

EXHIBIT 16-A

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Application of California-American) Application 12-04-019
Water Company (U210W) for Approval) (Filed April 23, 2012)
of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply)
Project and Authorization to Recover)
All Present and Future Costs in Rates)
_____)

**MOTION OF THE
MONTEREY PENINSULA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
FOR PARTY STATUS**

David C. Laredo, CSBN 66532
Heidi A. Quinn, CSBN 180880
Alex J. Lorca, CSBN 266444
De LAY & LAREDO
606 Forest Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950-4221
Telephone: (831) 646-1502
Facsimile: (831) 646-0377
Email: dave@laredolaw.net

Frances M. Farina, CSBN 185035
De LAY & LAREDO
389 Princeton Avenue
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
Telephone: (805) 681-8822
Facsimile: (805) 681-8823
Email: ffarina@cox.net

Attorneys for **MONTEREY PENINSULA
WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

[DATE]

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**MOTION OF THE
MONTEREY PENINSULA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
FOR PARTY STATUS**

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Rules 1.4(a)(4) and 1.4(b) of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission), the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (Water Management District or MPWMD) hereby moves for party status in Application 12-04-019.

II. MPWMD SHOULD BE GRANTED PARTY STATUS

The California Legislature created the Water Management District in 1977¹ and expressly granted it authority to regulate all local water systems within its jurisdiction, including the California-American Water Company (Cal-Am) system.

The Water Management District's interests are directly affected by the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (Project) proposed by Cal-Am, and by any settlement of issues in this proceeding. In accord with Rules 1.4(b), MPWMD has information that would be useful and pertinent to the Commission in acting in this proceeding.

¹ Chapter 527 of the Statutes of 1977, as amended (Water Management District Law), found at West's Water Law Appendix Section 118-1, et. seq.

Presently, MPWMD regulates Cal-Am under a comprehensive water management program. Cal-Am is required by law to obtain a permit from the Water Management District to add the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project, or any project alternative, as a source of supply to its water distribution system.

MPWMD and Cal-Am co-own and operate a permit from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to appropriate water from the Carmel River.² This water right (SWRCB Permit 20808A) is used to provide water for the joint Cal-Am-MPWMD Aquifer & Storage Recovery (ASR) project. The Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project may provide an additional source of supply for the ASR project.

Also, Water Management District Rule 165, in concert with Cal-Am Rule 14.1 as authorized by the CPUC, regulates and imposes rationing and conservation measures upon Cal-Am and customers that use water from the Cal-Am main system.

The MPWMD is governed by a locally elected board of directors that represents the communities that benefit from water supplies from this project. As such, the Water Management District has access to municipal credit opportunities to provide public financing, and offer alternate means that may protect ratepayer interests and promote affordable and deliverable water supplies for the Monterey Peninsula.

PARTICIPATION IN PROCEEDINGS

MPWMD is a responsible agency for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). MPWMD supports, in concept, the Groundwater Recharge (GWR) and ASR components of the proposed project, and is ready, willing, and able to lend its status and capabilities as a public agency to help the desalination component achieve the lowest cost impact on

² SWRCB Permit 20808A derives from Decision 1632 (Application 27414) and SWRCB Permit 20808.

ratepayers and implementation in a timely fashion. However, but MPWMD cannot take a final position or limit its obligation to consider any and all alternatives, including the “no project” alternative, and any and all mitigation measures, and to make required findings as a responsible agency, until CEQA review has been completed. Until then, MPWMD cannot exercise its discretion to take final action on any aspect of the Project.

III. CONTACT INFORMATION

All correspondence, pleadings, orders and notices in this proceeding should be directed to the following:

David C. Laredo
Heidi A. Quinn
Alex J. Lorca
De LAY & LAREDO
606 Forest Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950-4221
Telephone: (831) 646-1502
Facsimile: (831) 646-0377
Email: dave@laredolaw.net
heidi@laredolaw.net
alex@laredolaw.net

Frances M. Farina
De LAY & LAREDO
389 Princeton Avenue
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
Telephone: (805) 681-8822
Facsimile: (805) 681-8823
Email: ffarina@laredolaw.net

David J. Stoldt
General Manager
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
PO Box 85
Monterey, CA 93942-0085
Telephone: (831) 658-5651
Email: dstoldt@mpwmd.net

IV. CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated, MPWMD seeks party status in this proceeding to ensure the CPUC is informed of all Water Management District interests affected by this proceeding, and to ensure MPWMD has adequate notice and opportunity to respond to all issues, claims and arguments raised by any party in the course of this proceeding.

The Water Management District respectfully requests the Commission grant Party Status to the Water Management District.

Dated: [DATE]

Respectfully submitted,

David C. Laredo
De LAY & LAREDO
Attorneys for Monterey Peninsula
Water Management District

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