

July 23, 2010

John Ramirez, Director
Monterey County Health Department
1270 Natividad Street
Salinas, CA 93906

**Subject: Request for Co-Funding of Expanded Assessment of Fractured Rock Wells
within the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District**

Dear Mr. Ramirez:

For the past several months, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD or District) staff has worked closely with Richard LeWarne and Cheryl Sandoval of your staff at the Environmental Health Division of the Monterey County Health Department (MCHD) regarding coordinated regulation of water wells, particularly wells located in fractured rock formations. As you may know, the District supported Monterey County Ordinance No. 5160 as it allows continued investigation of the effects on public health, safety, and welfare of fractured rock well applications within the ordinance area. We are also amending our rules to firm up MPWMD regulation of fractured rock wells.

Specifically, the District recently conducted comprehensive data mining of wells in the Carmel Woods, Carmel Knolls and Aguajito areas, which comprised a pilot study of fractured rock wells. An important study conclusion, supported by the District's Water Demand Committee, is to expand the study area to all the fractured rock wells within the MPWMD boundary. An estimated 650 fractured rock wells would be examined, primarily in the Carmel Valley Upland area. An initial cost estimate is \$30,100, based on \$26,500 for consultant services (530 hours at \$50/hr) as well as six automatic data loggers at \$600 each. We hope to begin the study in August 2010 and complete it within six months. Please visit the District website for more detailed information at:

<http://www.mpwmd.dst.ca.us/asd/board/committees/waterdemandcommittee/2010/20100721/06/item6.htm>

The Water Demand Committee has directed me to contact you regarding co-funding of this study, that is, a contribution of \$15,000. We believe MCHD will directly benefit from the study results as they will provide scientific-based information on wells in fractured rock to help you address the issues specified in County Ordinance No. 5160. The MPWMD study would be completed prior to the May 2011 expiration of the County Ordinance.

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A written reply to this co-funding request would be greatly appreciated by Friday, August 6, 2010 so I can report back to the Board committee. I understand that a formal commitment cannot be made in such a short period of time, but MPWMD is interested in the potential of such cost-sharing by the County. I can be reached at 831/658-5651 or darby@mpwmd.dst.ca.us if you have questions. The technical staff contact regarding the expanded study is Jonathan Lear, Senior Hydrogeologist, at 831/658-5647 or jlear@mpwmd.dst.ca.us.

Thank you for your consideration of this funding request. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,


Darby W. Fuerst
General Manager

Cc: Joe Oliver, WRD Manager
Jonathan Lear, Senior Hydrogeologist
Henrietta Stern, Project Manager
Richard LeWarne, MCHD Asst. Director
Dave Potter, Monterey County Supervisor

MONTEREY COUNTY



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ANIMAL SERVICES
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CLINIC SERVICES

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR/PUBLIC GUARDIAN

August 12, 2010

Darby Fuerst
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
5 Harris Court, Bldg G
Monterey, CA 93940

RE: Request for Co-funding of Expanded Assessment of Fractured Rock Wells within the
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

Dear Mr. Fuerst,

The Monterey County Health Department, Environmental Health Bureau (EHB) has appreciated your staff's assistance on our newly adopted Interim Well Ordinance. As you are aware, due to concerns about long term reliability of wells drilled into fractured rock formations and the potential impacts on neighbors, our interim ordinance will prohibit most new wells being drilled on lots less than 2.5 acres within the ordinance's study area.

The interim ordinance will expire May 24, 2011 and EHB staff is currently working on gathering and analyzing information to determine if we will recommend that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors adopt an ordinance to address the issues presented in the interim ordinance. The results of your pilot study have been helpful in supporting the interim ordinance. The results of your expanded study will also most likely be very helpful in our ongoing investigation of wells in fractured rock.

EHB staff has and will continue to spend a significant amount of time researching and analyzing wells in fractured rock formation. We will also be working with other counties and professionals to gather as much information and data that is available. Unfortunately, due to the present economic environment our budget has been severely impacted this fiscal year and will continue to be severely impacted into the foreseeable future. At present, EHB does not have the resources to spend any additional funds beyond staff time on the project. However, we feel that the results of our own investigation will be very valuable to your study and may be a resource for your agency.. If you have any specific questions regarding existing information we have or our current investigation, please contact Cheryl Sandoval at (831) 755-4552 or sandovalcl@co.monterey.ca.us as the primary contact or Richard LeWarne at (831) 755-4544 or lewarner@co.monterey.ca.us

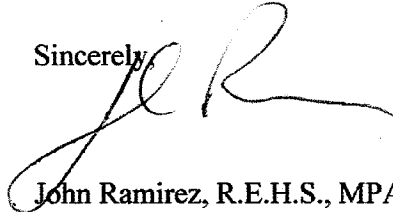
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Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

We look forward to continue our agencies' collaborative working relationship in addressing mutual items of concern. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (831) 755-4539.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JR', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

John Ramirez, R.E.H.S., MPA
Director, Environmental Health Bureau