



April 3, 2010

Regina Doyle, Chair  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District  
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From: Amy Anderson  
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APR - 2 2010

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SUBJECT: WATER PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Dear Chair and Members of the Board of Directors:

I am glad to learn that the Board will be reconsidering its vote on the Water Purchase Agreement in open session. The lack of transparency in the development of the details of this plan is very troubling. The details have only been available since Tuesday.

I am in favor of a plan that reduces our overdraft of the Carmel River, that adopts measures that replenish the aquifer, that encourages conservation, and that replaces the overdraft water currently being used by residents. The expense of the water seems exorbitant, and the cost structure makes no sense to me. How were these numbers arrived at? They are much higher than those presented months ago by the Regional Project proponents. As Cal-Am ratepayers will be providing significant subsidies to non-Cal-Am users, and the details of the project do not assure that the water can be delivered because of some unresolved legal issues. This is very troubling.

There is no fixed price for water and no cost controls – this is outrageous! Asking for Cal-Am ratepayers to pay for litigation – when the ratepayers had little or nothing to do with this plan – is against any understanding of what “transparency in government” implies. Cal-Am ratepayers are backed into a box on this one, no matter how much it turns out to cost. This cannot be defended.

Because the release of information was so late, and does not include enough time for public review, this means decisions will be finalized without full understanding of the consequences of the agreement. The vote should be delayed by the Board until an independent cost analysis is performed, or deny the agreement. This is a very serious issue, and to be plunging into something with such huge consequences for the Peninsula, with so little independent and public review, is anathema to good public relations and trust.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Anderson  
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