

EXHIBIT 1-B

10060 Eddy Rd.
Carmel, CA 93923
October 8, 2025

George Riley, Chair
Board of Directors
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
P.O. Box 85
Monterey, CA 93942

Dear Chair Riley and Members of the Board:

I am writing to apply for the position of Division 5 Director of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD). I strongly support MPWMD's mission to promote water conservation and reclamation, augment the Peninsula's water supply through integrated ground and surface water management, and foster the scenic value and ecological health of the Carmel River watershed and the Monterey Peninsula. I would bring to the Board both my experience of civic engagement on the Peninsula and an educational and professional background well-suited to fulfilling the responsibilities of the Division 5 Director.

From 2021 to 2024, I served as President of the League of Women Voters of Monterey County (LWVMC). It was through the League's "Lunch & Learn" series that I heard two compelling presentations by Dave Stoldt on Peninsula water supply and demand and deepened my understanding of these critical issues. Later, I helped to formulate and presented comments on behalf of the Monterey County League to the California Coastal Commission opposing CalAm's application for a desalination facility. I am a member of LWVMC's Natural Resources Committee, a group that helps me stay current on water issues throughout Monterey County.

In 2024, I became President of the Carmel Valley Association (CVA), which advocates for the concerns of Carmel Valley residents, particularly in matters of land use planning. The CVA's mission to protect the Valley's beauty and rural character also encompasses concern for the health of the Carmel River ecosystem. Though the supply and demand estimates presented by MPWMD to the Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) earlier this year were unfortunately not adopted by the CPUC, the CVA found those numbers persuasive.

My interest in public utilities and regulatory policy dates back to my graduate study at Harvard Kennedy School of Government, where I earned a Master's degree in Public Policy. I continued my study of regulatory policy as a Regents' Scholar during further graduate work at the University of California, Berkeley. I subsequently served for several years as an economist in the electric power division of the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, where I worked on rate cases.

I have the privilege of living in the Carmel Valley home that has been in my family for seventy years. From childhood, I recall my family's dismay at the over-pumping of the Carmel River—a

river that had been fishable for my older brothers. Looking down now on the river from my hillside home, I can see evidence that the order to cease over-pumping has helped restore the river's health.

I deeply admire the impressive accomplishments of MPWMD and area residents in conserving water over the past several decades. I also appreciate the engineering expertise that has enabled Monterey One Water to expand its capacity and provide an additional 2,250 acre-feet of water to the Peninsula, including water that could help support the construction of critically needed affordable housing.

Premature construction of a desalination project, particularly if oversized, poses unacceptable risks to Peninsula residents and businesses. Beyond the environmental concerns, the extremely high cost of desalinated water would further increase the cost-of-living burden for working- and middle-class families, as well as for older residents on fixed incomes.

Although I value creative expression, in summarizing my values and goals with respect to local water policy, I cannot improve upon the statement of former Division 5 Director Amy Anderson: resolving the long-term challenge of achieving a more affordable, environmentally safe, and sustainable water supply while protecting the Carmel River; providing water for workforce housing, construction on lots of record, and projected growth in the coming decades; and avoiding projects that would damage sensitive areas or increase greenhouse gas emissions without adequate mitigation. Furthermore, if granted the honor of serving on the MPWMD Board, I would wholeheartedly support the mandate established through Measure J for a buyout of CalAm.

I have sought to be a collegial member of the boards on which I have served, looking for ways in which I can contribute to effective solutions. While I do not yearn for confrontation, I am a vigorous advocate for the missions I support. I recognize that this position involves a significant learning curve, and I would welcome that challenge.

Thank you for your consideration of my application.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gawain