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STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD

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DIV OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

Mark Magruder Eckles
1025 Olmsted Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

July 12, 2016

Matthew Quint
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, Ca 95812-2000

Dear Mr. Quint,

Residents of the Monterey Peninsula desperately need some entity of authority to examine the water issues not under the influence of special interests. These are for the most part in collusion, the California American Water Company (which is neither) and the Cannery Row Company, the prime advocate for the "hospitality industry." Most recently the Monterey Bay Aquarium has thrown its hat into the fray because it wants a thirty million dollar administrative structure to go along with the luxury hotel "Bella" project in order to augment its corporate structure. These literally a stones throw away from basking pinnipeds. The litany of projects for which there is water at most only on paper, nor infrastructure: Seaside horse racing commercial project, the "eco" hotel on the Sand City coastal sand dunes, build-out of Pebble Beach among the Monterey Pines, The Hotel Bella project, the Monterey Bay Aquarium addition.

Two most recent elections have been bought and paid for by Cal AM and the Cannery Row Company, one to thwart public ownership of the public utility and the other to change a zoning ordinance to allow the six hundred dollar a night hotel in Pacific Grove, home of the extraordinary Asilomar. Unfounded fear of a loss of money on the one hand, and money in the PG coffers on the other secured the outcome. Intimidation and bribery to the mostly unsophisticated, ignorant-made public. Cal Am and the Cannery Row Company have colluded to enable first, control of the cash cow, for the later, receipt of water at the base rate and it's hotel project. (I wish you could have seen the developer's parade before the Pacific Grove City Council espousing the merits of the money scheme. Revolting.)

If one examines the nature of the Salinas Valley watershed, its elevations, sediment, the shoreline site, the Cal Am desal will pump an unpredictable but increased amount of fresh water for which it has no legal right. Cal Am's squirming manipulations surrounding the project gives them away. Allowed, the project will be excessively costly to maintain, consume large amounts of fossil fuel, pump water illegally, and sit at a site most prone to coastal erosion on the entire length of California coast. (The other competing projects suffer nearly all the same disqualifications. They are money making projects of their proponents.) A disaster in the making for which Monterey Bay residents will ultimately pay the price.

We are here! And given every aspect for our continued existence in some sort of balance with nature and yes even for a handful of Steelhead trout, a well-designed dam is what truly is needed to sustain what is present. A picture requiring great political courage. In defense of the San Clement Dam, and if you saw it, it would be apparent that beginning with the useless fish ladder no attention had been given to it during the forty-five years of Cal AM ownership. In its demise it held back thousands of yards of material from the Marble Cone fire that would have otherwise washed into the downstream length of the Carmel River. If all parties are held to the fire, maybe a solution to sustain all the fauna, flora and us, will result. A desperate, urgent appeal.

Very truly yours,



Mark Eckles