



Item 2

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

September 22, 2009

Fred Meurer.
City Manager
City of Monterey
City Hall
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mr. Meurer:

RESPONSE TO INQUIRY REGARDING GROUNDWATER RECHARGE REUSE PROJECT

We received your August 24, 2009 letter inquiring about our position on the use of recycled municipal wastewater for groundwater recharge and reuse as a municipal water supply. You are also specifically inquiring about our permit process timeline and requirements for a potential project being evaluated by the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) that would inject or percolate disinfected tertiary recycled water into the Seaside groundwater basin for additional treatment prior to being extracted for use as a municipal water supply.

Our position on groundwater recharge reuse projects is generally favorable given controls are in place to protect the beneficial uses of groundwater. In addition, we are particularly in favor of alternative water supply, reclamation and conservation projects within the Monterey Peninsula and Carmel Valley that will restore the water balances of the Seaside groundwater basin and Carmel Valley watershed/aquifer.

At this time it is difficult to estimate a timeline for permitting a groundwater recharge reuse project on the Monterey Peninsula given the potential complexity of a yet to be proposed/defined project and uncertainty regarding the level of public participation during our permitting process. This will likely be the first project of its kind within the Central Coast Region.

At a minimum, project requirements will be based on California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Groundwater Recharge Reuse Regulations. An August 5, 2008 draft of these regulations is currently pending the formal regulation adoption process for inclusion within Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. You can view and download the draft regulations at the following web address:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/environhealth/water/Pages/Waterrecycling.aspx>

In the absence of formally adopted regulations we would likely use the CDPH draft regulations as guidance in developing permit requirements for groundwater recharge

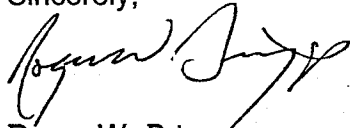
California Environmental Protection Agency

reuse projects. We may also apply additional requirements as appropriate to protect the beneficial uses of the targeted aquifer. In accordance with our memorandum of understanding with CDPH we will not consider issuing a permit for groundwater recharge reuse projects, or any other recycled water projects, until CDPH has approved an engineering report for the project. However, we anticipate that we may be able to develop a draft permit concurrent with CDPH review of the required engineering report.

In conclusion, based on information sharing with CDPH and MRWPCA to date regarding potential project scenarios and requirements, we consider a groundwater recharge reuse project within the Monterey Peninsula as a serious possibility.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Matthew, **Keeling** at (805) 549-3.685 or mkeeling@waterboards.ca.gov, or Burton Chadwick at 805-542-4786.

Sincerely,



Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer

Paper File:

Electronic File: S:\WDR\WDR Facilities\Monterey Co\Monterey Regional WPCA_Salinas Valley Reclamation
Project\City_of_Mont_Inquiry.doc
Task Code: 12601

CC:

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