

From: Neal Heckman [<mailto:nealh@gopalace.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 4:45 PM
To: Quint, Matthew@Waterboards
Cc: Neal Heckman
Subject: CDO Modification Hearing for the Monterey Peninsula

Dear Mr. Quint:

My wife and I are very concerned about the economic impact on the community and us personally based on the final recommendation of the staff. We would ask that the board strongly consider these points.

- **We appreciate the SWRCB staff's recommendation** to extend the deadline to 2021 and all the efforts they've made over the past two years to negotiate a modification to the CDO with local stakeholders. However, **there are key items in the Staff Preliminary Recommendation that must be changed** in order to ensure the viability of our community and our ability to comply with the CDO.
- **Please increase the Effective Diversion Limit (EDL) to 8,310 acre feet a year.** This is a small increase – 320 acre-feet more than what staff has recommended -- but it means everything to our community and way of life. **The 7,990 figure recommended by staff will likely put us into the early stages of water rationing** – a 25% surcharge on all water bills, that will grow to a 40% surcharge if additional cutbacks are needed to comply with your order. A 25% increase on top of the investment we're currently making to develop alternative sources of water will be detrimental to the people and businesses of the Monterey Peninsula.
- **Our efforts to save water are extraordinary and should be recognized.** Year after year our water use from the Carmel River has been significantly less than the limits your agency has set. **Since Order 95-10 was issued, our reliance on the river has decreased by 46%**, which is evidence of the measures we've taken to cut back. We were already among the lowest water users in the state and yet we managed, with difficulty, to do more. **Our average consumption today is just 55 gallons per person per day**, well below the statewide average of 77 gppd.
- **The CDO should reward us for conservation.** If we manage to use less than the limit going forward, the additional amount we save should be carried over to the next year. This not only provides a reward for doing well, it provides needed flexibility to keep us from exceeding the order.
- **A lot of progress is being made to develop an alternative water supply.** The groundwater replenishment project (www.purewatermonterey.org) and a new pipeline to deliver its water should be underway next year. California American Water, our local mayors and the Water Management District have done everything in their power to keep the California Public Utilities Commission moving ahead on approving a desalination plant to replace withdrawals from the Carmel River.
- **Progress on the river itself has been remarkable – the San Clemente Dam has been removed, and deals have been struck with other large pumpers from the river to pump less and leave water in the river for the habitat.** Deals like this should be rewarded by increasing California American Water's pumping limit equivalent to a portion of the water saved.
- **Please accept the changes California American Water, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority have requested** to your staff's preliminary recommendation. The conditions they request are the product of two years of negotiation with diverse stakeholders and are supported by environmental and community groups. It is a compromise that protects the river and the people of the Monterey Peninsula.

Sincerely,

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