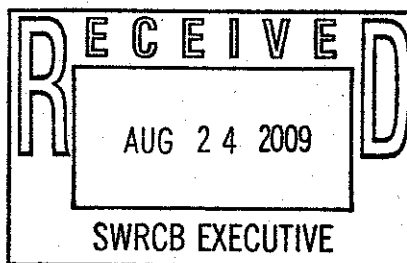


Monday, August 24, 2009

Attn: State Water Resources Control Board



To Whom It May Concern:

I am very concerned about the upcoming discussion and actions of the State Water Resources Control Board regarding water usage on the Monterey Peninsula. Unfortunately, I will be out of the state during your hearings and would appreciate your consideration of my written comments.

I have lived on the Monterey Peninsula since 1973 and have seen the water challenges up close and personal over the years including trying to make do on 50 gallons of water per day. It was an experience that I do not wish to repeat. Showering with buckets to collect water to flush the toilets (only when necessary) and hand watering my struggling landscape with rainwater I collected in three 50 gallon trash cans not only took time & was inefficient, but I injured my back trying to maneuver buckets of water. The last time I checked, this was not yet a third world country!

The citizens of the Monterey Peninsula have been very aware of the preciousness of water and have acted accordingly since 1975. It seems extraordinarily unjust to punish the citizens and subject the local economy to yet another layer of constraint by the restrictions proposed. The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District has taken millions of dollars from the community for over thirty years to identify a solution for the water issues. They have totally failed and yet *they* are still in business. *They* all have job security despite the fact that the citizens overwhelmingly voted for the MPWMD to be eliminated. While I would love to see the Carmel River flow again and would love for the steelhead fish to thrive, it will be at too great a cost to human life on the Monterey Peninsula.

It seems to me that all of the ideas to conserve have not been explored to the fullest:

- Evaluate the necessity of rinsing out containers to be recycled. Perhaps it's not necessary and much water is wasted trying to comply with the Waste Management District.
- Have mandatory inspections of irrigation systems - 60% of all homes in Carmel are second homes and the balance is mostly occupied by retired people. Who is checking for leaks, blown irrigation tips especially when timed irrigation often happens very early in the day? When the electricity is interrupted to the house, the irrigation control box reverts to a default schedule of watering if the battery happens to be dead. That default schedule is often 10 min. per station per day! Who is checking /changing the batteries? Who is even alerting people to this fact? Who is turning off the system entirely when it is raining and the property is vacant? Is there a rain gauge requirement on vacant homes? Why not???
- Instead of providing restricted flow shower heads that no one wants, why aren't rain gauges provided?
- Why not have the MPWMD provide horticulturists /experts who can give individual assessments of the proper amount of water needed to retain specific landscapes? Many people (myself included) rely on less professional information and may be able to water less without killing the plants.
- Where's the Cal-Am or MPWMD blog site for citizens to express & obtain water saving ideas?
- Reconsider the dam! Can't you use your power to organize all the fighting organizations to make this happen? Not building a new dam was a grave error made many years ago. The no-growth contingency won that battle and forced all of us to lose the war on water management.

Thank you for your efforts and your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Shirley A. Moon
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