



Water for Monterey County Coalition

Dedicated to Identifying and Supporting an Affordable, Sustainable Water Supply Solution.

Date

Commissioner John Bohn
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Commissioner Bohn,

We are writing to introduce ourselves and to ask you to consider our perspectives about water in Monterey County. We call ourselves the Water for Monterey County Coalition and began our unique collaboration January 2007. Originally supported by the Division of Ratepayer Advocates, the Water for Monterey County Coalition is a group of citizens, public officials, water and wastewater agency managers, and non-government organizations. We came together to identify water supply solutions to the many economic and environmental issues our community faces. We sought and created a 21st Century water project solution that is more affordable than the alternatives, advantageous to ratepayers, environmentally beneficial, politically acceptable, and publicly owned.

Our solution (visit www.waterformontereycounty.org) is described in the recently released Environmental Impact Report for the Coastal Water Project (www.cwp-eir.com). Water for Monterey County, referred to as the "Regional Project" in that document, is the best solution analyzed in that report. Citizens with our best interests at heart created it. The signatories to this letter illustrate the diversity of our supporters. We believe that it is critical that you understand breadth of community support for the regional project.

The public agency project sponsors are ready to build Water for Monterey County (the Regional Project). The management and board of directors of the Marina Coast Water District (www.mcwd.org), the project sponsors are prepared to move forward. We believe that the California American Water Company would be interested in cooperating with us and purchasing water from the regional project. In fact, California American Water Company officials have stated publicly many times that they would be interested in purchasing water from any agency who had water to sell. We believe that Cal Am needs some encouragement in order to take a major step and forego building their water supply project in Monterey. Cal Am must move rapidly to take this important step and negotiate with the Marina Coast Water District to purchase the water they need from the Regional Water Project we support. If our regional plan is not adopted and built, Cal Am's privately owned, expensive alternative or worse, no water project at all, could result.

Thus, in addition to communicating our support for the Regional Project, we seek your help in guiding Cal Am to do the right thing. We believe that the Regional Project will relieve the regulatory and legal water issues that Cal Am faces in the most economically feasible and environmentally friendly fashion. In the end, Cal Am, its ratepayers, and its shareholders will all be better off.

Sincerely,

See X# of signatories on the following pages