

MCHA's Coalition of Peninsula Businesses

P.O. Box 223542
Carmel, California 93922
831-626-8636 fax 831-626-4269

*Received at
8/15/2011
Board Meeting
Item 16*

August 15, 2011

The Honorable Bob Brower, Chair
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
5 Harris Court
Monterey, California 93940

Re: Agenda Items 15 and 16

Dear Bob and Members, Board of Directors:

We recently formed a Coalition to support the expeditious completion of the Regional Water Project before the drastic and devastating cutbacks on water availability ordered by the SWRCB Cease and Desist Order take effect. We are the Monterey County Hospitality Association, Monterey Commercial Property Owners' Association, Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, Monterey County Association of Realtors, and the Chambers of Commerce of Carmel, Pacific Grove and the Monterey Peninsula. We represent thousands of businesses employing tens of thousands of workers and thousands of residents on the Monterey Peninsula.

We oppose the District spending time and money on forming a 'citizen's advisory committee' to investigate buying out Cal Am. The WaterPlus presentation to you was replete with misrepresentations and erroneous information about which Cal Am informs you tonight. It strikes us as wasteful and unnecessary to spend time and money on this when you have five important water supply augmentation projects underway that can benefit from all the time and money you can spare.

Cal Am has stated, repeatedly, it is not for sale. The only way to buy Cal Am against its will is to initiate extremely expensive and time-consuming condemnation proceedings; this will take millions of dollars and take a dozen or so years, neither of which the District has to spare. Not one drop of new water would result from buying out Cal Am.

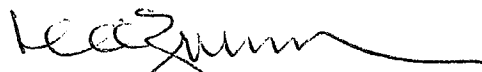
The issue of buying out Cal Am should have been settled with the 2 to 1 defeat of Measure W in 2005.

Please put aside this silly distraction from the important work of helping the community avoid the devastation the Cease and Desist Order deadline will impose on our businesses, our local governments and our residents.

Sincerely,



John Narigi, Coalition Co-chair
General Manager
Monterey Plaza Hotel and Spa



Mike Zimmerman, Coalition Co-chair
Executive Vice-president and COO
Cannery Row Company