed member of the board, sided with Long and Hekhuis. "The district has got to get off the dime," he said. "The public which lives here can't go on with moratoriums and more moratoriums." He referred to the water district's building moratorium which is beginning in its third year.

"We need to make sure this is a place to work, not just retire," Pendergrass said.

General Manager Jim Cofer said the district hoped to have selected a contractor for the desal plant in Seaside by the time the vote is held and "have real cost data for the public to see." He suggested the project will come in under \$30 million, and Andy Bell, the district's engineering manager, agreed with him.

Bell said the district had been very conservative in its cost estimates and also included contingencies which would likely not be a part of the final contract.

Cofer said whether the plant would be privately financed or financed with public bonds still had not been determined, but he suggested bond financing would prove to be cheapest.

Officials from the water district are scheduled to visit each of the six city councils within the next month to explain the need to form improvement zone 5. While the cities have the option of agreeing to go along with it or not, the unincorporated parts of Monterey County which lie within the proposed boundaries can be included solely on a vote of the district's directors, Counsel David Laredo said.

Sun 9/30/93 Water - Desal

Desal Advocate Not Giving Up Hope; Says Dam's Cost Could be Too High

By Stan Hall

One of the peninsula's leading advocates of using desalinated sea water said he doesn't think the idea is dead despite voter rejection of a proposed plant on Monterey Bay in June.

Director Dale Hekhuis of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) suggested that residents might look at desalination differently after final cost figures are available for a proposed new Los Padres Dam.

Hekhuis, who championed desal personally while he was chairman of the water management district in 1992, noted that estimates of the cost of a new dam ranged from \$100 million to \$125 million.

"I think the cost of the dam will become a very serious question," Hekhuis told The Sun. He also suggested that the water management district might not be able to win the approvals it needs to build the proposed 24,000 acre-foot reservoir on the Carmel River or could face longer delays in winning approval than it now anticipates.

In a telephone interview, Hekhuis made it clear he was not giving up support for the proposed new dam, but wanted to see better cost figures "so we can make a true comparison between the dam and desal."

He noted that at \$42 million, construction of the proposed Hatton Canyon Freeway would be one of the most expensive, if not the most expensive, projects ever undertaken on the peninsula.

"The dam could cost two to three times as much," he said. "I think we must look at how much paying power we, as a people, have. There's an upper limit to what we can afford, and it hasn't been fully discussed yet."

"When it comes to the dam, we need an informed debate about what proportion of our financial capability we want to devote to one project," added Hekhuis, a retired financial executive with General Electric.

Hekhuis' fellow water board director, Dick Heuer, who led the fight against approval of desal, said he thought Hekhuis was wrong if he was suggesting that desal could substitute for a dam.

"Desal doesn't solve all our problems," he said. "It has no environmental benefits."

"Why would people vote for desal if they didn't get any additional water to use from

it—if it had to be used to reduce pumping from the Carmel River?" Heuer asked. He was referring to a possible ruling by the State Water Resources Control Board in response to complaints that the river aquifer has been overpumped causing environmental damage. The board has heard testimony on the complaints, but there's no indication when it might rule.

"I think it will be approved," Heuer said of a vote on the dam. Then he added a moment later, "Nobody knows how the people are going to vote."

He said if voters should reject a proposal to finance the dam, the community then could turn to an alternative like desal.

Hekhuis said a committee formed to promote desal, the Committee for a Secure Water Supply, still is active. Hekhuis and Bob Franco, former mayor of Del Rey Oaks who served on the water board as the mayors' representative, head the group.

"We're going to hold off (any action) until the EIR goes through the process and the cost is better known," Hekhuis said.

By a 14,258-12,481 margin, voters turned down a proposed \$22 million plant in Sand City which could produce up to 3 million gallons of drinking water a day. The water management district had proposed the desal plant as a part of a two-pronged strategy that called for additional water from desal in the short run and a longer-term increase from a new dam.

APPENDIX C



Fran Farina

MEETING WITH PUC STAFF

APRIL 23, 1996

SWRCB Order No. WR 95-10 (JULY 6, 1995)

Replace 10,730 AFA (69% of supply)

Borrowed water (11,285 AFA) ends October 1, 1997

Only 1137 AFA in pre-1914 water rights available for use
outside Carmel Valley plus 4000 AFA from Seaside.

Additional 2179 AFA from Los Padres for use in
Carmel Valley only

Water for Lots of Record and Intensification

New Los Padres Project Permits

Issued and in public domain

Any change can endanger permit viability and add time

CEQA compliance with MPWMD and PUC as co-lead agencies

Financing Project

Need for independent analysis to determine most cost
effective method. Selection of consultant by PUC
with evaluation/comments from MPWMD and Cal-Am

Public Opinion

Belief that small projects can solve water problems

Fear of growth

Disinformation campaigns

POWR Initiative

APPENDIX E

Extract from: *Coalition building between Native American and environmental organizations in opposition to development, the case of the new Los Padres Dam project, Mik Moore, Cabrillo College 1998. Organization & Environment, Vol 11 No.3, September 1998 287-3134*

Moore / NEW LOS PADRES DAM PROJECT 299

that. The prophecies tell us that the Red, Black, Yellow, and White nations will come together" (T.L.B. Nason, personal communication, December 29, 1995). In central coast of California cultural renewal activities and in the struggle against the New Los Padres Dam project, a strategy of deliberately reaching out to non-natives is being followed. Anne Marie Sayers (personal communication, November 3, 1995), prominent Costanoan/Mutsun tribal leader, stated at a Native American organized anti-dam gathering, "We are allowing people to become aware of our existence. We educate people of our existence. We are all Native Americans, now let us unite and become one earth and one people."

Esselen groups, with their non-native supporters and environmental and neighbourhood organizations, formed an effective coalition that defeated the proposed New Los Padres Dam. However, the arguments of the predominantly environmentalist groups and the Native American groups differed in important respects. Whereas the Esselen were opposed to building a dam in this particular place because of the threat to their sacred sites, the environmental groups were opposed to any dam, on the grounds that increasing the water supply would lead to more development and growth on the Monterey Peninsula. What were some of the pivotal issues in the struggle against the New Los Padres Dam Project? One of the most fundamental disputes was the issue of growth.

KEY ISSUES FOR THE NEW LOS PADRES DAM OPPOSITION MOVEMENT

Environmental Dam or Developers' Dam?

The water district, following the voters' rejection of the desalination plant in 1993, concluded that there was no alternative solution to the peninsula's water problems other than the construction of the dam. The features of the dam that they chose to emphasize in public meetings and communications to the media were that it would provide a secure water supply in times of drought and that it would be environmentally beneficial. When I met with Henrietta Stern, senior planner for the water district, she emphasized to me a number of times that it was an environmental dam. "The key is restoring stream flow in the Carmel River," she told me (H. Stern, personal communication, January 18, 1995). In an article published in a local newspaper, Stern (1994) made this argument about the benefits of the dam:

How will the dam affect the environment? The NLP project would provide year-round stream flow to the Carmel River Lagoon [at the mouth of the river] in 75 percent of water years. It would benefit about 24 miles of riverbank vegetation and wildlife, steelhead habitat, recreational and aesthetic resources, and the Carmel River Lagoon in nearly all years. (p. 6)

However, the environmental benefits of the dam were simply not believed by the Sierra Club and Citizens for Alternative Waters Solutions (CAWS) activists, and they sought to publicly discredit them. In an interview with Gruber, chair of the Sierra Club's New Los Padres Dam subcommittee, he told me: "We're calling it the *developers' dam*. It'll lead to 14,000 new homes being built. In the drought years, they'll suck up the extra water that is supposed to restore the river. Every development around here is called an environmental development" (D. Gruber, personal communication, October 12, 1995). This last comment referred to the fact that in the Monterey Bay area, controlled-growth advocates and elected repre-

sentatives had been so successful in restricting development projects that such projects needed to be packaged in ways that made them more palatable to the public. Presenting them as environmental was one strategy; a similar manoeuvre, used elsewhere, was presenting them as promoting the performing arts (see Whitt, 1987). Richard Gendron (1996) has explored this approach in neighboring Santa Cruz County, which he described as "the developer's canny tactic of using an arts-based growth strategy as a means of . . . driving a wedge into a progressive coalition that has successfully opposed every large-scale development in the previous 20 years" (p. 551). The Sierra Club and CAWS activists were not deceived by such canny tactics and focused on the growth potential of the dam. For them, it was unquestionably not an environmental dam. One of the Sierra Club campaigners, Arthur Mitteldorf (1995), wrote in the club's local magazine:

Environmentally, the worst solution to the water shortage problem on the Monterey Peninsula is the proposed 24,000 acre feet New Los Padres Dam. It would provide excess water, that essential missing ingredient for sprawling growth. You can safely bet that it would not rescue the almost depleted steelhead population. (p. 7)

Gruber (1995a) wrote in the Sierra Club's local newsletter, "We disbelieve the arguments that the flow from the dam would restore damage to the lower river" (p. 28), whereas another activist in the Sierra Club, Mark Langner (1995a), concluded, "The Water District's interest in the environment is sudden and question-

able. The proposed dam is definitely not an environmentally friendly project" (p. 4). Sierra Club and CAWS campaigners emphasized that the water district's own Environmental Impact Report made clear the dam's potential for growth. In that report, it states, "If the long-term water supply project is not built, growth that is now planned for the peninsula would be constrained . . . it is clear that expansion of the water supply system would remove one obstacle to district growth" (Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, 1994a, chap. 19, p. 1). The additional water supply would make possible "roughly a 20 percent increase in housing, population and water demand" (Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, 1994a, chap. 19, p. 5). It is not that the Sierra Club was against any development. Gruber told me, "Most everybody agrees we can't just chop off and say nobody can come in, but we should have moderate, thoughtful development" (D. Gruber, personal communication, February 16, 1996). Their opposition to the dam was based on the belief that it would not result in thoughtful development and that, in Gruber's words: "The first order of benefit was not to the river; the first order of benefit was to development" (D. Gruber, personal communication, February

16, 1996). On the basis of this analysis, the Sierra Club strategy in mobilizing opposition to the project was to emphasize the growth potential of the dam. The success of this strategy is illustrated by the fact that the latest dam proposal for the Carmel River (following the rejection of the New Los Padres Dam by voters) is being presented by the water district as the no-growth dam.

The Annual Death of the Carmel River

A second major dispute concerned the fact that the lower course of the Carmel River dries up every year, causing damage to vegetation and wildlife, including the steelhead fish run. For the Esselen, this was a desecration of the river, and it was also the reason for lawsuits complaints from both the Sierra Club and the California



CITIZENS FOR
ALTERNATIVE
WATER
SOLUTIONS

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CARMEL CA 93923-9529

VENTANA CHAPTER, SIERRA Club

COMMITTEE FOR DAM ALTERNATIVES

The Real Guide to
THE DAM

- *14,000 More Houses*
- *Increased River Damage*
- *Worse Water Rationing*
- *50% Higher Water Bills*
- *San Jose-by-the-Sea*



Questions? Look Inside! →

THE DAM

The dam is first and foremost a development project, enabling growth for tourism, golf courses and housing. In moderation, that would be acceptable. As proposed, the changes imposed upon the region would be spectacular.

What will the dam do?

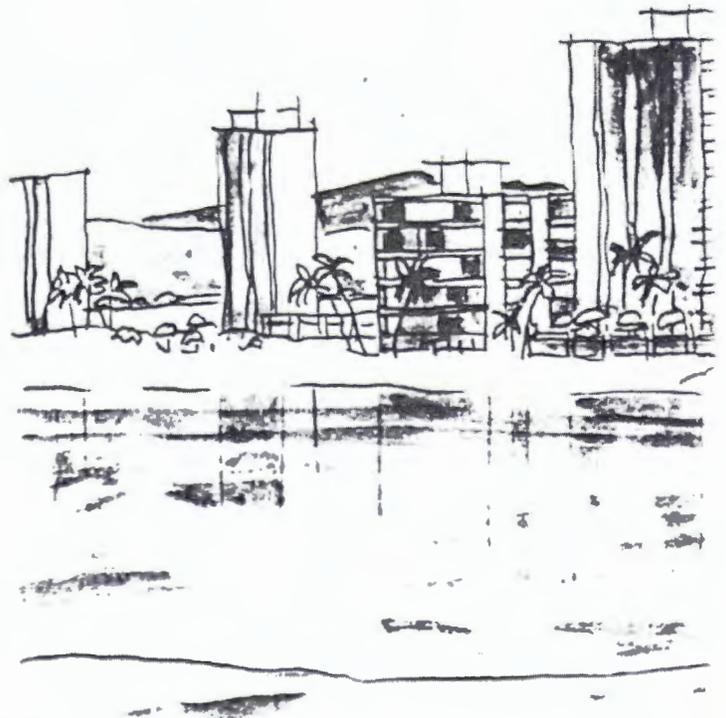
- **Allow at least 20% new growth**, the equivalent of adding a city the size of Seaside.
- **Destroy 3 1/2 miles of river bank habitat.**
- **Cost \$350 million dollars;** if you pay \$60 now, you will pay at least \$90 in the year 2000.

Will it solve environmental problems?

- **In a word, NO.** In fact, in spite of the claims of the Water District, evidence indicates that the dam would worsen environmental problems.
- **3 1/2 miles of pristine river would be drowned.**
- **The banks of the lower river**, damaged by overpumping, would be exposed to worse conditions than now, because the dam allows 14,000 new users of the system. This means that in extended drought years when the dam is empty (known as "revert" conditions), 14,000 new users would be using the same water supply we have now. This also applies to **drought reserve**: many more users, but no new water during extended droughts.
- **More traffic.** More people will be attracted here to live and to use the new tourist facilities; therefore, more traffic.
- **Degraded air.** This would be one result of the increased population and traffic.
- **Faulty data.** Estimated flows in the river were based on faulty hydrological data. Dry year flows are wrong, and overestimate the amount of water available. The river banks will suffer for this.
- **Fish harmed.** Steelhead trout would be trapped and trucked around the dam. Experts say this is not likely to work well. The natural spawning beds of the fish would be destroyed, and genetic diversity weakened.

What about Growth?

- There is provision in the project for **3,380 acre feet of new growth.** That could translate into 14,000 new homes, based upon typical water usage, or the equivalent combination of apartments, houses and commercial uses.
- It is probable that **even more water** from the dam would go to growth after the rules are forgotten.
- Growth is the **reason for the dam**; it doesn't solve any long-term environmental problems, and fails to supply drought reserve.



Are there alternatives?

There are. No one of those alternatives alone will supply the water necessary to repair the river and allow for moderate growth, but a *palette* of them, a combination, would. Among those alternatives are:

- Desalination
- Retrofitting current plumbing
- Reducing water pressure
- Dual plumbing systems
- Storm water collection systems

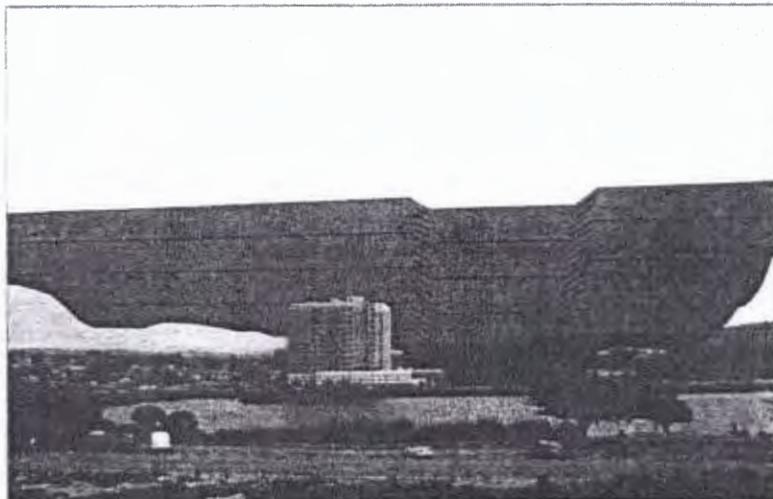
Water Board Chair Fran Farina said in her 1991 ballot statement, "I believe desalination could meet the needs of this community if a dam were not approved by the permitting agencies."

Would the dam provide flood protection?

No. The Water District says as much. Moreover, the dam would even worsen flood conditions in some circumstances, according to the environmental report.

Would Cal-Am build the dam?

Would Cal-Am build the dam if the voters turned it down? **No.** Cal-Am answers to the PUC, a political body. Water board member and dam proponent Jim Hughes said, "I think the dam is dead if there is a no vote. The PUC is a political animal and won't cram a dam down the throats of residents."



TO HELP GET AN IDEA OF THE SIZE OF THIS PROJECT, VISUALIZE THE DAM BEHIND THE NEW EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL. IT WOULD BE MORE THAN TWICE AS TALL AS THE HOTEL, 282 FEET, AND A QUARTER OF A MILE LONG.

**Why It's Called
"The Developer's Dam"**

Development interests which made large contributions (as of Sept. 23) to the committee supporting the Dam:

Paul Davis (Architect)	\$20,000 (Loan)
Monterey Marriott Hotel	\$1,000
Mahoney-Tancredi (Realtors)	\$1,000
Inns By the Sea	\$1,000
Pebble Beach Company	\$1,000
MPBXPAC (Builder's Exchange)	\$1,000
Rancho Cañada Golf Club	\$1,000
Quail Lodge, Inc.	\$1,000
Cannery Row Co.	\$1,000

**"Environmental Dam," or
a dam for developers,
golf courses and growth?
We suggest you read the
list and decide for your-
self.**

Would you buy a pig in a poke?

The wording of the ballot measure limits the cap amount of the bond measure, but it leaves the method of financing up to the Water District. Basically, you would be giving them power of attorney to charge you whatever is necessary. Do you trust them this much? What happens if the project costs more than 116.5 million dollars? Do we stop building mid-way through? Listen to the words of Mark Riesner, author of *Cadillac Desert*:

Dams are less safe than they say, cost more than they say, and produce less than they say.

"They," of course, are the developers and special interests who actually benefit from such projects.

**DON'T ALLOW AN UNNECESSARY AND
GROWTH-INDUCING DAM;
VOTE NO ON MEASURE "C"
THE DAM**

There are better alternatives for our water supply than a dam. I'm voting "NO" to save our quality of life—Clyde Roberson, Former Mayor, City of Monterey

Published by: Citizens for Alternative Water Solutions, P.O. 1426, Carmel Valley, CA 93924, #PWC #50027
 Ventura Chapter, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 9887, Carmel, CA 93907
 Citizens for Dam Alternatives, 3398 Taylor Rd, Carmel, CA 93907

APPENDIX G

Monterey County, Calif.-Area Water Chairman Keeps Focus, Favors Slow Growth

Monterey County Herald

January 28, 2003, Tuesday

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Length: 1253 words

Byline: By Dennis Moran

Body

No one can say for sure that the Monterey Peninsula's water district will exist a year from now -- but its new board chairman intends to keep it focused on a new water supply.

Alexander Henson, elected board chairman last month, wants to see the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District put a seawater-desalination project up to a public vote in March 2004. The proposed plant would be built in Sand City and would provide only enough water to meet a state order to drastically reduce draws from the Carmel River.

In other words, it's a no-growth project. That would naturally suit Henson, an environmental attorney who heads what he terms a slow-growth majority on the water board. And he believes the fastest way to get a water project approved and built is to take the explosive growth issue out of the equation. The pro-growth crowd can get more water later from another desalination plant proposed by the state for Moss Landing, Henson says.

First things first, he says, and that means satisfying the 7-year-old state order to leave more water in the river.

"History has shown that if a water supply project has a growth component, the majority of people on the Peninsula won't vote for it," Henson says. Voters in 1995 turned down a proposal for a new dam on the Carmel River because it would have provided water for more housing, Henson and others believe.

The California-American Water Co., the Peninsula's provider, has since come back with a no-growth dam proposal, but many believe it's a dead issue due to opposition from state and federal agencies charged with protecting two threatened species that live in the river, the steelhead and red-legged frog.

For a March 2004 vote on a water project to be binding, district consultants would have to finish an exhaustive environmental review of the desal proposal by September, district officials say. The project also will need cost and financing figures for voters to mull. Board members will find out Thursday if it's a doable timeline.

Meanwhile another clock may be ticking. Voters in November overwhelmingly recommended that the water district be dissolved, and backers of the measure have been lobbying state Sen. Bruce McPherson to introduce legislation to replace the water board with a joint-powers authority of mayors.

Those who want the district dissolved fault it for failing to develop a new water source in its 24 years of existence. Ironically, Henson says that getting rid of the district now would further delay a water project by negating the district's ongoing preparatory work.

For that reason he doesn't think it will happen.

Monterey County, Calif.-Area Water Chairman Keeps Focus, Favors Slow Growth

The vote "reflected the electorate's unhappiness that the district has been unable, to date, to accomplish a major water-source project," Henson said. "My answer to that vote is to get a water-supply project online. Should we just fold up our tent and wait two to four years for a joint-powers authority to get back to where we are now?"

To get one water project the district is required to study several alternatives. It's a cycle of costly and lengthy engineering studies, environmental reviews and cost analyses the district has trod before, only to have proposals stymied by environmental roadblocks, voted down by the public or, many observers swear, boondoggled by shifting water-board politics.

This time around, Henson believes the slow-growth water board majority has its hands firmly on a divining rod pointing to new water.

Board member Alvin Edwards, not a member of that majority, believes more public input is needed on the various options before one is selected for a binding public vote. Instead of a binding ballot measure in March 2004, Edwards wants an advisory public vote in November of this year on all the alternatives, along with a ballot question on whether the district should seek enough water to provide for growth.

"I just want to know which way the people want to go," Edwards says.

"Do they want desal or do they want a dam? I know they want to solve the problem, but how much are they willing to pay? Let the people answer some of the questions we've been fighting with on the board."

The dam still has passionate adherents who note how much cheaper it would be than desalination and who say it would enhance, and not harm, river habitats. In 1998, the last time the district had detailed cost-comparison figures, it was estimated that the dam would increase an average monthly water bill by \$ 18.64, compared to \$ 43.50 for a desalination plant.

But improving technology has been driving down cost estimates for desal in recent years, and several proposed plants are under consideration in California.

If the water board survives efforts this year to do away with it, it could be subject to another policy shift in November -- the terms of environmentalists Henson, Molly Erickson and Kris Lindstrom are up for election then. Edwards believes those three have been too uncompromising on such issues as water-credit transfers to be re-elected. "I don't think they'll be there," he says.

Henson generated controversy during the board's first meeting after the public no-confidence vote when he proposed that the district look into taking over Cal-Am's local operation.

That could be done by a process of eminent domain, by which a public agency can condemn and appropriate private property deemed to be in the public interest. Other communities in California and other states are looking into doing that with Cal-Am or its parent company, American Water Works.

Henson believes it could result in fewer rate increases for customers, since the water district does not have stock shareholders for whom profits are needed. Also, Henson is rankled by what he terms uncooperation from Cal-Am, particularly on what action the company will take on the state's desalination proposal for Moss Landing. Taking over the company would eliminate uncooperation, Henson notes.

The state Public Utilities Commission last summer released a report recommending a \$ 100 million desalination plant for Moss Landing.

Water board members generally admired the proposal but some said that another agency, possibly the state itself, should take the lead in shepherding it through. Board members also waited to see whether Cal-Am would support the project and withdraw its application for a dam, and meanwhile the board put on hold certain elements of its own water-source process.

Cal-Am hasn't made that decision yet, and Henson believes the company is stalling.

APPENDIX A (CONT.)

FINDINGS

1. MPWMD income has totaled \$34,065,000 for the last ten years.

2. MPWMD has collected the following fees, connection charges, and property taxes in the last ten years:

Property Taxes	-	\$ 6,050,000
Connection Fees	-	\$10,020,000
User Fees (Water)	-	\$12,221,000
Miscellaneous Fees	-	\$ 5,774,000

3. MPWMD has spent the following in the last ten years:

Studies, Services, and Supplies	-	\$15,084,000
Personnel (Regulations/Planning)	-	\$14,272,000
Related Projects	-	\$ 1,636,000

4. MPWMD staff has grown to 25 people.

5. Through recent legislation involving MPWMD, its water users are about to pay for a new study, costing up to \$700,000, reviewing all previous studies. Additionally, there are costs associated with involving the staffs of MPWMD, PUC, and State Water Resources Control Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 1999 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury recommends:

1. In conjunction with the Monterey County Local Agency Formation Commission, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) initiate efforts to:

a. comply with the requirements of State of California Government Code Section 56000-56780 (Cortese-Knox Act of 1985);

b. seek consensus of Cities within the boundary of MPWMD;

c. encourage repeal of MPWMD enabling legislation by the California Legislature, if deemed necessary; and

APPENDIX A (CONT.)

d. take steps necessary to dissolve and liquidate MPWMD.

2. Upon dissolution of MPWMD, the BOS turn over the responsibilities to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

3. Upon dissolution of MPWMD, the BOS designate the County Planning and Building Inspection Department, and the respective Cities designate their City Building Departments to enforce necessary water management regulations.

4. Consider the possibility of buying water from the State Water Project at San Luis Reservoir and pumping to the Monterey Peninsula.

RESPONSES REQUIRED

Monterey County Board of Supervisors

Findings 1 through 5

Recommendations 1 through 4

Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

Findings 1 through 5

Recommendations 1 through 4

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Monterey County Board of Supervisors
2. MPWMD and 1998 Annual Report
3. Pacific Research Institute Report, dated July 1999, entitled, "Ending California's Water Crisis"
4. California-American Water Company Staff
5. Monterey County Local Agency Formation Commission Staff
6. Visits and interviews with Directors, Staff, Taxpayers, Water Users, and Citizens within MPWMD
7. Office of County Counsel

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4. California-American Water Company Staff
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7. Office of County Counsel

11. CONSIDER APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE TO ALLOW NON-RESIDENTIAL GROUP II WATER USE CAPACITY AT 458-460 ALVARADO STREET, MONTEREY (APN: 001-572-029)

Meeting Date: February 22, 2018 Budgeted: N/A
From: Dave Stoldt, General Manager Program/ Line Item No.: N/A
Prepared By: Stephanie Locke Cost Estimate: N/A

General Counsel Approval: N/A
Committee Recommendation: N/A
CEQA Compliance: This action does not constitute a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines section 15378.

SUMMARY: Anthony G. Davi, Sr. is requesting Board approval of a variance from Rule 24-B to allow commercial Group II water use in a Group I space at 458-460 Alvarado Street (Site) in Monterey without requiring water from the City of Monterey's Allocation (Exhibit 11-A). The Site currently consists of two retail spaces. Non-Residential Group I uses include retail, office, warehouse, gym, bank, etc. Mr. Davi states that he has been unable to rent either of his spaces in the last 14 months to a business that qualifies for the District's Group I Water Use Factor and now faces potential loss of insurance. All inquiries have been food-related Group II businesses. Mr. Davi is requesting that the Board allow him to rent both spaces as Group II, because Group II is more desirable for the downtown Alvarado Street location. District research shows that Group II businesses use more water than Group I and includes uses such as coffee shops, bakeries, ice cream shops, delis and pizzerias. Presently, no additional water is available on Site or approved from the City of Monterey to allow this Intensification in Use.

District Rule 90 allows for consideration of a variance from the Rules and Regulations when there are Special Circumstances [1] or Undue Hardship [2]. The Board may, after holding a public hearing, in specific cases, grant a variance from any provision of the standards incorporated into the Rules and Regulations whenever it finds: (a) that Special Circumstances exist in a particular case, and (b) that practical difficulties or Undue Hardship would result from the strict interpretation and enforcement of any such standard, and (c) that the granting of such a variance would not tend to defeat the purposes of these Rules and Regulations. The Board may place conditions upon such variances.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Board deny the variance and adopt the Findings of Denial (Exhibit 11-B). District Rule 20, Permits Required (Exhibit 11-C), requires a Water Permit for any Change of Use or any expansion of a Non-Residential use to a more intensive use as determined by Rule 24, Table 2, Non-Residential Water Use Factors (Exhibit 11-D). Rule 23-A-1-g (Exhibit 11-E) states that when an application involves an Intensification of Use, the increase in Capacity shall be deducted from a Jurisdiction's Allocation or a Water Entitlement as indicated on the Water Release Form. The City of Monterey has not authorized additional water to the Site. When the Jurisdiction is opposed to assigning water to a property, the business cannot obtain a Water Permit. Further, the ongoing lack of available water is a hardship experienced by many property owners and prospective businesses within the District. Finally, staff believes granting a variance would create an unfair precedent and would be in violation of District Rules 20, 23, and 24.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Davi approached the District in December 2016 regarding a proposed tenant "Tea Zone & Fruit Bar" for his Group I space. The business was described as a juice bar with smoothies and tea. After reviewing information about other Tea Zone locations, including a visit to a Tea Zone & Fruit Bar location in the San Jose area, staff determined use was Group II and would require water from the City of Monterey's Allocation before a Water Permit could be issued.

The difficulty in finding tenants for Group I commercial space is not unique to 458-460 Alvarado Street. It's a problem pervasive due to the area's lack of water, the Cease and Desist Order against California-American Water Company, and store-based retailers versus e-commerce, etc. This situation is commonplace among property owners and potential tenants, especially in the Cities of Monterey and Pacific Grove where there is no water available from Water Entitlements or Allocations. The problem is so significant that the Monterey County Weekly published an article on January 11, 2018, highlighting the lack of available Group II spaces, with as many as 17 businesses applying for one vacant Group II location (Exhibit 11-F).

The ongoing water supply shortage on the Peninsula has severely limited the ability of both property owners and potential tenants to find a location with enough available onsite water to conduct business. In adopting Option V of the Water Allocation Program EIR in 1991, the Board made a finding to allocate only water that presently exists. Most Jurisdictions have previously allocated their water, leaving little for potential development. A small quantity of water remains in the City of Monterey's Allocation and is distributed periodically at its discretion.

EXHIBITS

- 11-A** Application for Variance
- 11-B** Draft Findings of Denial
- 11-C** District Rule 20, Permits Required
- 11-D** District Rule 23, Action on an Application for a Water Permit
- 11-E** District Rule 24, Table 2, Non-Residential Water Use Factors
- 11-F** Monterey County Weekly January 11, 2018 article "*Cachagua General Store, Pig Wizard and Katie's Cold Press Fight to Find a Place to Serve People*"

U:\staff\Boardpacket\2018\20180222\PublicHrngs\11\Item-11.docx

[1]. "Special Circumstances" are defined as unusual, uncommon, peculiar, unique or rare situations that require Board consideration.

[2]. "Undue Hardship" is a condition that exists when compliance with a rule, regulation or condition poses significant difficulty when considered in light of unique circumstances related to the application.



September 11, 2020

The Honorable Steve Padilla, Chair, and Members
John Ainsworth, Executive Director
Tom Luster, Senior Environmental Scientist
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Ste. 2000
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Chair Padilla, and Honorable Coastal Commissioners,

Since 1978, The Cannery Row Company has promoted and encouraged visitation to and appreciation of the California coastline. For approximately the same amount of time, futile endeavors to solve our water supply problem have prolonged the disruption of the Carmel River and now the impending breach the CDO.

The community came together to adopt a three prong approach in creating a resilient and environmentally sensitive solution to our water needs. Desal is a critical component of that solution and ensuring continued compliance with the State Water Resources Control Agency's Cease and Desist Order. Approval of Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project will protect and promote the Monterey Peninsula's economy by providing a path for lifting the moratorium on new service connections for the first time since 2010, benefiting the economy and recovery of the tourism industry, the main economic driver for the Monterey area, providing an opportunity for new housing and to pursue the State's goals of shared prosperity and economic inclusion that cannot be achieved otherwise.

The draconian measures that would be triggered by a violation of the CDO will severely impact the Monterey Peninsula's economic future and all efforts of moving California forward for all.

We strongly encourage you to grant the coastal development permit and allow the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project to proceed and ensure economic vitality and equitable opportunities for all community members on the Monterey Peninsula.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theodore Balestreri II".

Theodore Balestreri II
VP Hospitality Operations

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit**Jerry Edelen <jeryedel71@gmail.com>**

Fri 9/11/2020 8:20 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

I am Jerry Edelen, one of the Founding Mayors of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority.

The Authority was formed 7 years ago by the 5 mayors of the Monterey Peninsula to secure a permanent source of water for the Monterey Peninsula by building a Desalination Plant which would be our last chance to avoid a water catastrophe.

CAL AM was chosen to build the Desal Plant; and the Authority and Cal-Am asked the State Water Resources Control Board for permission to use open water intakes. The Board ruled that we could not and that instead, we had to try slant wells, even though these wells:

Had never been done before,

Were more expensive,

And by their very nature, processed brackish water rather than fresh sea water.

Despite all odds, CAL-AM was successful in building a slant well. However, now, because brackish water rather than sea water is being processed, there is a movement to shut this program down.

This is patently unfair. Millions of dollars and years have been spent being forced to comply with the orders of one State Board, only to have the possibility of another State Commission destroy all that effort.

Please allow the Monterey Peninsula to solve its water shortage once and for all by approving this project. It is our last chance.

Thank you for your consideration.

(signed)

--

Jerry B. Edelen,
75 Carlton Place
Del Rey Oaks, CA
(831) 269-9250 (cell)

September 11, 2020

Via Email: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov
Honorable Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
45 Fremont, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105- 2219

Re: Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners:

As a resident of the Monterey Peninsula I want to express my strong support for the California American Water desalination plant. It seems we have been living with a severely strained water supply forever.

There have been numerous attempts to provide our Peninsula with a new water supply and for one reason or another they all were stopped. Cal Am's desalination plant is long term answer to a water supply we so desperately need.

It is my understanding that the State is promoting water supply solutions that use what I believe is called a portfolio approach to a sustainable long-term water supply. It seems to me the Monterey Peninsula could be the perfect example of supporting our States goal.

With the Desalination plant we will have three separate sources of water including; 1) Aquifer Storage and Recovery; 2) Pure Water Monterey's re-cycled water project; 3) Cal Am's desalination plant. This is the time to finally let our Peninsula take control of it's water future and give us a diverse water supply we can depend on.

Please support California American Water's permit request that is before you.

Respectfully,



Elizabeth P. Williams
3537 Trevis Way
Carmel, CA 93923
831-595-2060
docnw@aol.com

Coalition of Peninsula Businesses
A coalition to resolve the Peninsula water challenge to
comply with the CDO at a reasonable cost

*Members Include: Monterey County Hospitality Association, Monterey Commercial Property Owners' Association,
Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, Carmel Chamber of Commerce, Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce,
Monterey County Association of Realtors, Associated General Contractors-Monterey Division,
Pebble Beach Co., Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula*

September 10, 2020

The Honorable Steve Padilla, Chair, and Members
John Ainsworth, Executive Director
Tom Luster, Senior Environmental Scientist
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Ste. 2000
San Francisco, California 94105

Transmitted by fax to 415-904-5400, email to John.Ainsworth@coastal.ca.gov,
Tom.Luster@coastal.ca.gov and CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Re: Application No. 9-19-0918 and Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034(Monterey Peninsula Water
Supply Project - MPWSP)

Dear Chair Padilla, Honorable Coastal Commission Members, and gentlemen:

The Coalition of Peninsula Businesses shares the Commission's goal of bringing the public to the Monterey Peninsula to enjoy the ocean and the beautiful coast. This depends on sufficient water for coastal accommodations and workforce housing.

The Coalition of Peninsula Businesses (CPB) urges you to consider the following facts and evidence in making your decision. We urge you to allow the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project - a much-needed sufficient water supply project - to go forward.

Only six years ago, you unanimously approved a permit for a test well for this project in order to judge whether slant wells - requested by you - would be feasible. The Coalition and many others - including, importantly, Marina Mayor Bruce Delgado - wrote you in support of the test well.

Pure Water Monterey Expansion (PWME) is not likely ever to be built - there is a serious dispute about whether there is source water for processing and the Monterey One Water (M1W) Board has declined to certify the project Supplemental Environmental Impact Report. Even if it is constructed, there is no reason to believe it will produce water at the level expected or whether the water production, even if consistently achieved, would be sufficient to satisfy demand. PWME is not a feasible alternative to desal.

The water supply/water demand numbers in the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) report (*Supply and Demand for Water on the Monterey Peninsula*) have been questioned and contradicted by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), two agencies with the expertise and the authority to judge those numbers. The Coalition's analysis shared with you on June 17th and June 19th demonstrates that the MPWMD report numbers themselves indicate that without desal there is not sufficient water to meet Peninsula demand.

- All water supply sources in the report are assumed to operate at maximum capacity, 100% of the time, which is extremely unlikely.
- Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) has only reached the capacity anticipated twice in the past 15 years. There is no reason to believe that it will ever reach that production figure year-in and year-out. Its average production is half of the max amount assumed in the MPWMD report.
- Pure Water Monterey (PWM) is underperforming and over a year behind schedule. Its current production is less than two thirds of what was anticipated. (3500afa committed v current production of 2300afa). It's extremely risky to assume its longer-term performance will be trouble free, as is assumed in the report.

If the community is to go forward without desal and the alternative projects favored in the staff report continue to falter, Cal Am will be left with no option but to violate the CDO by exceeding pumping limits on the Carmel River and to over-pump the Seaside Basin. Without desal, there is no assurance as to short or long-term water supply sustainability or sufficiency.

It's important for the Commission to also understand some of the local political backdrop that in our assessment has influenced the position of those who claim a desal solution isn't needed:

- ✓ A ballot measure - Measure J - passed in 2018, required MPWMD to analyze the 'feasibility' of buying all of Cal Am assets (i.e. buying out Cal Am). Measure J passed with the campaign promise that buying out Cal Am would make water cheaper.
- ✓ Unfortunately, Measure J created a mandate for MPWMD to make the purchase price of Cal Am as low as possible, which means eliminating a desal plant from the price. It's our belief that the scenario presented to you in which the Peninsula's water supply would be adequate for years without desal – is designed to further this goal.

The widely supported three-legged stool (a portfolio of projects) approach to our water supply problem would provide critically needed redundancy and sufficiency and there is no reason to abandon these sound principals now. The fact that PWM combined with PWME does not provide sufficient water is reason enough to reject PWME as a substitute for desal.

The staff report expresses concern about litigation - but not does not disclose that almost all the litigation was filed by one entity – Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) - that lost every single case that has been decided.

Claims of harm to Marina drinking water and the Marina aquifer ignore all the evidence, including the Coastal Commission's own study, that show no harm occurs (the Commission's report indicates the desal project would have 'limited to negligible effects' - see report summary at page 4).

Marina and Marina Coast Water District were offered numerous opportunities to participate in crafting the project, including the return water agreement, and consistently refused to engage. The damage done to Castroville if the desal plant and the return water agreement are not realized will be enormous.

For all the reasons outlined above, please grant the Coastal Development Permit necessary to allow this water supply project to proceed. Please allow this closure to the Monterey Peninsula's four decades of agonizing attempts to solve its water supply problem and four decades-long attempt to stop the environmental damage to the Carmel River.

Sincerely,



Jeff Davi, Co-chair



John Tilley, Co-chair

Arleen Hardenstein
2281 Prescott Ave.
Monterey, CA 93940
October 17, 2019

Via Email: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Hon. Chair Steve Padilla and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
45 Fremont, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105- 2219

Re: Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Hon. Chair Padilla and Commissioners:

As a lifelong resident of the Monterey Peninsula I wish to express my **strong support** for the desalination plant that will be constructed by California American Water. Our Peninsula continues to suffer a water shortage, and a building moratorium for far too long. I have lived through many cycles of drought on this Peninsula, including the cycle that forced us to go into water rationing in the 70's. This desal plant is the opportunity to give our Peninsula a consistent water supply that we can rely on.

The desalination plant along with Pure Water Monterey's recycled water project, and aquifer storage and recovery will give us a drought resistant, sustainable water supply. From what I read the state strongly supports this approach and that is exactly what should happen.

The desalination project is the only part of the portfolio that is drought resistant. The desal plant will perhaps make it possible to finally build the housing we need to support our firefighters, teachers, and other workers by lifting the moratorium we have been living under since 2010.

There is no doubt that our weather patterns are only going to become dryer and warmer. This causes great concern with the sustainability of the new recycled water project. If our global warming conditions continue to accelerate at the rapid pace we've been seeing, Pure Water Monterey may not have a water source to recycle from in a few years.

Please support California American Water's permit request that is before you. It is the **ONLY RIGHT** thing to do for the Monterey Peninsula communities that have been working towards this goal for the last 10 years. **Vote yes – in support of the Desal project.**

Respectfully,



Arleen Hardenstein

Shanee Barker
1367 Harding Street
Seaside, CA 93955

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

Please support and approve California American Water's permit request that is before you.

The desalination project is the only part of the Monterey Peninsula water portfolio that is drought resistant. The desal plant will make it possible for business to recover from the Covid-19 disaster, public officials to make smart land use decisions and communities to build the housing we need to support our firefighters, teachers, and other workers by lifting the moratorium we have been living under since 2010.

New data suggests that Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) may never produce more than the current five-year average of 1,164 acre feet or that the Pure Water Monterey main project is behind, over budget, and may never produce more than 2/3rds of the water projected, demonstrates the necessity and overwhelming need for an operating desalination project now, not ten years from now.

I am asking as a mother of young children, so their future may be free from the water rationing that took place on the Monterey Peninsula in the 1970's. I am asking as a peer of other young adults who are effortlessly trying to gain economic opportunity in the region that currently has no drought resistant and sustainable water source, stretched thin workforce and no path forward for affordable housing.

Please do what is best for the next generation and approve the California American Water permit request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shanee Barker', written in a cursive style.

Shanee Barker

Tommy Barker
1367 Harding Street
Seaside, CA 93955

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

Please support and approve California American Water's permit request that is before you.

The desalination project is the only part of the Monterey Peninsula water portfolio that is drought resistant. The desal plant will make it possible for business to recover from the Covid-19 disaster, public officials to make smart land use decisions and communities to build the housing we need to support our firefighters, teachers, and other workers by lifting the moratorium we have been living under since 2010.

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I am asking as a parent of young children, so their future may be free from the water rationing that took place on the Monterey peninsula in the 1970's. I am asking as a peer of other young adults who are effortlessly trying to gain economic opportunity in the region that currently has no drought resistant and sustainable water source, stretched thin workforce and no path forward for affordable housing.

Please do what is best for the next generation and approve the California American Water permit request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tommy Barker', written over a horizontal line.

Tommy Barker

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Mary Skipwith <runmaryrun2@yahoo.com>

Fri 9/11/2020 7:07 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

Mary Skipwith
308 17th Street
Pacific Grove

VIA EMAIL

September 11, 2020

California Coastal Commission

Re: Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

I am writing to you as a former City Councilmember of the City of Pacific Grove, former boardmember of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and a local resident and business owner.

As a member of this community both personally and professionally, I can attest from personal experience that our community needs a new and RELIABLE water source. In order to fulfill the State Order to stop taking water from the Carmel River and in order to address other environmental concerns, a well thought out desal project that is designed to be as environmentally sensitive as possible is the best solution for our region.

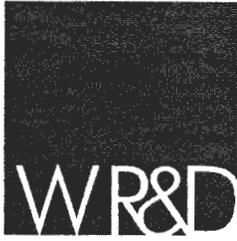
Do not be swayed by a very vocal but *small* portion of our community who wish to use access to water as a means of preventing growth or other development. We have our local governments and agencies to control the direction of our development. We need access to water for our basic needs and for our community's ability to support jobs, housing and economic recovery. This is the project that a majority of our community supports.

Please approve the Cal Am Desal Project Permit. WE NEED A LOCAL, RELIABLE, DROUGHT-PROOF WATER SUPPLY. Our recycled water project is an important addition to our "suite of solutions" but is it NOT a permanent replacement source for river water.

The Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project is the only project that will solve the decades long water shortage for our local community

Please approve the Cal-Am Desal Permit.

Sincerely,
Michelle Knight, PhD.
1691 Sunset Drive, Pacific Grove, CA 93950



WALD RUHNKE & DOST
ARCHITECTS LLP

2340 Garden Road
Suite 100
Monterey, CA
93940-5347
T: (831) 649-4642
F: (831) 649-3530
www.wrdarch.com

September 11, 2020

California Coastal Commission

Re: Appeal No. A-3MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Permit

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

I was disappointed to read Coastal Commission staff's claims regarding Environmental Justice and the desal project's disproportionate impacts on lower income communities. The reality is lower income families are unable to access water to add bathrooms, ADU's, develop their vacant properties, develop businesses within their communities and are too often hindered or prevented from development due to lack of available water supplies. Affordable housing, student housing and the like are also unable to develop due to a lack of water supply, which limits our housing supply and in turn forces higher rents regionally.

On the other hand, the wealthy in our communities benefit from being able to purchase water (Malposo and Orosco water) for expanding or developing their properties and in many instances have adequate land to drill wells or find other means to source water. There already is inequities in the way the water is distributed in our region. Development of a sustainable water supply is the solution to better balance these inequities.

After decades of proposals, research, reports, studies it is now time to get serious about solving our water problems for everyone. The only viable, reliable and ready to go project is the Cal Am desal project. Please approve this project so that we can begin providing water to everyone.

Sincerely,
Wald, Ruhnke & Dost Architects, LLP

Henry Ruhnke
Principal

Andrew Clarke
926 Angelus Way
Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940

September 10, 2020

Via Email: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Hon. Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
45 Fremont, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105- 2219

Re: Support for California American Water's Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project

Hon. Chair Bochco and Commissioners:

I am writing to urge you to approve the Coastal Development Permit for California American Water's Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (MPWSP) that is desperately needed to provide a long term solution to the Monterey peninsula. As a former member of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, I am very well aware of the water issues facing our community and what we need to do to get that resolve those issues.

The MPWSP is a critical part of the solution needed to answer to the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) 2009 Cease and Desist Order, which limits pumping from the Monterey Peninsula's primary water source, the Carmel River. This water project, in conjunction with the continued water conservation efforts of the Monterey peninsula will help us meet the SWRCB's requirement for a replacement water source to be on-line by December 31, 2021.

A lot of attention has been given to an alternate project, "Pure Water Monterey" which recently came on line with a limited replacement supply. As with any projects, the design production can vary widely from the actual capacity. The current design for the Pure Water Monterey project is that it can produce up to 3,500 acre feet of water per year. However, a number of technical issues have been encountered with the project and it is expected to only produce about 2,000 acre feet of water this year. A little over half of the design capacity. This project, as well as the proposed expansion, rely heavily on runoff capture to meet the design capacity. As we are all aware, when it does not rain, water does not flow and this will not meet the needs of our community.

Your approval of this project will help protect the Carmel River and will allow the Monterey Peninsula community to comply with state regulations. The community has come together to bring the Carmel River back to its former glory and protect all of the plants and animals that rely on that environment.

The project has been the subject of an extensive environmental review by state and federal agencies and was unanimously approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in

Andrew Clarke
926 Angelus Way
Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940

2018. This project is not without its opponents but has been exhaustively reviewed in the 13,000-page EIR/EIS and found to be in compliance with all laws and regulations. In fact, the California Supreme Court recently denied a parties petitions for writ of review of the CPUC's approval, upholding the EIR and the CPUC's decision.

The project has been designed in an environmentally-responsible manner. It utilizes a state-of-the-art subsurface intake well system and a commingled brine/wastewater discharge, a desalination technology that minimizes marine impacts and is preferred by the SWRCB, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and your agency. The project's subsurface intake wells will also be located on a disturbed former industrial site, reducing impacts to biological resources.

Without the approval of this Coastal Development permit, our community may face severe water restrictions, including possible water rationing, unless a long-term permanent replacement source is put in place. Our communities other water potential water supply projects, including the expansion of Pure Water Monterey, have not completed the required environmental review and has not been approved by the CPUC which is required for California American to integrate it into its water supply.

The timing of this approval is critical as failure to complete the project in timely manner would be harmful for the Monterey Peninsula community and the environment. The construction schedule for the project requires work begin as soon as possible in order to meet the Cease and Desist Order deadlines. Your review of this important project cannot be delayed.

My time serving on the MPWMD I worked very hard to get a new water supply online but was not successful. Approval of this project will help our community have the necessary water we need to provide economic opportunities that we have been held back from for the past 25 years. Our community has become the gold standard in the state in water conservation. However, given the already low water usage rate, conservation alone cannot replace the shortfall between California American's water supplies and anticipated future demands.

The benefits of the Project are clear. I ask that the you approve California American's application for a Coastal Development Permit at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,



Andrew Clarke

Walt Duflock
PO Box 82
San Ardo, CA 93450

Dear Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

My name is Walter Duflock and I am a fifth-generation family farmer from the Salinas Valley.

I am writing to urge you to support and approve the required Coastal Development Permit for California American Water's Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project.

The Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project is California American Water's answer to the State Water Resources Control Board's 2009 Cease and Desist Order, which limits pumping from the Monterey Peninsula's primary water source, the Carmel River, and requires a replacement water source be on-line by December 31, 2021.

Approval of this project will protect the Carmel River and its threatened species; and by providing a sustainable long-term water supply and alternative source to the river, will allow the Monterey Peninsula community to comply with state regulations.

The project has been the subject of an extensive, six-year environmental review by state and federal agencies and was unanimously approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in 2018. The objections you will hear raised by opponents, including water rights, groundwater impacts, environmental justice, community values and review of alternative projects were exhaustively reviewed in the 13,000-page EIR/EIS and ultimately dismissed. The California Supreme Court recently denied Marina's and Marina Coast Water District's petitions for writ of review of the CPUC's approval, upholding the EIR and the CPUC's decision.

The project has been designed in an environmentally-responsible manner. It utilizes a state-of-the-art subsurface intake well system and a commingled brine/wastewater discharge, a desalination technology that minimizes marine impacts and is preferred by the State Water Board, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and your agency. The project's subsurface intake wells will also be located on an already disturbed former industrial site, reducing impacts to biological resources.

Under the State Water Board's order to cease diversions from the Carmel River, Cal Am must ramp down its withdrawals from the River, which would result in severe water restrictions, including possible water rationing, unless a long-term permanent replacement source is put in place. The expansion of Pure Water Monterey has not completed CEQA review and was determined by the CPUC in its decision to approve the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project to be of inadequate size to meet the terms of the Cease and Desist Order and the long-term water demands of the Monterey Peninsula.

Failure to complete the project in timely manner would be harmful for the Monterey Peninsula community and the environment. The construction schedule for the project requires work begin as soon as possible in order to meet the Cease and Desist Order deadlines. Your review of this important project cannot be delayed.

Monterey County's future depends on additional investment in our water, transportation and housing infrastructure. Our community has faced stringent water supply restrictions that have necessitated drastic water conservation measures, prohibited new service connections and increases in existing water use, limited economic growth and severely limited opportunities for affordable housing in the region. We've seen a housing crisis emerge locally as students, workers and families struggle to find any housing, affordable or not. We understand that access to water is becoming more challenging and valuable, and this source would give us a new supply source that provides predictable and continuous access. This plant provides the best long-term solution to the Peninsula's water supply developing a stable, consistent and readily available water source.

Our water needs on the Monterey Peninsula will continue to grow regardless of housing development, business growth and hospitality demands. This last year has shown the instability that a changing climate adds to an already stressed amount of resources. We are not drought ready. We are not prepared with the proper degree of water storage. We do not have a modern water management plan. We are losing access to water and it is time to take a step in the correct direction towards a solution.

We need to find a solution to this problem. While some in our communities are staunch water conservationists, Monterey County's demand for water will only continue to rise. However, given the already low water usage rate, conservation alone cannot replace the shortfall between Cal Am's water supplies and anticipated future demands.

The benefits of the Project are clear. We ask that the Commission approve Cal Am's application for a Coastal Development Permit as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Walter Duflock

San Bernardo Rancho



SAGE
150 Main St #130
Salinas, CA 93901
September 11, 2020

Dear Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to support and approve the required Coastal Development Permit for California American Water's Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project.

The Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project is California American Water's answer to the State Water Resources Control Board's 2009 Cease and Desist Order, which limits pumping from the Monterey Peninsula's primary water source, the Carmel River, and requires a replacement water source be on-line by December 31, 2021.

Our Peninsula has struggled for decades to supply its constituents with desperately needed water. This Project is a key pillar of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project and without it we have at the very best a tenuous solution. This is the only Project that creates a reliable water source regardless of drought, limited wastewater flows and agricultural drain flows.

In the Salinas Valley, our wastewater flow is a potential water source for the future. Relying upon a solution which is predicated on the same or more wastewater being available in the future is a flawed and harmful perspective. At present, there is little to no chance that our flow will increase and a much stronger chance that in the future our farmers will need more of their wastewater.

Climate change and an evolving series of challenges to our ecosystem and society are more prevalent than ever. From the perspective of our Governor's office, the only option is to begin baking climate resiliency into our infrastructure planning. Climate Resiliency is shaping our state's infrastructure investment and planning. This is showcased by Governor Newsom's Water Resilience portfolio and its subsequent guidance. We support initiatives that help our communities respond to change. The State's guidance includes 'maintain and diversify water supplies,' 'build connections' and 'be prepared.' Setting a one project solution to the Peninsula's needs does not fulfill these suggestions. Further the document recommends the need to plan for prolonged droughts and "develop strategies to protect communities and fish and wildlife in the event of a drought lasting at least six years."

Approval of this project will protect the Carmel River and its threatened species; and by providing a sustainable long-term water supply and alternative source to the river, will allow the Monterey Peninsula community to comply with state regulations.

In addition to the environmental impact the Project would have, the social justice impact will potentially be even greater. As stated in the findings and reported on by the



Monterey Herald, “there’s a consensus among housing advocates and city housing staff that the moratorium on new water hookups is a significant factor in preventing more affordable housing to be built.” We understand that the expansion’s current supply and demand expectations for the needs of the Peninsula take into account the current number of hookups, not new hookups. We believe that our communities in Monterey County should and need to have the opportunity to live where they work.

Monterey County’s future depends on additional investment in our water, transportation and housing infrastructure. This future has only become more complicated as our industries, municipalities and constituents struggle from the COVID pandemic’s economic impact.

Our community has faced stringent water supply restrictions that have necessitated drastic water conservation measures, prohibited new service connections and increases in existing water use, limited economic growth and severely limited opportunities for affordable housing in the region. We’ve seen a housing crisis emerge locally as students, workers and families struggle to find any housing, affordable or not. We understand that access to water is becoming more challenging and valuable, yet this source would give us continuous access. This plant provides the best long-term solution to the Peninsula’s water supply developing a stable, consistent and readily available water source.

Failure to complete the project in timely manner would be harmful for the Monterey Peninsula community and the environment. The construction schedule for the project requires work begin as soon as possible in order to meet the Cease and Desist Order deadlines. Your review of this important project cannot be delayed.

We need to find a solution to this problem. While our communities have become staunch water conservationists, our needs will only continue to rise. However, given the already low water usage rate, conservation alone cannot replace the shortfall between Cal Am’s water supplies and anticipated future demands.

The benefits of the Project are clear. We ask that the Commission approve Cal Am’s application for a Coastal Development Permit at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

Joe Desmond SAGE
Executive Director



I support the CalAm Desal Plant

Karen Oneal <monterey2u@sbcglobal.net>

Fri 9/11/2020 6:22 AM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

The peninsula needs safe, secure water supply for generations. There are far too many flaws with the One Water project.

Karen O'Neal
Monterey Bay Renters Coalition
831-915-0750

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; APPROVE CAL AM DESAL PROJECT PERMIT (submitted Sep 10, 2020)

Tom Rowley <TomR2004@hotmail.com>

Fri 9/11/2020 6:12 AM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

Cc: Tom Rowley <TomR2004@hotmail.com>

TO: Honorable Chair Padilla & Commissioners,

INTRODUCTION: The Staff Report relies on inaccurate data and baseless propaganda for its analysis and conclusions. The permit request from CAW should be approved and construction of the critically needed desalination plant allowed to move forward ASAP based on the FACTS I've listed below:

- (1) Proposed Expansion of Pure Water Monterey (PWM EXP) is NOT feasible because reliable source waters for recycling are not currently available. NOTE: The Supplementary EIR for the PWM EXP was NOT approved by Monterey One Water ("Sewer Board") for sound environmental reasons, and furthermore comments submitted for the Sup EIR during its review reveal that an EIS is likely to be required under Federal Law (NEPA) to address discharge of harmful brine into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary from the proposed PWM EXP.
- (2) Existing Production of Recycled Water from Pure Water Monterey (PWM) is NOT reliable and cannot be counted on for annual MP water needs. NOTE: Currently a request is out for Contractor bids for an additional 1,000-foot injection well; please refer to Monterey County Herald legal notices 9/08/2020. Also, repeated under-estimation of true costs of the PWM project have been sounded by officials at the Sewer Board and MPWMD "since day one" of the Groundwater Recycling (GWR) proposal.
- (3) The MPWMD was created by a vote of Monterey Peninsula (MP) citizens in 1978, and by law -- it is only a water "management" agency -- it is NOT a land use authority like a City and County! NOTE: Under its current GM David Stoldt, the WMD has issued multiple "phony" water demand studies for the MP land use jurisdictions (Unincorporated areas of the MP + the Six Cities: Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel, Del Rey Oaks, Seaside, & Sand City) -- Please observe that All of these areas contain large groups of citizens from ALL socio-economic groups, but not one of these land use jurisdictions has approved the data in those studies; please refer to the water demand data contained in the EIR for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (MPWSP), which was approved unanimously by the CPUC in September 2018 after 6 + years of analysis by hydrological experts, including multiple years of production from a test slant well authorized by the CCC -- your Agency.
- (4) Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR) is NOT a guaranteed annual supply of potable water because it relies on injection of water from "excess" winter flows from the Carmel River. NOTE: Rainfall data from the 1840s to today reveals that "dry" years (less than 18 to 20 inches rainfall) occur in the Carmel Valley watershed in 7 of 10 years! (ASR is the second limited source of potable water in addition to the PWM discussed above.)
- (5) Alleged or Claimed Damage to the Water Supply of Marina is NOT based on facts, as proven per the exhaustive and comprehensive EIR/EIS for the MPWSP. NOTE: Repeated and blatant "propaganda" by groups like Public Water Now (PWN) and the MCWD claiming social injustice and alleged harm to MP citizens should be totally rejected by the Commission -- it is obvious to all MP citizens (& me) that have been monitoring the much delayed progress toward completion of all 3 components of the MPWSP that

this propaganda is totally bogus and that the CCC staff was "suckered" into believing harm when in fact the MPWSP will benefit ALL socio-economic groups on the MP!

(6) The ONLY WATER SUPPLY PROJECT that can provide a "long-term sustainable annual water supply" of potable water for all citizens and land use jurisdictions on the MP is from the proposed desalination plant. NOTE: ALL three components of the MPWSP (3-legged stool) are needed for back-up and to meet the annual water needs of the MP, including vital allocations to effect a recovery form the ongoing pandemic recession -- to include water for new / expanded small businesses (the back-bone of jobs on the MP separate from the hospitality industry) PLUS for all types of housing -- especially affordable low income housing and work force housing.

Finally, "Thank You" to all the Commissioners for your impartial and fair consideration of the facts I've stated above -- my statements are based on my personal observations during thousands of hours attending MPWMD and water-related meetings at the various Cities and Monterey County during my over 45 years residency on the MP. These statements do not necessarily reflect the comments or the opinions of the organizations I've listed below.

Tom Rowley, 2004 Marsala Circle, Monterey, CA 93940 / Home Office TEL during SIP: (831) 373-5204 / e: TomR2004@hotmail.com

Realtor / Property Manager / JD (CA DRE Lic # 975775), Mbr MB NM Sanctuary Advisory Council, Mbr CAR / MCAR, Mbr MPCC, Mbr MCHA, V-P MPTA, President Fishermen Flats HO's & Residents Association, and proud to be a new member of "H2O -- OUR FUTURE"

Via Email: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Sept. 10, 2020

Hon. Dayna Bochco, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
45 Fremont, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105- 2219

Re: Support for California American Water's Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project

Hon. Chair Bochco and Commissioners

Ensuring a long-term sustainable water supply has been the single most significant issue on the Monterey Peninsula for decades. I support the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project that will be before you in September, 2020.

As one who was born on the Peninsula and has lived most of my life here, I have experienced this first hand, through droughts and water rationing. My family was among the tens of thousands of local residents who experienced mandatory water rationing as far back to the mid-1970's through early 1978 and again from 1989 to 1991. There have been many other limitations on water usage that adversely affect our community.

After a long career in law enforcement, I was elected to the Monterey City Council in 2014 and again last year I was re-elected by my community. As I walked throughout Monterey's neighborhoods during campaigns I spoke with residents and businesspeople alike, and a constant theme about long-term water solutions registered with me. There is widespread unhappiness about water restrictions that impact my residents and we, as the Monterey Community need a reasonable Desal solution which has been studied to death and past the highest environmental hurdles. I still hear about how my community is desperate for a sustainable solution that can be counted on to improve lives and help support jobs. This is the closest we've come and this is the best opportunity to bring a reasonable solution, please don't disappoint us. We need housing and without the desal supply we fail further behind.

As a five-year member of the Monterey City Council, I serve on various regional boards and hear countless times from residents – those from cities and from unincorporated areas – that their inability to obtain a new water meter or a permit for a change or business improvement has been far more than an inconvenience. It has handicapped people in their day-to-day lives and prevented them from improving their homes or employ more people and improve our community. For many, it has meant being unable for decades to add a bathroom for a growing family, expand a business and make it more viable, or create more much needed housing and jobs.

Commercial buildings, which formerly housed vibrant businesses, stand vacant because through the years adaptation of commercial locations is necessary and expected. Without the desal component of the Monterey Water Project there is no long-term improvement that is guaranteed to be sustainable. A reasonably sized Desal supply from the Pacific Ocean provides what my community needs. Some buildings have been vacant for many years, and empty lots remain that way because water meter permits cannot be obtained.

There have been countless studies and investigations concerning water usage and how to achieve the best solution, but no community consensus has ever been reached; there are too many opinions. There have been many divergent proposals by well-meaning and dedicated people and you'll hear of some that have already been considered and deemed not sustainable. Doesn't the examination and carefully evaluated project, through the California Water Resources count for something after all these years of study. The only agreement is that a remedy is needed, now more than ever.

What you now have before you, I believe, is the best opportunity to resolve this vital matter through the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project, which offers a three-pronged portfolio:

- Desalination, using subsurface technology as directed by the California Coastal Commission
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), which is when "excess" Carmel River winter flows, under state and federal oversight, are treated and transmitted to wells in the Seaside Groundwater Basin.
- Sewage Treatment, another part of the solution.

The Monterey Water Project would ensure a strong, viable, and, more importantly, much-needed source of new water. But, without an approved desalination plant the statement of long-term sustainability rings hollow. Desalination coupled with the other design elements is essential to the Monterey region's long-term water needs. With a three-pronged portfolio our total system would truly be sustainable! Rain, ASR and the Carmel Valley River can not bring us to a complete and sustainable supply system.

This project has been carefully scrutinized and studied in a six-year environmental review conducted by state and federal agencies. The California Public Utilities Commission has approved it unanimously. Mitigation measures were imposed to reduce the project's environmental impacts as much as possible. The Monterey Water Project is environmentally responsible and includes leaving additional water in the Carmel River to protect and preserve fish, a longstanding issue. It would abide by the State Water Resources Board's order to halt diversions from the Carmel River and it would replace water supplies in the Monterey District which includes many of our neighboring cities.

If we don't allow this much-needed water supply project the greater Monterey Peninsula and the environment will suffer. Those who live within the Monterey District have been diligent in reducing their water usage. However, more is needed than these self-imposed

restrictions. History has taught us rain is infrequent and storage is limited. The desal aspect enables the region to create the storage solution through the ASR system to enable a healthier Seaside Aquifer under appropriate scrutiny. Without the desal project the water supply will fall very much short of the water demand. The Monterey Water Project would allow for the lifting of the moratorium, in effect for the past nine years, and a moderate amount of new service connections. Our economy would be bolstered, additional jobs created, and a path would be established for new and much-needed housing, including low-cost housing and Accessory Dwelling Units, (ADU's). All of these require more water.

As an elected official, I have a duty to seek more affordable housing for the residents of Monterey and the greater Peninsula. Without the Monterey Water Project this is impossible. Give us the ability to start saying YES to smart and reasonable projects for our community. The City of Monterey's General Plan calls for additional housing, and state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation, (RHNA) require it. Without new meters and water supplied by the three-prong portfolio approach new housing here is illusive.

I ask that the members of the Coastal Commission approve California American Water's application for a Coastal Development Permit in a timely fashion.

In *East of Eden*, John Steinbeck, writes about the neighboring Salinas Valley, which has had its own water concerns, penned these words:

And it never failed that during the dry years the people forgot about the rich years, and during the wet years they lost all memory of the dry years. It was always that way.

Through the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project that is before you, it no longer has to be that way.

Please know that this is exceedingly critical for the City of Monterey and the entire Peninsula and I ask that you approve the Monterey Peninsula Water Project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ed Smith

Councilmember City of Monterey
(831) 601-5013

City of Monterey
580 Pacific Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Carol Duncan
Carmel Valley Village

September 15, 2020

Via Email: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Hon. Chair Steve Padilla and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
45 Fremont, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105- 2219

Re: Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Hon. Chair Padilla and Commissioners:

As a resident of the Monterey Peninsula I wish to express my strong support for the desalination plant that will be constructed by California American Water. Our Peninsula continues to suffer a water shortage, and a building moratorium for far too long. For generations, we have kicked the can down the road, only increasing costs to the community. Now the California state mandate to add ADU's is not possible with no new water available, businesses struggle to find spaces with adequate water, homeowners are unable to remodel or update, and vacant lots sit unimproved when there is dire need for more housing.

The desal plant will make it possible for business to recover from the Covid-19 disaster, public officials to make smart land use decisions and communities to build the housing we need to support our firefighters, teachers, and other workers by lifting the moratorium we have been living under since 2010.

Please support and approve California American Water's permit request that is before you.

Respectfully,

Carol Duncan

Bart J. Bruno
Post Office Box 545, Pebble Beach, CA 93953

September 10, 2020

California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project

Chair Padilla and Members of the Commission,

I am once again writing in support of Cal-Am's proposed desalination plant in Marina. The completion of this water supply project is very important for our community.

I serve as a Director of the Del Monte Forest Property Owners Association (DMFPOA) and as a member of Land Use Advisory Committee for the Pebble Beach area. I serve on the Pebble Beach Architectural Review Board and on the DMFPOA's Equestrian & Hiking Trails and the Roads & Traffic committees. Professionally, I am a registered Civil Engineer.

My volunteer involvement in the community makes me keenly aware of the issues surrounding our community's water supply. Without exaggeration, I can say that every facet of life on the Monterey Peninsula is affected by our limited water supply. It should not be this way. The time has come to fully address this basic resource need for current and future generations.

There is a critical need for workforce housing in our community. The lack of workforce housing and traffic congestion is intertwined. It is impossible to address this need without an adequate water supply. Completion of the proposed desalination plant will finally allow the peninsula to begin to address these problems. Pebble Beach was able to complete a much needed workforce housing project but only because it had an independent water source. That sort of opportunity is not available to other communities on the peninsula because of the lack of water supply.

We need the desalination plant that is being proposed. Some are saying that it is too big. Nonsense. To argue that other projects could address our needs is shortsighted. These alternatives will not produce enough water to address both current and future demand. We have to look beyond today.

Please approve the coastal development permit so that the building of the desalination plant can proceed.

Sincerely,



Bart J. Bruno

via email, CalAmMonterey@Coastal.Ca.Gov



Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association
PO Box 15 – Monterey – CA – 93942
Established 1965

September 10, 2020

Hon. Steve Padilla, Chair & Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
455 Market St, Ste 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034, Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Dear Chair Padilla & Commissioners:

The Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association was formed in 1965 to advocate for the interests of taxpayers on the Monterey Peninsula in combating an attempt to purchase the local water agency. We have remained active in water issues to this day, we are not a *johnny come lately*.

We read with dismay the staff report. They are recommending denial based on what they claim is an environmentally superior alternative. Their analysis is fundamentally flawed. The staff chose to ignore multiple sister agencies as well as the agency who is responsible for that alternative. They ignored:

California Public Utilities Commission – They reviewed all viable alternatives and certified the EIR/EIS for the Monterey Water Project. After exhaustive hearings they set the amount of required to satisfy the Cease and Desist Order and have ruled that the proposed Pure Water Monterey Expansion does not provide enough water.

State Water Resources Control Board – Their order reducing pumping from the Carmel River demands construction of Cal Am's desal plant and they have stated that the demand analysis and information provided on the potential to expand Pure Water Monterey does nothing to change that.

Cal EPA – Jared Blumenfeld the Secretary for Environmental Protection recently addressed the Commission and indicated that the Monterey Water Project is the only project which will rejuvenate the Carmel River.

Monterey One Water – They are the body running the Pure Water Monterey project, they declined to certify the Pure Water Monterey Expansion project in large part due to the lack of water for the project. All water proposed for the project comes from outside

the Monterey Peninsula from the Salinas Valley which has its own major water problems and will need this water. Needless to say, the Salinas Valley is adamantly against this water coming to the Peninsula.

Instead of listening to the above agencies, the Coastal Commission Staff based their recommendation on comments made from two agencies whose credibility is suspect at best.

City of Marina & Marina Coast Water District – Marina was offered a seat at the table to receive the return water from the project early on but declined. They have done everything in their power to try to kill the project. They have filed 10 lawsuits questioning the legality of a multitude of issues and have **lost every one** of those that have been decided.

Monterey Peninsula Water Management District – Up until about a month ago they had been officially on record as supporting the Desal Project. They were active participants before the CPUC and SWRCB in determining the mix of projects as well as the water needs. Now for political reasons they have abandoned their mission of augmenting the water supply and have decided to become a land use agency. They have no legal basis for involvement in land use issues. Determining water demand is the purview of the Cities and County. The City Managers of all Peninsula Cities do not agree with the District's water demand numbers and the Districts numbers do not take into account State ADU mandates or water for affordable housing.

In short, the only project which provides for a sustainable long-term water supply for the Monterey Peninsula is the Desal project.

The Desal project is the only project which will satisfy the terms of the Cease and Desist Order.

The Pure Water Monterey project (original phase) is woefully behind schedule and grossly over budget and has not been proven to be viable yet staff suggests expansion of this project is a better alternative.

If the Desal project is not approved, the Monterey Peninsula will run foul of the Cease and Desist Order in Fall of 2021 which will result in a 40% cut back in water use and there are not currently any viable alternatives.

We urge you to APPROVE the Cal Am Desal Project Permit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Heuer', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Rick Heuer
President

Cypress Pacific Investors, LLC

Post Office Box 400, Marina, CA 93933

September 9, 2020

California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Via Email - CalAmMonterey@Coastal.Ca.Gov

Re: Support for Cal-Am's Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project

Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the desalination plant in Marina and ask that you approve the Coastal Development Permit. It is a much needed solution that will benefit the community beyond just providing water.

Almost daily, the issue of affordable housing is in the news. Governor Gavin Newsom has been very vocal about this and has signed bills that will help to compel the cities to tackle the lack of affordable housing. The issue of water and housing go hand-in-hand on the Monterey Peninsula. Lack of a water supply has exasperated the housing supply shortage.

For nearly 20 years, Cypress Pacific Investors, LLC, has developed in-fill housing units in the City of Marina and on the Monterey Peninsula. Many of our units are affordable by design. We have built homes with accessory dwelling units (ADU's) long before it became the "innovative" option to add much needed housing in California. Developing affordable workforce housing is something we know a lot about.

The Monterey Peninsula has fallen behind on meeting their state mandated housing goals. Even small infill projects cannot proceed due to the lack of water. The need for more workforce housing is very apparent every morning as the highway is clogged with people trying to commute to work on the peninsula. Other nearby cities, especially Marina, should not have to make up the peninsula's shortfall. Approval of the desalination plant will put us on a path towards solving this problem.

Please don't be distracted by those who point to an expansion of the recycled water project as an adequate solution. To try to make their argument work, they claim that the demand for water has been overstated. It has not. In fact, the current demand figures do not take into account the demand that will be created by the trend towards developing ADU's. We probably will need more water; definitely not less.

Please approve the coastal development permit so that the building of the desalination plant can proceed.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Taormina
Managing Member



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& TOURIST CENTERS

September 10th, 2020

Hon. Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Hon. Chair Padilla and Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of 400 Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce Members and our Board of Directors to urge you to support and approve the required Coastal Development Permit for California American Water's Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project.

The Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project is our community's desperately needed solution to the State Water Resources Control Board's 2009 Cease and Desist Order, which strongly limits pumping from the Monterey Peninsula's primary water source, the Carmel River. Under the order, Cal Am must ramp down its withdrawals from the River to no more than 3,376 AF annually.

In their review of the project, the California Public Utilities Commission noted that average water demand for our community is 12,270 AF annually, without considering the need for extra water to facilitate economic growth, municipal general plan buildouts and development of vacant legal lots of record, among other needs. Hence the project application sized the project at 14,275 AF per year, to allow room to meet anticipated future water demand. Without approval of this project, at 14,275 AF, our community would be subject to severe water restrictions and strangled economic growth, including possible water rationing, unless a long-term permanent replacement supply begins delivering by December 31, 2021 under the timeline imposed by the State's Cease and Desist order.

A Pure Water Monterey Expansion Project that excludes a desal plant leaves our community with insufficient water, providing little over 11,000 acre feet per year, right at the edge of Staff's projected demand. But Staff's supply numbers assume that 1,300 acre feet will always be available from Aquifer Storage and Recovery. In the past 15 years, that full amount has been available only twice. The average is less than 700 acre feet annually, and in years of drought, zero water from ASR has been available. If ASR



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& TOURIST CENTERS

supplies are reduced in times of drought, which is inevitable given historical trends and the increasingly relevant effects of climate change regionally, the Peninsula will not have enough water to meet demand. The Pure Water Monterey Expansion Project therefore leaves us in our current situation, and will only exacerbate conditions of highly suppressed demand, a moratorium on all new water connections, no new development, and the possibility of continued illegal diversions in times of drought, or if any existing water supply, such as ASR, falls short. We cannot afford continued uncertainty over our water supply.

Furthermore, the ongoing coronavirus pandemic has made our business community and many of our residents severely economically vulnerable. The economic damage of the current crisis may persist for years, having a certain and reliable water supply will allow our business community to stabilize itself economically, both now and long after the current crisis is over. Finally, at a time when all ratepayers must pay for water using increasingly smaller budgets due to drops in business and operating income, a long-term reliable supply that our community can depend on is needed now more than ever. The objections you will hear raised by opponents, including water rights, groundwater impacts, environmental justice, community values and review of alternative projects were exhaustively reviewed in their 13,000-page EIR/EIS and ultimately dismissed.

For years, our community has faced stringent water supply restrictions that have necessitated drastic water conservation measures, prohibited new service connections and increases in existing water use, limited economic growth and severely limited opportunities for affordable housing in the region. Faced with these constraints, local businesses and residents have become leaders in the state in water conservation. However, given the already low water usage rate, conservation alone cannot replace the shortfall between Cal Am's water supplies and anticipated future demands. The benefits of the Project are clear. We ask that the Commission approve Cal Am's application for a Coastal Development Permit. After decades of struggle over water, our community needs to be able to put this issue behind us for the long-term.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Moe Ammar".

Moe Ammar
President, Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Alexander Gray <alexanderjgray@comcast.net>

Thu 9/10/2020 9:41 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

Cc: Pat Gray <pat@patgrayincolor.com>

Alexander & Patricia Gray

40 Ford Road

Carmel Valley, CA 93924-9509

We are also owners of a rental property:

23435 Telerana Way

Carmel, CA 93923

We would like to **strenuously** object to the Coastal Commission staff's recommendation to deny the CalAm permit application for the proposed desal plant.

Local leaders and CalAm have worked for decades to ensure a reliable source of water for the Monterey Peninsula and its associated communities. The proposed desal plant does exactly that, even in years of extreme drought, which climate change makes more likely moving forward. While we are no fans of CalAm, we genuinely believe that the Peninsula needs this desal project and that CalAm has done everything conceivable to demonstrate the project's justification and environmental sustainability, demonstrated yet again with the slant-well test results.

This has led to approvals and up to and including the CPUC, and success prevailing against numerous and ill-considered lawsuits. Now, at the 11th hour, will the CCC staff really derail this critical project over illusory environmental concerns? Will not a desal plant be better than the existing cement plant? How many times do we really need to question previous environmental studies and re-litigate old lawsuits?

And should not property values and the continued economic vitality of the Monterey Peninsula region be part of the decision making process? We believe that is certainly the case and that Commission staff has ignored this consideration and therefore failed to make a prudent and balanced decision.

Please vote to approve this desperately needed project.

Respectfully,

-- **Alexander and Patricia Gray**

-- **510-593-6509 and 650-417-5902**

support desal plant

wwiggwam@aol.com <wwiggwam@aol.com>

Thu 9/10/2020 9:22 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

Please support Cal -Am's Desal Plant for the Monterey Peninsula!

Cornelius and Amy Wigg
50+ year residents and property owners
8 Greenock PI
Del Rey oaks, CA 93940

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approval of Cal-Am Desal Project Permit

Fred Meurer <meurer@meurermuni.com>

Thu 9/10/2020 8:53 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

Honorable Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners

California Coastal Commission

Attn: Tom Luster

455 Market Street, Suite 300

San Francisco, Ca. 94105

Subject: Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approval of Cal-Am Desal Project Permit

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to reject the staff recommendation and APPROVE the coastal development permit for California American Water's Monterey Peninsula Supply Project

My name is Mary Ann Carbone. I am the Mayor of Sand City and have City Council authority to speak in favor of the Cal Am coastal permit application. The desalination plant is essential to the Peninsula developing a portfolio of water supply projects that offer a mix of sources and capacities that would be resilient to drought, mechanical failure and necessary maintenance. The portfolio consists of our small Sand City desalination plant, Carmel River Groundwater; Aquifer Storage and Recovery; the Pure Water Monterey sewage reclamation; and, the key Cal Am desalination plant. This portfolio would be cost effective and would be adequate for meeting the member agencies' general plans and housing needs.

The portfolio concept was developed by the Monterey Peninsula Water Authority made up of the Mayors of the 6 Peninsula Cities. This Agency was created by the Mayors after the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District failed to develop a water supply system to meet the regions needs and after the desalination project development that was put together with Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) failed. This failure occurred after Marina Coast could not meet its contractual requirements. The portfolio concept was developed through extensive public outreach and public hearings held by the Authority, technical analysis and rigorous review by all of the Federal and State Agencies with oversight.

If you follow your staff's recommendation, the Peninsula will be sentenced to another decade of water poverty. Our region has failed to agree on a water supply to replace our draw on the Carmel River watershed since 1977. Sand City built its own desalination plant to be sure we could serve the needs of our community, but the whole Peninsula must be

economically vibrant if any of us are going to have successful communities. We are all tied together.

The lack of adequate water has deprived our region of an adequate supply of housing for all but the rich. This is the ultimate **social injustice** to the poor, the working poor and the middle class. The result of not having enough water and adequate affordable housing can be seen in the number of schools on the Peninsula that have been shuttered. This has happened due to the lack of housing being developed to meet the needs of our workforce in hospitality, education and public agencies.

Your staff is also justifying denial of desalination in favor of a potential project called Pure Water Monterey Expansion that does NOT have an approved environmental document. I am a member of the Monterey1Water Board. I voted with the Board majority to deny certification of the Expansion Project environmental document because it did not adequately address issues raised by NOAA, the City of Salinas, and the Monterey County Water Resource Agency. Even if certified and built, the proposed project would provide adequate water and would discontinue the Peninsula's water poverty and the injustice that goes with it. Also, it relies on a source water supply that the Salinas Valley needs for meeting its requirements under the State Groundwater Sustainability Act and fails to provide the overall drought protection and reliability the portfolio concept offers.

I am also a member of the Seaside Basin Water Master Board. Our Chairman has outlined the damage that would be done to the Seaside Aquifer if the desalination project is denied. We cannot afford to risk seawater intrusion into the Seaside Basin due to a lack of supply.

Marina's claims of damage to their water supply has been shown to be unfounded by your analysis as well as all of the previous hydrogeology work done by the other State and Federal Agencies. The staff report does not mention that Marina was offered the opportunity to participate in the project and potentially be the recipient of the basin water produced by the desalination plant. They declined to participate and that resulted in the basin water being provided to Castroville, a disadvantaged community. Castroville will suffer considerable damage and social injustices if this water supply is denied through Commission denial of the Cal Am application.

The desalination project and water portfolio are part of providing a balance between cost, environmental impacts, and the human need for a reliable water supply. Please reject the staff recommendation and **APPROVE** the project application. The future of the Monterey Peninsula is absolutely dependent on a water supply that allows us to meet the current affordable housing needs and the future housing needs of the working class. As a retired construction laborer, I know from firsthand knowledge the negative impact the

water shortage has had on the working people that provide the essential services so necessary for a successful community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ann Carbone
Mayor of Sand City

Appeal No.A-3-MRA-19-0034 : Approval Cal Am Desal Project Permit**Fred Meurer <meurer@meurermuni.com>**

Thu 9/10/2020 8:39 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

Honorable Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners

California Coastal Commission

Attn: Tom Luster

455 Market Street, Suite 300

San Francisco, Ca. 94105

Subject: Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034 : Approval Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to deny the staff recommendation and APPROVE the coastal development permit for California American Water's Monterey Peninsula Supply Project

My name is Chuck Della Sala. I have been involved in the Peninsula's search for a new water supply as a property owner, city planning commissioner, City Council member and Mayor of Monterey. As mayor, I helped form the Peninsula Water Authority with the other 5 Peninsula cities' mayors. I was the initial chairman of the public process that led to the concept of a water supply portfolio of: Carmel River Groundwater; Aquifer Storage and Recovery; the Pure Water Monterey sewage reclamation; and, the anchor project of a desalination plant. The portfolio offered a mix of sources and capacities that would be resilient to drought, mechanical failure and planned maintenance. The portfolio would be cost effective and adequate for the member agencies' general plans and housing needs. This portfolio concept was developed as a result of extensive public outreach and public hearings, technical analysis and rigorous review by all of the federal and state agencies with oversight.

Our region has been searching for the "perfect" water supply to replace our draw on the Carmel River Watershed since 1977. The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District has chased dams, water hyacinths, conservation, aquifer storage, treated sewage and multiple attempts at desalination. They have spent hundreds of millions of rate payer dollars in pursuit of the ephemeral perfect project. Just as they would get close to success, they would reach for an even more "perfect", potentially less expensive project. The result this search has been years of failure to find the more "perfect" water project. This has resulted in water poverty for the region, and a crushing shortage of housing for the poor, the working poor and the middle class. Even new doctors and lawyers cannot find quality "affordable" housing. Young families cannot afford to live here, our schools are closing for lack of students and the teachers that we do have, cannot find a home near where they work. It is getting harder and harder for businesses, universities, and the military to do business on the Peninsula due to a lack of workforce housing.

We are on the cusp of having a project portfolio approved that is drought proof and that makes the State Water Resource Control Board happy because of the benefits to the Carmel River. The CPUC is happy as it has issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and the challenge to that decision was denied hearing by the Supreme Court.

The project is now before you for issuance of a coastal permit for a slant well field for the desalination plant feed water. Your commission required that slant wells be tested. The tests showed that the wells work without negative impact to others. Now your staff is recommending denial of the slant wells because of the potential impacts that 1/4 acre of well heads might have on environmentally sensitive

habitat in the 400 acre CEMEX industrial sand mine site and potential drawdown of vernal ponds that no one has proven are fed by groundwater.

Your staff is also recommending denial of desal in favor of a potential project called Pure Water Monterey Expansion. After supporting desal through most of the public process, political winds and board membership changes have caused the Water Management District to once again, look for a "more perfect" project by a potential expanded Pure Water Monterey component of the portfolio and removal of the desal plant.

This potential project SFEIR was not certified by the Monterey1 Water Board because it did not adequately address issues raised by NOAA, City of Salinas and the Monterey County Water Resource Agency. Even if certified and built, it would yield a water supply system that maintains water poverty on the peninsula, is not drought proof and relies on a source water supply that the Salinas Valley needs for meeting its requirements under the State Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Additionally, the coastal impacts of the well field are inconsequential when compared to the impacts of the Peninsula once again being denied an adequate and resilient water supply. Such a supply is offered by the portfolio of desal, aquifer storage and Pure Water that has been developed through years of public hearings, technical analysis, federal and state environmental analysis and regulatory oversight and approval by all federal agencies through NOAA and every state agency but yours.

Please deny the staff recommendation and approve the project application.

Chuck Della Sala
Former Mayor of Monterey

Appeal No.A-3-MRA-19-0034 : Approval Cal Am Desal Project Permit**Fred Meurer <meurer@meurermuni.com>**

Thu 9/10/2020 8:28 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

Honorable Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners

California Coastal Commission

Attn: Tom Luster

455 Market Street, Suite 300

San Francisco, Ca. 94105

Subject: Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034 : Approval Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to reject the staff recommendation and APPROVE the coastal development permit for California American Water's Monterey Peninsula Supply Project

My name is Sam Farr. I was a member of the election Team along with Peter Douglas and Bill Press that passed Proposition 20 in 1973. I organized and led the campaign bike ride from Lands' End in San Francisco to Balboa Park in San Diego to bring attention to the lack of "coast access". Later, as a Monterey County Supervisor, I served on the Central Coast Regional Commission where I initiated the LCP's for Big Sur, Carmel Highlands, Pebble Beach and the rest of unincorporated Monterey County. This was done in 1976, the year of the drought.

I went on to serve 6 years as a Monterey County Supervisor, 13 years in the California Assembly and 24 years as the Congressman representing the Central Coast of California. During my 50+ years of public service, I have been a staunch advocate for the protection of the environment, environmental laws and regulations and the creation of multiple National Monuments and Parks. I have been an equally staunch advocate for the creation of adequate housing for our poor, our working poor and our working middle class.

My bottom line up front- In this case, I weigh the greatest good as being the creation of a water supply portfolio that is anchored with a desalination plant to provide a water supply with drought protection, a production capability that can respond to the critical workforce housing needs of the Monterey Peninsula, and that has to date been approved by all reviewing Federal and State Agencies in their technical studies and environmental documents and found to be the superior environmental option.

of water and it had to tear down the dam-all to be paid for by the company and passed on to rate payers.

After examining all alternatives for new sources of water and in consultation with the State and Federal agencies, including the Coastal Commission, it was decided that salt water desalination was the best alternative. The process was started and terms were set by the regulators. Legal setbacks occurred and lawsuits were filed, long delays followed.

As water rates increased, the economic viability of alternatives became possibilities. Politics also started changing with new pressures on MPWMD to examine buying out Cal Am. The desalination project was held hostage, because its operation would drive up the cost of buying out the company.

Even though the Cal Am test wells met or exceeded every condition placed on it and is ready to be put into production, every possible way is being used to stop it, mostly to make Cal Am cheaper for buy out-ignoring the real need for that desalinated water.

I urge you to reject your staff recommendation, as our Regional Coastal Commission did several times when I was on it back in the 1970's, for the following reasons:

1. To meet affordable housing goals and needs. The alternatives will not produce enough water to meet housing goals or housing needs. Not a single entity has committed any new water to affordable housing construction. Without the desalination wells project, water will continue to be scarce and only the rich will benefit.
2. Negative environmental impacts. The Monterey Bay brine disposal issues have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Marine Sanctuary. In this case dilution is the solution.

On shore the desalination plant wellhead site is located on the most disturbed shoreline spot on Monterey Bay-the longest running sand mining site in California. Sand mining has stopped, but left behind an industrial waste site. No activity can make it worse.

3. Economics. Yes it costs money, so did tearing down the San Clemente dam even with help from the Coastal Conservancy, NOAA (for fish protection) and the Carmel River reparations fund. Rate payers paid as well. The question commissioners ought to ask is what will be the cost of having no affordable workforce housing in the area that is totally dependent on the tourism industry?

Back to where I started, working to enact new ideas to make the Coast accessible, with passage of the Coastal Act in 1972. Accessibility to our beautiful coast now depends on a service industry that can live near their jobsite. Interpretation of the Coast-like the Aquarium; marine education instruction, like Hopkins Marine Station employees; Coastal

Dunes State Park employees; the BLM's Rocks and Island Monument (that I created while in Congress) employees. The list goes on especially for lower income staff and employees.

The point is that we have a critical housing shortage on the Monterey Peninsula for all but the wealthy. We know it, but cannot do anything about without new water supplies. So far all the recent small increases in water have not produced any affordable housing. No jurisdiction is willing to commit new water to affordable housing if it's a scarce amount of water. Without enough water to build affordable housing, the entities that we rely on for coastal access and interpretation are not going to have the people to do the work. Further traffic gridlock is also going to be a detriment to visitor servicing entities and coastal access.

We need enough water to meet legal obligations and to support sound public policy- the ONLY guarantee for that water is with the Cal Am Desalination Project. It is time to approve the project and move forward.

Sincerely,

Congressman Sam Farr (Retired)

Renee Garner
686 San Juan Grade Road
Salinas, CA 93906

September 10, 2020

Via Email: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Hon. Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
45 Fremont, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105- 2219

Re: Support for California American Water's Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project

Hon. Chair Padilla and Commissioners:

I am writing to you as a resident of Salinas, California and I wish to express my total support for the California American Water desalination plant. I spend hours during the week tied up on Highway 68 and Highway 1 with my car idling in traffic.

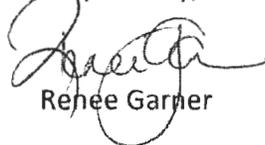
There are many causes, but the biggest one is the lack of available housing on the Peninsula. We need more housing everywhere, however whenever a housing unit is proposed on the Peninsula, the first question asked; is where is the water going to come from. The pollution from the commute, the waste of hours and the lack of workforce housing is an environmental and economic disaster.

The desalination plant is the key part of the three-pronged approach to solving our water needs, because it is the only drought resistant water supply in the portfolio.

It is easy to just focus on the needs of citizens on the Peninsula, but it's worth repeating that it is a county-wide issue and lack of water on the Peninsula affects all of us here in Monterey County.

I ask that you please issue the California American Water permit for the slant wells for the desalination plant.

Respectfully,



Renee Garner

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034 : Approval Cal Am Desal Project Permit

Fred Meurer <meurer@meurermuni.com>

Thu 9/10/2020 8:05 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to reject the staff recommendation and APPROVE the coastal development permit for California American Water's Monterey Peninsula Supply Project

My name is Fred Meurer. I am the Chairman of the Monterey Bay Defense Alliance (MBDA). We are a nonprofit 501 c (3) whose mission is to protect and grow the national security and defense organizations stationed in the Monterey Bay Region.

I served 20+ years in the Army as a Corps of Engineer officer, with my final tour as the Director of Public Works and Housing. My very first meeting as the Director in September of 1981 was to discuss a permanent water supply for the Army assets on the Monterey Peninsula. After retiring from the Army, I went to work for the City of Monterey. I served as Director of Engineering and Maintenance for 5 years and as City Manager for over 22 years. 32 years after that first meeting on water, my last meeting as City Manager in December of 2013 was still on the same subject- a sufficient water supply for the Monterey Peninsula. Since my retirement, I have been consulting with the Military Services on the issues of critical infrastructure and partnerships with local agencies.

The major national security activities on the Monterey Peninsula are the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), the Defense Language Institute (DLI), Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center (FNMOOC), the Navy Research Lab (NRL), the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), the Center for Homeland Security and Defense and the US Coast Guard Station Monterey.

These activities play a critical role in the Nation's national security, homeland security and economic security capabilities. It is essential that we do everything we can to make these activities as mission effective, cost effective and mission resilient as we can. These missions are critical to our defense, but they also infuse billions of dollars of economic activity into our local and state economy. It is also important to know that they have been reviewed for closure or realignment in each of the six base closure rounds since 1988. In 1991, Ft Ord was selected for closure.

All of our national security activities are totally mission dependent on large numbers of civilian instructors, professors, analysts, engineers, scientists and other professional support personnel who are almost all government employees. The defense activity employment issues involved with recruiting and retaining a highly qualified military and civilian workforce are not unlike the private sector and other public sector employers-quality schools, quality and affordable housing and a quality living and working environment. The lack of an adequate water supply to build meaningful numbers of workforce housing units makes it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain the talent necessary to accomplish these military missions.

The military missions change and grow as they respond to international threats. The installations that support these missions must have the infrastructure needed to support and grow these ever changing missions. Specifically, they must have a water supply that is reliable, responsive to mission growth needs and resilient to drought and other potential interruptions. The current water supply system does not meet these needs and neither does a water supply with only a Pure Water Expansion and not a desalination component.

The staff recommendation to deny a permit for the desal plant's slant wells would perpetuate this unacceptable situation. The staff proposed a water solution, whose sponsor refused to certify its EIR, provides no flexibility for future mission growth and does not meet Defense Department expectations for infrastructure resilience.

I encourage you to approve the Cal Am Coastal Development application.

Regards,

Fred Meurer
Chair, Monterey Bay Defense Alliance

fadf

Jim Wagoner <wagoner66gt@sbcglobal.net>

Thu 9/10/2020 6:52 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

Hi,

My name is Jim Wagoner and my family and I live here in Pacific Grove. I grew up in this area, attended High School in Salinas, and have been involved in the communities as both a "local" and as a "visitor".

I'm an Engineer by profession. The situation of a limited resource requires focused problem-solving. The lack of a guaranteed supply of water has put so many restrictions onto the multiple communities, both residential and commercial it is difficult to see why people don't understand an obvious problem as well as the limited options. For those of us who believe the global impact on our environment is real, we need to be putting our resources into solid solutions that can be counted upon.

The Carmel River is not a guaranteed supply and has many other challenges. The technology of desalination is well proven and can be done in a way to both solve the problem and do so in a way to protect the environment.

Please approve the desal project.

Thank you,
Jim Wagoner

Ripple Ave, Pacific Grove

Build the Desalination Plant now

Nicholas Delis <9half@att.net>

Thu 9/10/2020 6:09 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

As residents we support moving forward immediately. Stop avoiding the facts. With our state burning up,
after the election a million new illegal citizens will be legal residents of California.
There will soon be a HUGE WATER SHORTAGE. The environment correct action is to build the plant.
Nick & Stepanie Delis

Sent from my iPhone



**PEBBLE BEACH
COMPANY**

September 10, 2020

Via Email: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Hon. Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal-Am Desal Project Permit

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners:

Pebble Beach Company (PBC) would like to join with the broad coalition of governments, businesses, residents, and environmental organizations in support of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. We urge you to approve the required Coastal Development Permit for the project.

The Monterey Peninsula community has been at work for more than 40 years to develop a long-term, sustainable, drought resistant water supply for the Monterey Peninsula. The comprehensive, six-year environmental review for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project was completed by state and federal agencies and unanimously approved by the California Public Utilities Commission in 2018. Objections raised by project opponents, including groundwater impacts, environmental justice, water rights, and project alternatives - to name a few - were all exhaustively analyzed, and ultimately dismissed. The question of how much water the Monterey Peninsula requires has also been carefully studied, deliberated, and ultimately settled by the California Public Utilities Commission in 2018. The decision before you today is the crucial, final step of approval needed to bring the Water Supply Project to fruition.

REAL ESTATE DIVISION

4005 Sunridge Road, Pebble Beach, California 93953

PBC has a long history of leading the golf industry and Monterey Peninsula with innovative and responsible water resource management. In the early 1990s, we financed and developed the \$70M Pebble Beach water reclamation project – today this project supplies 100% of the water needed to irrigate all the golf courses in the Del Monte Forest. To date, we've saved more than 7.07 billion gallons of potable water for the Monterey Peninsula. Needless to say, we're staunch supporters of recycled water, and now have almost three decades of experience relying on recycled water. Importantly, we've learned that the supply of recycled water is extremely dependent upon the community's potable water use that, in turn, supplies the "raw product" for the reclamation process. As residents and businesses conserve more and more potable water, (as we have been doing on the Peninsula for years now), they, in turn, generate less and less waste water to be recycled. From our own 30-year experience, we know firsthand that the supply of recycled water is neither constant nor guaranteed over time. In addition to the long-term impact of conservation, the supply of recycled water also shrinks dramatically during times of drought. Neither of these issues afflicts the Cal-Am desalination project before you today: Unlike reclamation, it is entirely independent of the impacts of conservation and drought. For that reason, Cal-Am's project is essential. Recycled water alone simply cannot meet the Monterey Peninsula's water supply needs on a sustainable, long-term basis.

PBC would also like to call your attention to pages 115-132 of the Coastal Commission Staff Report. Collectively referred to as "Updates," the Staff Report relies on the incorrect, misleading findings of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's projections of future water supply and demand. Unfortunately, the Staff Report fails to consider numerous agency and public comments, including those of the State Water Resources Control Board, all of which discredit the Water Management District assumptions and findings. Specifically with respect to PBC, the Staff Report falsely assumes that we will not use our full water entitlement and, along with other questionable assumptions, erroneously calculates a reduced water demand for the greater Monterey Peninsula. PBC's vested right to use our water entitlement has been consistently upheld by every concerned agency, and we intend to fully utilize the entitlement. In fact, we've already used or allocated for use all but 60 acre-feet (out of our total 365 acre-foot entitlement). We bring this error to your attention for two reasons: (1) false assumptions call into question the overall credibility and integrity of the report, and (2) we sincerely hope that the Coastal Commission will not allow erroneous data and incorrect assumptions to influence your decision-making today. We believe the supply and demand numbers presented by MPWMD are erroneous and fail to take into account the complexity of water dynamics here and the long- and short-term needs of the community.

We also believe that the current MPWMD Board has an inherent conflict of interest because several if not a majority of board members have avowedly been pursuing a public buy-out of

Cal-Am. Torpedoing Cal-Am's desalination project will make that goal much more attainable. Instead of focusing on a hostile takeover of Cal-Am, the entire MPWMD Board should be laser-focused on the agency's primary mission: To create a reliable long-term water supply to meet the needs of the Monterey Peninsula. For that reason alone, we urge you to rely on the much more comprehensive and unbiased study of our water supply and demand approved by the California Public Utilities Commission with far more rigorous analysis and public review.

PBC strongly believes that we need both desalination and recycled water to provide our community with a long-term, adequate, secure, and flexible water supply. We are approaching the finish line to resolve our community's long-term water supply crisis, after 40 years in pursuit of that goal. We urge you to support the project to the fullest extent of your powers.

Sincerely,

PEBBLE BEACH COMPANY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Stivers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "S" at the end.

David L. Stivers, President

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit**Timothy Errington <erringtonimages@gmail.com>**

Thu 9/10/2020 5:16 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

California Coastal Commission

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to approve the Coastal Development Permit sought by California American Water to build the proposed desalination plant.

While I believe the Pure Water Monterey recycling project is an important step, it is unclear that it will provide a sufficient supply in order to reduce the pumping of the Carmel River to legal limits.

Without the desalination plant we have no back-up to the Pure Water Monterey project.

I understand Coastal Commission staff concluded there would be less overall environmental impact from Pure Water Monterey, however their assessment did not include the environmental impact to the Salinas River Lagoon or the harm to the Carmel River if the Pure Water Monterey project cannot produce sufficient supply.

I believe both projects are vital to the Monterey Peninsula and should be permitted. We should not become complacent since we are not currently in drought conditions but longer more severe droughts are on the horizon. Having both the desalination plant and Pure Water recycling should provide enough water to our area for decades.

It is important for the California Coastal Commission to recognize and ensure we are prepared for the future.

Thank you,
Timothy M. Errington
Pebble Beach, CA
831-293-4570

--

Timothy Errington
erringtonimages.com



Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO

Local 511

September 10, 2020

VIA EMAIL CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

The Honorable Steve Padilla, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Mr. Tom Luster
455 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: APPEAL NO. A-3-MRA-19-0034; APPROVE CAL AM DESAL PROJECT PERMIT

Honorable Chair Padilla, Commissioners and Staff:

On behalf of the Utility Workers Union of America Monterey Local, I write to encourage the Coastal Commission to grant California-American Water's (Cal-Am) application for a Coastal Development Permit for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project.

Water supply is an important issue to the Monterey Peninsula, especially to our members who live and work here. This new plant would create new jobs for highly skilled union workers. This project would help local water users, help the Carmel River, and help working families.

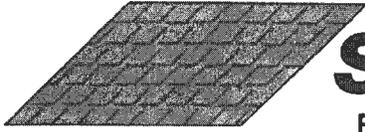
Following the failure of multiple other proposals for creating a new water supply, in 2012, California American Water submitted an application to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. The CPUC and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary subsequently spent 6 ½ years reviewing potential environmental impacts. A joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement was certified by the CPUC in September 2018.

The deadline for California American Water to cease unauthorized diversions from the Carmel River is December 31, 2021. We believe your approval of this project is the best chance the community has for solving its decades-long water supply issues and improving habitat for endangered and threatened species.

Our members urge the Commission to reject staff's recommendation and allow development of this project to proceed to create new job opportunities for working families and restore the Carmel River.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kolonics
President, Local 511



Scudder Roofing Co

P.O. Box 2596 Monterey, California 93942-2596 (831) 373-7212

September 8th 2020

California State Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, California 94105-2219

CalAmMonterey@Coastal.Ca.Gov

Re: Letter in Support of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project

Dear Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

The long awaited long term Water Supply (desalination) project is now in your hands. You hold the future of either a prosperous community or a community in decline, it is up to you. I strongly encourage the Commission to approve Cal Am's application for the Coastal Development Permit. Completion of this desalination plant, in conjunction with other water sources, will help our community meet its current and future water supply needs, and protect the natural resources that we all cherish.

Scudder Roofing and Scudder Solar have been a family-owned business located in Marina for over 37 years, we employ over 80 people. Our workforce lives in Marina, Monterey, Salinas, and the surrounding communities. The residents and businesses in Marina, and the other Monterey Peninsula cities and towns, as well as the Salinas and South County, are all interconnected. The lack of a reliable water supply is not only devastating to the future of our communities (families) and the environment, the lack of a reliable water source adversely impacts the economic stability of all the communities. The success of the peninsula directly impacts all these other communities. We cannot fall victim to the naysayers. We cannot allow further degradation to our rivers beds, our water table, and our resources that inadequate water supply creates.

The time is now. Completion of the proposed desalination plant is key to solving the local water supply problem. For too many years our community has lived with the threat of droughts, water shortfalls, moratoriums, and devastating fires. Lack of water is bad for the environment and adversely affects the overall quality of life of the people who call this region home.

Some have recently pointed to an expansion of the Monterey One recycled water project as an alternate solution. This is not a solution it is only a distraction and an expensive Band-Aid to an already overwhelmed water system. Our community has talked about having an adequate water supply project for over 45 years and over this time the environment has suffered as well as the quality of life in our communities. Citizens have suffered long enough. The Coastal Commission has a great opportunity to take the lead on this and make something positive happen. Now is the time for leadership. You have a great opportunity to solve one of our major challenges the water shortage. Please take charge and do the right thing for the community and the future.

Please approve Cal Am's request for a coastal development permit and let's get this project underway.


Sincerely, Peter H Scudder

Approve the CalAm DeSal project

Bruce Smith <brucedes@pacbell.net>

Thu 9/10/2020 3:22 AM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>



Monterey/Santa Cruz Counties Building & Construction Trades Council

11445 Commercial Parkway, Castroville, CA 95012

Phone 831.884-8413

Email: Office@MSCBCTC.com

www.MSCBCTC.com

FPPC No. 850048

John Papa
President

Mark Van Den Heuvel
Vice President

Rod Smalley
Treasurer

Steve MacArthur
Recording Secretary

Manuel Pinheiro
CEO

Honorable Steve Padilla
Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attention: Tom Luster
455 Market Street, Ste 300
San Francisco, California, 94105

September 7, 2020+

Dear Honorable Chair and Commissioners of the California Coastal Commission,

I write to you today on behalf of Monterey/Santa Cruz Counties Building Construction and Trades Council, regarding the Cal-Am desalinization plant project in Marina, California. It is extremely important that this project gets your blessing and approval to move forward as all our affiliates in the Building Trades are awaiting your great decision.

I personally have lived in Monterey County for 58 years. My first 28 years I lived in Pacific Grove, CA and 16 years in Seaside, CA. So, my first 44 years of my life has been with Cal-Am Water as our water supplies. I recall vividly in 1977, we customers were restricted to 50 gallons of water per day, per person. We need a water supply today and the customers of Cal-Am water are concerned thinking "Do we go back to 1977?" If you could imagine yourself as these customers and think about the challenges they've had to face without a proper water supply and no desalinization plant. You are hindering economic growth for the youth in Cal-Am's jurisdiction. The youth's future can come to a stand still to the point where a business or residence is not able to add (one) single bathroom to their establishment.

For the last sixteen years my family and I have lived in Marina, California. I consider myself domicile to the Monterey Peninsula. It is crucial and important that on September 17, 2020, that this project gets your blessing and gets approved.

Fraternally Yours, In Solidarity,

Manuel R. Pinheiro, C.E.O

Boilermakers #549
Bricklayers #3
Carpenters #505
Carpenters #605
Carpet, Lin. & Soft Tile #12
Elevator Constructors #8
Glaziers #1621
IBEW #234
Insulators & Asbestos #16
Ironworkers #155
Ironworkers #377
Laborers #270
Millwrights #102
OP & CMIA #300
Operating Engineers #3
Painters & Tapers #272
Plumbers & Steamfitters #62
Roofers & Waterproofers #95
Sheet Metal Workers #104
Sprinklerfitters #669
Teamsters #890
UA #355

Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034; Approve Cal Am Desal Project Permit**Luke Proskine <lproskine@makenacap.com>**

Wed 9/9/2020 11:47 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

California Coastal Commission

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners:

I am a Carmel Valley property owner and resident and I am strongly in support of issuing a Coastal Development Permit to California American Water (Cal Am). We need to protect our local environment, endangered species, and water sources by finding an alternative use that makes sense. Time for us to think about the long-term. Thank you.

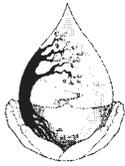
Best,

Luke Proskine

415.250.3895 (cell)

8990 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley

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Carmel River Watershed Conservancy
PO Box 223833, Carmel, CA 93922

Board of Directors:

Michael Waxer, Past President
Lorin Letendre, President
Paul Bruno, Vice President
Abbie Beane, Executive Director
Andy Magnasco, Treasurer
Jennifer Duggan, Secretary
Catherine Stedman
Scott Hennessy
Jen Hunter

September 11, 2020

To: California Coastal Commission
From: Abbie Beane, CRWC Executive Director
Re: Support for the Monterey Peninsula Desalination Project

Honorable Chair Padilla and Commissioners,

The Carmel River Watershed Conservancy (CRWC) was created in 2000 to advance the restoration of the Carmel River Watershed and the recovery of the threatened South Central Coast Steelhead. We led the development of a Watershed-wide Assessment and Action Plan, and we now chair the Carmel River Task Force comprising all the federal, state, and local government agencies and non-profits with an interest in the restoration of the Carmel River and its threatened species. We are uniquely situated to represent the interests of our watershed and its threatened species.

That restoration and the steelhead recovery plan will not succeed unless there is more water in the Carmel River and its aquifer that have been over-pumped for decades. This Desalination Project is critically needed to increase in-stream flows and to meet the Peninsula's long-term water supply needs. It provides a new local, reliable, drought-proof water supply. Being drought-proof is critically important as the Monterey Peninsula has periodically suffered many years of drought that would nullify the use of aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) and storm water recycling as alternative water supply sources. These sources should be supplemental to the desalination plant. CRWC argues that the Peninsula will need at least 14,000 acre feet of water annually, as the CPUC has calculated, to meet future water demand. This number is almost 3,000 acre feet higher than the amount of water that would be provided under a best-case scenario without desal and only an expanded recycled water project and ASR. The Pure Water Monterey (PWM) project also recently claimed to have rights to new wastewater sources. Both the Monterey County Water Resources Agency and City of Salinas, however, have argued that these sources may lead to seawater intrusion in the Salinas Valley or may be claimed for agricultural uses. These entities have therefore asked Monterey One Water to deny certification of PWM's supplemental EIR.

The Desalination Project has been designed in an environmentally-responsible manner, has been the subject of a seven-year review and incorporated all feasible mitigation measures, and was approved by the CPUC. It utilizes a state-of-the-art subsurface intake well system and a commingled brine/wastewater district, a desalination technology that minimizes marine impacts, and it is preferred by the State Water Board and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The Project's subsurface intake wells will also be located on a disturbed former



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industrial site, reducing biological impacts. Coastal Commission staff has found that this project will cause adverse wetland impacts and construction impacts on Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area, however, Cal-Am has prepared findings to mitigate these impacts.

Failure to complete the Project to provide an alternative water supply for the region in a timely manner would be harmful for Cal-Am's customers, the Monterey community, and especially the Carmel River and its aquifer.

For years, the Monterey community that Cal-Am serves has faced stringent constraints on water supply that have necessitated drastic water conservation measures and have limited economic growth in the region. Faced with these constraints, Monterey District customers have become leaders in the State in water conservation. However, given the already low water usage rate, conservation alone cannot replace the shortfall between Cal Am's water supplies and anticipated future demands. A new supply, like this Project, is needed.

Finally, the staff recommendation contends that the desalination plant presents environmental justice concerns. Risking a lack of water for the Peninsula and in the Carmel River watershed presents its own set of environmental justice concerns. There are many low-income populations in East Carmel Valley that rely on wells and on a healthy watershed to prevent destructive wildfires. Furthermore, there are residents who are new to the area and must rely on some development, through renovations or rental income, in order to afford the area's high cost of living. Currently these residents are not allowed to develop without available water credits.

Both the desalination plant and ASR will face hurdles, so we feel it is irresponsible to pursue only one option for meeting Peninsula water supply demands and cessation of pumping on the Carmel River.

The benefits of the Project to the Carmel River Watershed are clear. We ask that the Commission reject staff's recommendation and approve Cal Am's application for a coastal development permit at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

Abbie Beane
Executive Director

Gary and Doreen Cursio
10522 York Rd.
Monterey, Ca 93940

Date: September 9, 2020

Via Email: CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov

Hon. Dayna Bochco, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
45 Fremont, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105- 2219

Re: Support for California American Water's Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project

Hon. Chair Bochco and Commissioners:

Please approve California American Water's application for a Coastal Development Permit for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project.

I have lived on the Monterey Peninsula for 18 years. Being totally dependent on local rainfall and receiving the majority of our water from the Carmel River whose resources are over-strained, we have been under strict conservation measures for literally decades.

Our community has fought and fought over the best way to solve our water problems. Half the community wants no solution because they are afraid it will lead to growth and the other half wants a right-sized, long-term legal water supply. The voices that truly care about the health of the river also support a solution.

In 2009, the State Water Resources Control Board stepped in and put us under a Cease and Desist Order because we can't agree. They believed the added pressure and threat of devastating consequences would push us to complete a project.

We need your help to resolve our water issues. Cal Am's desal project is environmentally friendly. It won't harm Marina. This is a red-herring designed to stop the project. Recycled water is not drought proof. We don't need to put another generation through the time and expense of examining unfounded alternatives. Please approve this project – our community depends on it.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Gary and Doreen Cursio. The signature on the left is 'Gary Cursio' and the signature on the right is 'Doreen Cursio'.

Gary & Doreen Cursio

Support MPWSP

Gary Cursio <cursiogary@gmail.com>

Thu 9/10/2020 2:47 PM

To: CalAmMonterey@coastal <CalAmMonterey@coastal.ca.gov>

 1 attachments (340 KB)

G&D.pdf;

See Attached

Luster, Tom@Coastal

From: john derrick <admin@watersupplyproject.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2020 7:28 PM
To: luke.gianni@amwater.com; ExecutiveStaff@Coastal; ExParte, Commissioner@Coastal; Padilla, Stephen@Coastal; Brownsey, Donne@Coastal; Turnbull-Sanders, Effie@Coastal; Aminzadeh, Sara@Coastal; Hart, Caryl@Coastal; Howell, Erik@Coastal; Uranga, Roberto@Coastal; Groom, Carole@Coastal; ccc@daynabochco.com; Wilson, Mike@Coastal; Rice, Katie@Coastal; Escalante, Linda@Coastal; catherine.stedman@amwater.com; info@watersupplyproject.org; Energy@Coastal
Subject: Re: - john derrick Public Comment on September 2020 Agenda Item undefined 4a - Application No. 9-19-0918 (California American Water Co., Seaside, Monterey Co.) Sent to staff

Comment in Support of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project
Case Number: 9-19-0918

Dear Commissioners,

I support the Monterey Water Supply Project to create a desalination plant as a clean, sustainable solution to the water supply crisis in the Monterey Peninsula.

This desalination project is the only viable option to supply our community with a long-term sustainable water source that is capable of supporting affordable housing, economic recovery and restoring the Carmel River and the Seaside basin.

The Monterey Peninsula is a leader in conservation, and for 25 years has been working with federal, state and local agencies to develop an alternate water supply for our community. It is imperative that the water supply needs of the Monterey Peninsula and the environmental issues facing the Carmel River are resolved as quickly as possible.

Please support this desalination project to ensure our water future. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

john derrick

Street Address: 24429 portola ave
City: carmel
State: ca
Zip Code: 93923

(831) 250-5711
jederrick@icloud.com

73.170.160.190



**CASTROVILLE
COMMUNITY
SERVICES DISTRICT**

P.O. BOX 1065
OFFICE: 11499 GEIL STREET
CASTROVILLE, CA 95012
FAX (831) 633-3103

July 21, 2020

24-HOUR TELEPHONE: (831) 633-2560

Mr. John Ainsworth
Executive Director
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105
Via Email

RE: Application No. 9-19-0918 and Appeal No. A-3-MRA-19-0034 (California American Water Company)

Dear Mr. Ainsworth:

On behalf of the Castroville Community Services District, we are writing to encourage the California Coastal Commission to support the Coastal Development Permit for California American Water Company's proposed desalination facility for the following reasons:

- Pure Water Monterey expansion (PWMx) is not a feasible alternative to the MPWSP desalination facility. The initial Pure Water Monterey (PWM) recycle water facility is already facing major cost and performance delays including two shallow wells failing and the two remaining deep wells pumping a fraction of projected injection rates. The PWMx cannot be constructed in 20 months as claimed by those opposing the MPWSP due to fatal flaws in water rights, water quality, existing plant performance, in addition to required Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's permits and Federal NEPA permits from NOAA.
- PWMx will have a greater adverse environmental impact than the proposed desalination facility; due to increased concentrate from the expansion project and adverse effects on the Salinas Ag community, Castroville and others which need the proposed PWMx source water to offset sea water intrusion in North Monterey County's 180'-400' aquifer.
- PWMx will not be enough to lift the Cease and Desist Order (CDO) on the Peninsula. Based on the current Pure Water Monterey (PWM) project, which is experiencing extensive problems with injection, treatment, financing and cost escalation. It is highly speculative to put faith in an expansion of a project, that to date, has failed to show it is a reliable, long-term water supply.
- The report titled "*Supply and Demand for Water on the Monterey Peninsula*" adopted by the MPWMD on May 18, 2020, which claims the PWM expansion could provide a new water supply sufficient to meet the future needs of the Peninsula for the next 20 to 30 years defies common sense and multiple peer reviews by the CPUC, SWRCB and others. This claim by the MPWMD that both proposed water supply projects meet the current and future needs of the Peninsula is highly suspect. While the CPUC has already issued a CPCN permit for the MPWSP, the PWMx has not secured financing, a water purchase agreement or even a certified Environmental Impact Report

- Based on the performance and cost increases incurred by the current PWM project, any expansion will result in more delays in meeting the CDO. These delays mean it will not be on-line until years after the already permitted MPWSP. Meanwhile, these delays will result in MIW and CalAm rate payers suffering severe financial hardship when the water purchase agreement and CDO are not met.
- Castroville is a 100% severely disadvantaged community that provides labor for many businesses and residences on the Peninsula. Due to the severe restrictions on water supply, affordable housing cannot be built on the Peninsula, instead it is being disproportionately developed in Castroville. The result is that water restrictions prevent building affordable housing near where these folks work. This lack of water for affordable housing results in more traffic, air pollution, water pollution and overall environmental degradation to our environment
- This Water poverty is caused in large part, by some paid "Intervenors", creating water scarcity to limit growth and deny low-income affordable housing
- In addition, only the MPWSP helps stop seawater intrusion by intercepting the seawater at the coast, drawing brackish water back and allowing wells to be turned off directly in front of the intrusion. PWMx does not provide any of these benefits. In fact, it exacerbates sea water intrusion in the 180' - 400' pressure aquifer by taking water that should be sent to the existing Castroville Sea Water Intrusion Project
- Finally, MPWSP (desal), PWM (recycle) and ASR (aquifer storage and recovery) represent the original "three- legged stool" approach that has been determined, after years of study, community input and millions of dollars to be the only secure, reliable, drought proof and long-term water supply for the Peninsula

Thank you for your consideration of the Castroville Community Services District's concerns.

Sincerely,



Adriana Melgoza, President
Castroville Community Services District

Cc. Congressmen Panetta, Assembly Member Stone, Senator Monning
SWRCB, CPUC



North County Recreation & Park District

We create community through people, parks, and programs

July 8, 2020,

Hon. Dayna Bochco, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
Attn: Tom Luster
45 Fremont, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105- 2219

RE: Staff report regarding permit for the Proposed Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the North County Recreation and Park District, I write to express our support for Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project.

The North County Recreation and Park District (NCRPD) is approximately 46 square miles, serving the communities of Castroville, Elkhorn, Moss Landing, Oak Hills and Rancho Moro Cojo, as well as unincorporated areas within Northern Monterey County. We currently operate the North County Recreation Center, Cato-Phillips Park, Crane Street Park, Japanese School Park, Rancho Moro Cojo Park, and the Moro Cojo Nature Trails.

We are also the primary provider of youth, adult, and senior programs for North County. Each year we serve over a thousand youth, and hundreds of adults and seniors, many of whom are low income. Our parks provide open, green spaces for our community to walk, run, and play, and community center hosts dozens of community events and private parties annually.

The NCRPD's vision is to build community through people, parks and programs. Our mission is to:

- Strengthen community image and sense of place
- Support economic development
- Strengthen safety and security
- Promote health and wellness
- Foster human development
- Increase cultural unity
- Protect environmental resources
- Provide recreational experiences
- Facilitate community problem solving

The NCRPD Board of Directors is writing to offer our support for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. In addition to meeting the Monterey Peninsula's water needs, this project will benefit Castroville by providing additional water to the community, thereby reducing Castroville's dependency on well water from the critically over drafted Salinas Groundwater Basin, which in turn will help reduce the rate of seawater intrusion into the groundwater of Castroville.



North County Recreation & Park District

We create community through people, parks, and programs

Castroville is a disadvantaged community, as defined by the California Environmental Protection Agency's CalEnviroScreen 3.0 analysis tool, which analyzes socioeconomic and pollution burden data for community census tracts statewide. Continued contamination of our groundwater by seawater intrusion is a very real danger, and one that will only exacerbate the economic and environmental challenges we face.

We are encouraged by actions of our partner agency, the Castroville Community Service District (Castroville CSD) to ensure that any amount of fresh water incidentally captured in the desalination process will be retained in Salinas basin. This requires a significant investment from the Castroville CSD, including a \$2.8 million pipeline to bring the water to Castroville. However, benefits are well worth the investment because this project will:

- Provide a long term, drought proof water supply to the peninsula, allowing compliance with the Cease and Desist Order,
- Allow wells directly in the path of the seawater intrusion to reduce or completely stop pumping, thus preventing the advancement of seawater further into our common basin,
- Provide Castroville, CSIP and possibly others a secure long term, drought proof water supply,
- Intercept the incoming seawater before it can further intrude our water supply and even help draw back some of the seawater already in the basin.

The NCRPD Board believes in working collaboratively to solve local and regional problems, which is why we support the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. The project offers clear environmental benefits to the Monterey Peninsula and the Salinas Valley groundwater basin, and it will ensure a safe and sustainable water source for the disadvantaged community of Castroville.

We encourage the Coastal Commission to approve any required permits for this needed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grant Leonard", is written over a horizontal line.

Grant Leonard
Board President