1 2 3 4 5	David W. Balch, Esq. (SBN 226519) BALCH LAW OFFICE 115 Cayuga Street Salinas, CA 93901 Tel: 831-809-0704 Attorneys for Plaintiff WRAMP SUPERIOR COURT	° OF CALIFORNIA	
6	COUNTY OF	MONTEREY	
7 8	WATER RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA,	Case No.:	
9	Petitioner,	PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE	
10 11	vs.		
12	COUNTY OF MONTEREY, MONTEREY		
13	COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, MONTEREY COUNTY WATER		
14	RESOURCES AGENCY, CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION, CALIFORNIA		
15	COASTAL COMMISSION BOARD OF		
16	COMMISSIONERS,		
17	Respondents,		
18 19	CALIFORNIA AMERICAN WATER COMPANY,		
20	Real Parties in Interest		
21	Petitioner hereby alleges as follows:		
22	PARTIES		
23	1. Petitioner Water Ratepayers Associa	ation of the Monterey Peninsula ("WRAMP")	
24	is a water ratepayers' advocacy group located in the	he County of Monterey. WRAMP's mission is	
25	to advocate in behalf of local Cal Am ratepayers for an adequate and affordable water supply by		
26	all reasonable means. WRAMP is bringing this lawsuit on behalf of and in the name of the State		
27 28	of California.		
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1	2. Respondent COUNTY OF MONTEREY ("COUNTY") is a political subdivision	
2	of the State of California, and Defendant MONTEREY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	
3	("BOS") is the County's governing body. Respondent MONTEREY COUNTY WATER	
4	RESOURCES AGENCY ("MCWRA") is a political subdivision of the State of California and is	
5	overseen by a nine member Board of Directors, who are appointed by the BOS.	
6	3. Respondent CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION ("CCC") is an agency of	
7	the State of California, and Defendant CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION BOARD OF	
8	COMMISSIONERS ("CCC COMMISSIONERS") is the CCC's governing body.	
9	4. Real Party in Interest California American Water Company ("Cal-Am") is a	
10	subsidiary of American Water Works Company, Inc. Cal-Am is licensed to do business within	
11	the State of California and has its principal place of business in California. Cal-Am is a massive,	
12	multi-million dollar for-profit corporation with a lack of water rights and a record of a 20 year	
13	long, chronic and illegal diversion of water from the Carmel River. Cal-Am has made, and	
14	continues to make, tens of millions of dollars every year selling water to which it has no legal	
15	water rights or entitlements (See SWRCB Order 95-10).	
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17	JURISDICTION AND VENUE	
18	5. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Petitioner's claims	
19	because many of the transactions and events complained of herein occurred in this jurisdictional	
20	area and the project at issue in this lawsuit is located in Monterey County.	
21	6. Venue is proper in this Court because the project at issue in this Complaint is	
22	located in the County of Monterey and many of the events alleged herein occurred within the	
23	County of Monterey, all Defendants conduct operations within the County of Monterey; and	
24	most witnesses either work or live within the County of Monterey.	
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26	BENEFICIAL INTEREST	
27	A. <u>Cease and Desist Order and Water Rationing</u>	
28	7. WRAMP is a ratepayer advocacy group comprised of Cal-Am ratepayers living on	
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the Monterey Peninsula. WRAMP and its members will all be specifically affected by the
"Cease and Desist Order" ("CDO") of the State Water Resources Control Board ("SWRCB")
against Cal-Am. The CDO was first imposed in 1995 by the State Board's Order WR 95-10.
Among other matters, the order found that Cal-Am was diverting about 10,730 acre feet per year
(afy) of water from the Carmel River without a valid basis of right and directed that Cal-Am
should diligently implement actions to terminate its unlawful diversion.

8. In 2009, the State Board concluded that Cal-Am continued to illegally divert about
7,150 afy from the river without a valid basis of right. In Order WR 2009-0060, the SWRCB
ruled that "Cal-Am shall diligently implement actions to terminate its unlawful diversions from
the Carmel River and shall terminate all unlawful diversions from the river no later than
December 31, 2016." The SWRCB also imposed a series of annual cut-backs.

9. At this point, despite the cut-backs and conservation efforts, Cal-Am has continued 12 its illegal diversions from the Carmel River in order to meet the water demands of the Monterey 13 Peninsula. Further, demand for water far exceeds supply and viable alternatives are still in the 14 planning stages and have not been constructed. As noted above, the State Board's CDO requires 15 Cal Am to stop most of its pumping from the Carmel River by January 1st, 2017. This is often 16 referred to as the CDO "cliff." It is broadly recognized that the community would face severe 17 water rationing if the community members were required to meet the CDO "cliff" without new 18 19 water supply projects. WRAMP and its members, insofar as they reside in Cal-Am's service area, are beneficially interested in (i) Cal-Am's efforts to construct a viable alternative to the 20 21 Carmel River diversion, and (ii) avoiding the water rationing that would occur if Cal-Am does 22 not meet the January 1, 2017, CDO date set by the SWRCB.

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# B. <u>Ratepayer Reimbursement of Cal-Am Pre-Construction Costs</u>

10. In D.03-09-022, the CPUC authorized Cal-Am to track preconstruction costs
related to a long-term water supply project in a memorandum account. In D.06-12-040, the
Commission authorized California American Water to recover from ratepayers via Surcharge 1
the long-term water supply project costs that it was tracking in that memorandum account. The

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Commission also approved the Special Request 2 Surcharge ("Surcharge 2"), which could fund
 the implementation of a water supply solution on a pay-as-you-go basis, but delayed
 implementation of Surcharge 2 until the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and
 Necessity ("CPCN") for a long-term water supply project. In D.11-09-039, the Commission
 authorized California American Water to increase Surcharge 1 to 15%.

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11. In a Settlement Agreement dated July 31, 2013, Cal-Am agreed to reduce the amount of Surcharge 2 from its proposed level of approximately \$103 million to \$71.5 million.
In addition, the first \$35 million of funds collected under Surcharge 2 will be applied to the lower risk pipeline components of the MPWSP. The remaining \$36.5 million to be applied to the desalination facilities would only be collected after permits to construct the facility have been obtained.

12. Cal-Am is currently collecting the Surcharge 1 funds, which are being used by 12 Cal-Am to fund MPWSP development costs until the CPUC approves the new project. 13 (Surcharge 2 has not yet been funded.) WRAMP and its Cal-Am ratepayer members are 14 beneficially interested in (i) ensuring that the Surcharge 1 and Surcharge 2 Funds are used 15 efficiently; (ii) ensuring that the Surcharge 1 Funds are used for development costs that are 16 lawful; and (iii) obtaining a ruling from this Court, before the Surcharge 1 Funds are dissipated 17 (and before more Surcharge 2 Funds are collected), as to whether or not the predevelopment 18 activities of Cal-Am are lawful. 19

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# C. <u>Compelling of Public Duties / Questions of Public Right</u>

13. All members of WRAMP are Monterey County and California state taxpayers, whose goal in bringing this lawsuit is to compel the performance of public duties which the law specifically requires. Finally, the questions raised herein are questions of public right and the object of the mandamus is to procure the enforcement of a public duty. WRAMP and its members are interested as citizens in having the laws executed and the duty in question enforced.

**FACTS** 

I.

#### GENERAL BACKGROUND

In 2004, California American Water Company filed Application A.04-09-019 14. 2 seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the California Public Utilities 3 Commission. The Coastal Water Project ("CWP") was intended to replace existing Carmel 4 River water supplies for the Cal-Am Monterey District service area that are constrained by the 5 SWRCB decisions. In general, the previously proposed CWP involved the production of 6 desalinated water supplies, increased yield from the Seaside Groundwater Basin ASR system, 7 and additional storage and conveyance systems to move the replacement supplies to the existing 8 Cal-Am distribution system. 9

15. On January 30, 2009, the CPUC published a Draft Environmental Impact Report
 (EIR) analyzing the environmental impacts of the CWP proposed project (also referred to as the
 Moss Landing Project), as well as the environmental impacts of two project alternatives-the
 North Marina Project and the Regional Project. The CPUC published the Coastal Water Project
 Final EIR (SCH No. 2006101004) in October 2009 and certified the EIR in December 2009
 (Decision D.09-12-017). A year later, in Decision D.10-12-016, the CPUC approved
 implementation of the Regional Project alternative.

17 16. Subsequent to approval of the Regional Project, Cal-Am withdrew its support for
18 the Regional Project in January 2012. As a result, on April 23, 2012, Cal-Am filed an
19 application with the CPUC for a reconfigured Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (the
20 "MPWSP") (A.12-04-019), seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)
21 to construct, own, and operate a desalination facility for water supply on the Monterey Peninsula.
22 The MPWSP application to the CPUC proposed a subsurface intake feedwater system consisting
23 of slant wells located at the CEMEX sand mining property in Marina, CA.

17. The Salinas Valley groundwater basin has been identified as being in overdraft by
the California Department of Water Resources, the CCC, and the Monterey County Water
Resources Agency (MCWRA) for over 60 years. The sole source of recharge to the aquifer is
rainfall and water percolated into the Salinas River from water supply projects paid for, pursuant
to Proposition 218 requirements and provisions of the California Constitution, by overlying land

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owners (assesses) within the basin, including the Ag Land Trust. The overlying water rights holders have paid tens of millions of dollars to protect and restore their groundwater supplies. Cal-Am has not paid anything to protect and preserve the aquifers, and has acquired no groundwater rights in the basin or from those projects.

18. The overdraft was initially identified in Monterey County studies of the basin in 5 the 1960's and 1970's, and has been repeatedly identified by more recent MCWRA hydrologic 6 and hydro-geologic studies (U.S. ARCORPS, 1980; Anderson-Nichols. 1980-81; Fuqro, 1995; 7 Montgomery-Watson, 1998). The universally identified remedy for seawater intrusion specified 8 in these studies is the reduction of well pumping near the coast. Further, the overdraft in the 9 North County aquifers has been publicly acknowledged for decades by both the Monterey 10 County Board of Supervisors and the CCC in the certified "North County Local Coastal Plan" 11 (1982), the Monterey County General Plan (1984 and 2010) and the North County Area Plan 12 (1984). 13

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19. Land owners within the basin have spent millions of dollars over the last sixty years to build water projects to reverse and remedy the overdraft and recharge the aquifers. Cal-15 Am has not spent anything to protect the groundwater resources of the Salinas Valley. 16

20. Wells and pumps belonging to the Ag Land Trust, on the Trust's ranch adjacent to 17 the location of Cal-Am's proposed well field, are maintained and fully operational. The Trust's 18 largest well is located west of Highway 1 and within the "cone of depression" area of Cal-Am's 19 proposed "taking" of the groundwater (See Exhibit 2). Its water is being taken and contaminated 20 21 by Cal-Am's actions that are endorsed by CCC staff and County staff.

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21. The Trust relies on its groundwater and overlying groundwater rights to operate and provide back-up supplies for the Trust's extensive agricultural activities. The Trust's property was purchased with federal grant funds and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which has a reversionary interest in the Trust's prime farmland and the Trust's water rights and supplies that underlie the Trust's farm.

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22. Cal-Am constructed a test slant well and pilot program (including the slant well, a submersible well pump, a wellhead vault, and related facilities). The test slant well was 28

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screened at depths corresponding to both the Dune Sand Aquifer and the underlying 180-FootEquivalent Aquifer of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. This slant test well has been
intermittently operational since April 2015. When operational, the test well has extracted
approximately 2,000 gallons per minute from the Dune Sand Aquifer and the 180-footEquivalent Aquifer of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin.

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23. Cal-Am's assertions that it intends to pump only seawater from the proposed "test well" is untrue. Cal-Am has conducted water quality sampling that already shows that its proposed extended pumping of that test well will intentionally and significantly draw water from "fresh" potable aquifers (180 ft. and 400 ft.) that underlie the Ag Land Trust property and the property of other local landowners, and aggravate seawater intrusion below the Ag Land Trust property and the property and the property of other local landowners.

24. Cal-Am wants to be a junior water appropriator without overlying or senior
groundwater rights. Cal-Am has no groundwater rights and cannot acquire any. Cal-Am has
conducted water quality sampling that already shows that its proposed extended pumping of the
test well has drawn and will continue to intentionally and significantly draw water from "fresh"
potable aquifers without a claim of right.

Further, the test well has resulted and will result in a huge cone of depression in
the area surrounding the test well, and the excessive duration (2 years) of Cal-Am's intended
pumping, has resulted and will result in the contamination of surrounding wells (including wells
owned by the Ag Land Trust) and the unlawful "taking" of potable groundwater from beneath
the adjacent properties. This conduct violates several laws, which the CCC and County of
Monterey are required to protect and uphold.

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II. VIOLATIONS OF MANDATORY NORTH MONTERY COUNTY LOCAL COASTAL PLAN REQUIREMENTS

Salinas Valley groundwater basin and thus cannot grant any such rights to Cal-Am.

- 27 28
- A. <u>Applicable Provisions of the Coastal Plan</u>

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Finally, MCWRA holds no overlying groundwater rights in the over-drafted

1	27. The "test well" directly violates the following policies / mandates of the certified	
2	North Monterey County Local Coastal Plan that Monterey County and the Coastal Commission	
3	are required to uphold and enforce:	
4	• NMCLCP 2.5.1 Key Policy: The water quality of the North County groundwater	
5	aquifers shall be protected, and new development shall be controlled to a level that can be served by identifiable, available, long term-water supplies. The	
6 7	estuaries and wetlands of North County shall be protected from excessive sedimentation resulting from land use and development practices in the watershed	
8	areas.	
9	<u>NMCLCP 2.5.3 Specific Policies</u> :	
10	• The County's Policy shall be to protect groundwater supplies for coastal priority agricultural uses with emphasis on agricultural lands located in	
11	areas designated in the plan for exclusive agricultural use.	
12 13	• The County's long-term policy shall be to limit groundwater use to the safe-yield level. The first phase of new development shall be limited to a	
14	level not exceeding 50% of the remaining buildout as specified in the LUP. This maximum may be further reduced by the County if such	
15	reductions appear necessary based on new information or if required in order to protect agricultural water supplies. Additional development	
16	beyond the first phase shall be permitted only after safe-yields have been established or other water supplies are determined to be available by an	
17 18	approved LCP amendment. Any amendment request shall be based upon definitive water studies, and shall include appropriate water management programs.	
19 20 21	• The County shall regulate construction of new wells or intensification of use of existing water supplies by permit. Applications shall be regulated to prevent adverse individual and cumulative impacts upon groundwater resources.	
22	28. Cal-Am's illegal pumping and then its "wasting/dumping" of the potable	
23	groundwater resources will result in significant individual and cumulative adverse impacts,	
24	immitigable permanent damage, a continuing nuisance, and irreversible seawater intrusion into	
25	the potable groundwater resources and aquifers of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin.	
26	Further, it will cause irreparable damage to the adjacent protected prime coastal farmlands in	
27 28	violation of the certified Local Coastal Plan.	
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#### **B.** Harm to the Groundwater Supply

29. The harm to the North Monterey County groundwater supply is evidenced by Cal-Am's violation of three separate laws. <u>First</u>, Cal-Am's actions violate the new mandates of Governor Brown's groundwater legislation that specifically identifies (and prohibits) "significant and unreasonable seawater Intrusion" as an "Undesirable Result" that must be avoided in the management of potable groundwater basins, and specifically in the Salinas Valley. (See AB 1739 (Dickinson); SB1168 (Pavley); and SB1319 (Pavley) signed by Governor Brown in October, 2014).

30. Second, Cal-Am, through its test well, intends to intentionally contaminate a 10 potable groundwater supply in violation of multiple state regulations and water quality laws. 11 The California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Central Coast (CCRWQCB) is tasked 12 with the adoption and enforcement of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal 13 Basin. The Plan was adopted in June 2011 and references the SWRCB Non-Degradation Policy 14 adopted in 1968 which is required to be enforced by the CCRWQCB: "wherever the existing 15 quality of water is better than the quality of water established herein as objectives, such existing 16 quality shall be maintained unless otherwise provided by the provisions of the State Water 17 Resources Control Board Resolution No. 68-16, Statement of Policy with Respect to 18 Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California, including any revisions thereto." 19 31. Third, Cal-Am's test well, and its removal of groundwater from the basin (and 20

discharging that groundwater into the Pacific Ocean) violates several aspects of California groundwater rights law:

• In an over-drafted percolated groundwater basin, there is no groundwater available for junior appropriators to take outside of the basin. (*Katz v. Walkinshaw* (1902) 141 Cal. 116). This is the situation in the over-drafted Salinas Valley percolated groundwater basin, there is no "new" groundwater underlying the over-drafted Salinas aquifers. Cal-Am is a junior appropriator that has no rights to groundwater in the Salinas Valley, and it can't get any.

• The "Doctrine of Correlative Overlying Water Rights," as created and interpreted

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1 2 3 4 5	by the California Supreme Court in <i>Walkinshaw</i> , and as reiterated for the last 110 years (most recently in <i>City of Barstow v. Mojave</i> (2000) 23 Cal.4th 1224, prohibits any land owner in an over-drafted percolated groundwater basin from pumping more than that land owner's correlative share of groundwater from the aquifer as against all other overlying water rights holders and senior appropriators. CEMEX (the landowner where Cal-Am's wells are located) is only allowed to pump a fixed (correlative) amount of water for beneficial uses solely on its' property.		
6 7 8 9	• Finally, Cal-Am has not used and has indicated that it intends to not use, but has "dumped" and intends to "dump" the water it pumps from its "test well," including the Trust's potable water, back into the ocean, thereby constituting a prohibited "waste of water" and a direct violation of Article X, Sec.2 of the Constitution of California and the "Doctrine of Reasonable Use." ( <i>Peabody v. Vallejo</i> (1935) 2 Cal.2d 351-371.)		
10	DUTY TO ENFORCE		
11 12	32. The California Coastal Commission and the County of Monterey are legally		
13	required, duty bound, and obligated to enforce the non-discretionary mandates encompassed by		
14	and included in the state certified LCP.		
15	33. The legal obligations to enforce the non-discretionary mandates in this state		
16	certified LCP, which was unanimously certified and adopted on March 1, 1982 by the California		
17	Coastal Commission and adopted by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors in June of 1982,		
18	may not be ignored or waived by either the staffs or the voting officials of those two		
19	governmental entities.		
20	34. The 1982 certified LCP for North Monterey County is an adopted and enforceable		
21	California state coastal plan (certified local coastal plan) as provided for by the State Legislature		
22	in the California Public Resources Code and the California Coastal Act. All State agencies,		
23	including the Coastal Commission, have a duty and are mandated at all times both to enforce the		
24	state certified requirements in the North County LCP policies, and to jealously protect the		
25	recognized groundwater resources of the Monterey County Coastal Zone, and particularly to		
26	preserve protected and statutorily protected coastal agricultural resources.		
27	35. It is mandatory that certified LCP provisions, requiring protection and preservation		
28	of identified, recognized, and protected coastal natural resources, are required to be enforced by		
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1	both the County and the Coastal Commission, even if the threat of damage or loss to protected	
2	groundwater resources, or the violation of the mandated protective policies in the certified North	
3	County LCP, result from activities that are outside, but immediately proximate, to the	
4	jurisdictional coastal area of the North County LCP.	
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6	FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST CALIFORNIA COASTAL	
7	COMMISSION, CCC COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY OF MONTEREY, AND BOS	
8	Violation of the Local Coastal Plan	
9	36. Petitioner hereby incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 35 as if fully set	
10	forth herein.	
11	37. The California Coastal Commission and the County of Monterey are legally	
12	required, duty bound, and obligated to enforce the non-discretionary mandates encompassed by	
13	and included in the state certified LCP.	
14	38. Cal-Am's slant test well is in violation of Key Policy 2.5.1 of the LCP and the	
15	Specific Policies of section 2.5.3 of the LCP, as detailed above. Cal-Am's pumping from the	
16	slant test well is also in violation of state water laws and is causing harm to groundwater	
17	supplies. Finally, Cal-Am's pumping is in violation of the Monterey County Water Resources	
18	Agency Act.	
19	39. On May 19, 2016, Petitioner wrote to the County and CCC and demanded that	
20	each entity enforce the Local Coastal Plan concerning Cal-Am's slant test well, for the reasons	
21	listed above. During the week of June 20, 2016, the CCC and County each responded that it	
22	would not enforce the terms of the LCP. The CCC's and County's failure to enforce the terms of	
23	the LCP are in direct conflict with state law. This Court's intervention is therefore required to	
24	remedy the CCC's and County's action in this regard. Accordingly, the Court should issue a writ	
25	of mandate directing the CCC and County to enforce the LCP by issuing a cease-and-desist order	
26	to Cal-Am.	
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# SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (AGAINST CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION AND CCC COMMISSIONERS)

# Violation of CCC Permit and Conditions

40. Petitioner hereby incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 39 as if fully set forth herein.

41. Cal-Am constructed a test slant well and pilot program (including the slant well, a submersible well pump, a wellhead vault, and related facilities) at the Cemex, Inc. Lapis Plant,
Lapis Road, Marina, CA 93933. This project was granted Coastal Development Permit No. 914-1735-A2 / A-3-MRA-1 4-0050-A2. Cal-Am's permit to construct and operate the test well
was based on certain representations and subject to a number of Special Conditions. Cal-Am is in violation as follows.

42. <u>First</u>, the slant well concept was introduced to the CCC as an ecologically-friendly way to draw ocean water from Monterey Bay for desalination. The design was altered in a baitand-switch manner – first, the well was shortened, and then, right before permit approval, the wellhead location was moved 200 feet further inland. The test well no longer has sub-ocean intake, but now draws entirely the brackish water of the already overdrafted 180 foot aquifer beneath the beach and dunes of Marina. All justification for the expensive and unproven slant well technology has thus vanished.

43. <u>Second</u>, Cal-Am is required to de-commission the test slant well at the conclusion
of the test period (Special Condition 6, para. 2 (p.6)), and must post a \$1,000,000 bond "to
guarantee the Permittee's compliance" (Special Condition 17 (p.12)). We have no evidence that
Cal-Am has posted the \$1,000,000 bond, and Cal-Am has stated, in both an RFP process already
completed, and in a revised Project Description submitted to the CPUC, that the test well will be
converted to a backup well in the production system, and its wellhead will be shared with a new
production well

44. <u>Third</u>, Special Condition 6 requires that all project components remain covered. If
the wellheads, linings, casings, or other project components become exposed due to erosion, CalAm must submit an application for an amended permit remedying the exposure. The project

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components have become exposed due to erosion, but the "remedy" contained in Cal-Am's
amended permit application (and approved by the Coastal Commission) does not result in a
complete covering of all project components. Rather, certain components will remain above
grade, constituting a dangerous condition. Moreover, even this limited covering will not take
place immediately, but will occur gradually due to natural sand deposition. This violates Special
Condition 6, which requires a full covering of all project components and prompt remedying of
violations.

8 45. Fourth, Special Condition 11 prohibits a TDS increase of 2000 ppm. Since the
9 beginning of the test slant well pumping, salinity levels in the monitoring wells have increased
10 significantly more than 2000 ppm, demonstrating Cal Am's knowing contamination of the
11 statutorily and regulatorily protected groundwater.

46. On May 19, 2016, Petitioner wrote to the CCC and demanded that it enforce the permit conditions listed above. During the week of June 20, 2016, the CCC responded that it would not enforce the terms of the permit conditions. The CCC's failure to enforce the terms of the permit conditions are in direct conflict with state law. This Court's intervention is therefore required to remedy the CCC's action in this regard. Accordingly, the Court should issue a writ of mandate directing the CCC to enforce the Permit Conditions by issuing a cease-and-desist order to Cal-Am.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION (AGAINST COUNTY OF MONTEREY, BOS, and MCWRA)

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### Violation of Agency Act

47. Petitioner hereby incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 46 as if fully set
forth herein.

48. MCWRA is organized and existing under the Monterey County Water Resources
Agency Act, Water Code Appendix Chapter 52 ("Agency Act"), and its territory consists of "all
of the territory of the county lying within the exterior boundaries of the county." (Agency Act
Section 52-4). The Agency Act provides in relevant part:

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The Legislature finds and determines that the agency is developing a project which will establish a substantial balance between extractions and recharge within the Salinas River Groundwater Basin. *For the purpose of preserving that balance, no groundwater from that basin may be exported for any use outside the basin*, except that use of water from the basin on any part of Fort Ord shall not be deemed such an export. If any export of water from the basin is attempted, the agency may obtain from the superior court, and the court shall grant, injunctive relief prohibiting that exportation of groundwater." (Agency Act § 52-21; emphasis added)

7 49. Cal Am now proposes to obtain the project's source water from aquifers that are a 8 part of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. (See Change in project description in CPUC 9 A.12-04-019, Service of Amended Application dated March 14, 2016.) That proposed action is 10 in direct violation of the state Agency Act, which prohibits the exportation of groundwater from 11 the Salinas Valley. Previously, in this application, Cal Am planned to draw its source water via 12 slant wells from under the seafloor because the company lacked water rights to draw water from 13 the SVGB. This earlier planned action was also supposed to avoid violation of the state Agency 14 Act – the assumption being that the water was not going to be drawn from the SVGB despite the 15 well-known fact (McMillian, 2003) that the basin extends miles out to sea. Now, the source 16 water being affirmed to be groundwater within the SVGB, the Agency Act, as well as the water-17 rights issue, comes into play.

18 Cal Am is planning now to satisfy the Agency Act by returning a fraction of the 50. 19 potable water it produces to the SVGB while exporting a much larger fraction to the Monterey 20 Peninsula, the two fractions corresponding respectively to the fractions of basin-water and 21 seawater in the source water. The tacit premise of this plan is that basin water consists only of 22 potable water, which is all that needs to be returned to the SVGB to satisfy the Agency Act. 23 That promise is untrue. Basin water consists of not only potable but also non-potable 24 components, including salt, which need to be subject to filtration, including desalination, to 25 produce potable water. If the premise were true, desalination would be unnecessary.

51. The Agency Act refers simply to groundwater, consisting of both potable and nonpotable components. Therefore, the Agency Act prohibits the exportation from the SVGB of

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1	both components, not just a potable component of groundwater. Moreover, the attempt to		
2	redefine groundwater as "potable water under the ground" was foreclosed by CPUC ALJ		
3	Weatherford when he ruled that a desalination facility is not an independent "water source":		
4 5	In addition, Marina Coast assumes that the desalination plant is a "water source," and based on that assumption, Marina Coast argues that the desalination plant falls outside of the Commission's purview. (Marina Coast Reply Brief at 1-2.)		
6	Marina Coast's assumption is incorrect. While the proposed desalination plant may produce fresh water, it is not the source or supply of water – the source of water would be the ocean (or possibly groundwater). Treatment of surface water or groundwater does not make the treatment plant the "source" of that water. Likewise here, treatment of seawater (including desalination) does not make the treatment plant the source of the water. (Excerpt from p. 15 of D.12-10-030 (31 October 2012.)		
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11	52. On May 19, 2016, Petitioner wrote to the County and demanded that it enforce the		
12	provisions of the Agency Act listed above. During the week of June 20, 2016, the County (on		
13	behalf of itself and the MCWRA) responded that it would not enforce the terms of the Agency		
14	Act. The County's and MCWRA's failure to enforce the terms of the Agency Act are in direct		
15	conflict with state law. This Court's intervention is therefore required to remedy the County's		
16	and MCWRA's action in this regard. Accordingly, the Court should issue a writ of mandate		
17	directing the County and MCWRA to enforce the Agency Act by issuing a cease-and-desist		
18	order to Cal-Am.		
19	WHEREFORE, Petitioners pray for judgment as follows:		
20	1. For Alternative and Peremptory Writs of Mandate ordering Respondents to enforce		
21	the LCP, Permit Conditions, and Agency Act, by issuing Cease and Desist Orders		
22	against Cal-Am;		
23	2. For a preliminary and permanent injunction against Cal-Am's continued pumping		
24	of groundwater from the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin, until it complies with		
25	the LCP, Permit Conditions, and Agency Act;		
26	3. For costs of suit;		
27	4. For an award of attorney's fees; and		
28	5. For such other and further relief as the court deems proper.		
	- 15 -		
	PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE Case No. M, WRAMP, et al. v. COUNTY OF MONTEREY, ET AL.		

1	Dated: June 28, 2016	BALCH LAW OFFICE
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4		By: David W. Balch
5		Attorney for Petitioner
6		Automey for Feutioner
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		- 16 -
	Case No. M	PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE , WRAMP, et al. v. COUNTY OF MONTEREY, ET AL.

1	VERIFICATION		
2	I, RON WEITZMAN, declare:		
3	I am the President of WRAMP, the Petitioner in this action. I am authorized to make this		
	declaration on behalf of WRAMP. I make this declaration of my own knowledge, and if called		
4	to testify thereto, I could and would competently testify.		
5	I have read the foregoing Petition for Writ of Mandamus and know the contents thereof.		
6	The contents therein are true of my own knowledge, except as to those matters that are alleged		
7	on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.		
8	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California tha Verified by PDFfille		
9	foregoing is true and correct. Executed this _28th_ day of June, 2016, inCarmel,		
10	California.		
11	For Mary		
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13	Ron Weitzman		
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	- 17 - PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE		
	Case No. M, WRAMP, et al. v. COUNTY OF MONTEREY, ET AL.		

