

Submitted by staff at
11/13/14 Water Demand
Committee
Item 2



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MPWMD

November 10, 2014

Honorable Dave Potter, Chair, and Members of the Board
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
5 Harris Court, Building G
Monterey, California 93942-0085

Re: Outdoor Seating for Restaurants

Dear Chair Potter:

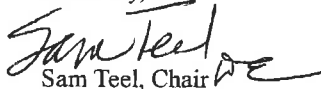
We have reviewed the agendas and staff reports for the November 13th Technical Advisory Committee and Water Demand Committee meetings. Both Committees are scheduled to discuss a recommendation to the District Board regarding a policy(ies) for restaurants' outdoor seating. Your Board is scheduled to consider their recommendations on November 17th.

The Monterey County Hospitality Association believes any formal discussion of this question is premature until there is evidence of a problem. That evidence would be in the form of hard data to support a conclusion that the perceived upswing in outdoor seating actually increased the number of customers served and resulted in more water being used. Without solid data any decision made to count outdoor seating as an expansion of a restaurant resulting in the intensification of water use would be at best speculative. The data should include items such as:

- A baseline year upon which changes in seating and water use can be measured.
- The number of restaurant seats that have been added or lost since that baseline year.
- The increase or decrease in water use for restaurants from the baseline year.
- The number of outdoor seats that have been added since the baseline year.
- The potential number of outdoor seats that could be added based on the permitting requirements of the individual cities or the County.

Should the data clearly show that the addition of outdoor seating does in fact pose a serious threat to water conservation on the Peninsula, then a discussion of how to best address that issue would be warranted. MCHA is willing to meet and discuss these issues with your staff and work to a mutually agreeable end. However we do not believe those discussions would be beneficial until the data shows that the discussion is needed.

Sincerely,


Sam Teel, Chair

Monterey County Hospitality Association

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