



AGENDA
Administrative Hearing
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
March 31, 2025

MPWMD Conference Room – 5 Harris Court, Bldg. G, Monterey, CA

1. Call to Order

2. Public Hearing

Consider Amendment to California-American Water Company's Main Water Distribution System to Increase the Production Limit by 51.74 Acre-Feet Annually to Produce Riparian Water from the Carmel Valley Alluvial Aquifer for the Rancho Canada Village Project (Monterey County Resolution No. 21-309 and Resolution No. 23-131) and to Deliver Treated Riparian Water through a Master Meter to Individually Metered Users in the Rancho Canada Village Project Property; MPWMD Application #WDS-20241025CAW

Permittee: California-American Water Company, a California Corporation

Permitted System: Main California American Water System

Site Location: Rancho Canada Village Project: Vicinity Map, Legal Description and List of Assessor Parcel Numbers provided as Attachment 1 to Conditions of Approval

Application #WDS-20241025CAW

DESCRIPTION

Action: The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District staff hearing officer, Frances M. Farina, will consider Application #WDS-20241025CAW submitted on October 25, 2024, by Co-Applicants California-American Water Company, a California Corporation, and Rancho Canada Venture, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company. The application is to increase the production limit of the Main CAW System by 51.74 Acre-Feet Annually to supply water to the Rancho Canada Village Project in Carmel Valley.

3. Adjourn

ITEM: ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

- 1. Consider Amendment to California-American Water Company's Main Water Distribution System to Increase the Production Limit by 51.74 Acre-Feet Annually to Produce Riparian Water from the Carmel Valley Alluvial Aquifer for the Rancho Canada Village Project (Monterey County Resolution No. 21-309 and Resolution No. 23-131) and to Deliver Treated Riparian Water through a Master Meter to Individually Metered Users in the Rancho Canada Village Project Property; MPWMD Application #WDS-20241025CAW**

Permittee: California-American Water Company, a California Corporation

Permitted System: Main California American Water System

Site Location: Rancho Canada Village Project: Vicinity Map, Legal Description and List of Assessor Parcel Numbers provided as Attachment 1 to Conditions of Approval

Application #WDS-20241025CAW

Meeting Date: March 31, 2025

Prepared By: Gabriela Bravo

SUMMARY: The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District ("MPWMD" or "District") Administrative Hearing Officer will consider Application #WDS-20241025CAW received on October 25, 2024, from California-American Water Company ("CAW"), a California Company, and Rancho Canada Venture, LLC ("RCV"), a California Limited Liability Company, to amend the Main California American Water System to increase the Production Limit by **51.74** Acre-Feet Annually ("AFA") for a 145-unit Residential subdivision project known as the Rancho Canada Village Project ("RCV Project") in Carmel Valley. The application is available as **Exhibit A**.

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 21-309 on July 27, 2021, approving a Combined Development Permit for the RCV Project that will allow for 145 units. The Board of Supervisors also adopted Resolution No. 21-307 on July 27, 2021, certifying the Second Final Environmental Impact Report ("SREIR") prepared for the RCV Project in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). As the Project Site is located on the former Rancho Canada West golf course and has established riparian water rights from historical irrigation, the RCV Project (PL040061-AMD1) will utilize riparian water from the Carmel Valley Alluvial Aquifer ("CVAA") as its Source of Supply.

The CAW/RCV application under consideration involves the wheeling of the water for the RCV Project through the Main CAW System. Water will be produced for the RCV Project by CAW from the CVAA, treated at the Begonia Iron Removal Plant, and delivered to the RCV Project through a Master Meter with a maximum delivery of **46.57** AFA (consumptive use). The District's

consumptive use calculation is provided as **Exhibit B**. The State Water Resources Board has determined that the wheeling of the riparian water will not violate Condition 2 of the Cease and Desist Order (“CDO”) (State Water Board Order WR2009-0060) against CAW and is not subject to the moratorium on new Connections.

For non-controversial WDS matters, District Rule 22 allows the General Manager, in consultation with the Board Chairperson, to direct that a hearing be scheduled before the General Manager (or his/her designee) as the sole hearing officer. The General Manager has designated Frances M. Farina, Esquire, as the hearing officer for this application. Notice of the staff action shall be provided to the public via the “Appealable Decisions” and “Public Notices” sections of the District website. The staff determination may be appealed to the MPWMD Board pursuant to Rule 70, “Appeals.” This hearing was noticed for at least ten days around the RCV Project Site as well as in the District’s office window and on the website.

DISCUSSION: The following paragraphs describe the proposed Findings and Conditions of Approval as required by MPWMD Rule 22.

Findings of Approval: Findings of Approval for Application #WDS-20241025CAW (**Exhibit C**) are based on evidence provided in the Application materials and other documents on file at the District office and at the Monterey County administrative offices. District staff believes a finding can be made that the application meets the criteria and minimum standards for approval set by the District Rules 22-B and C. Specifically, this action should “not create an Overdraft or increase an existing Overdraft” (Rule 22-C-4).

Conditions of Approval: Permit CAW-25-L3-RCV results in Conditions of Approval shown as **Exhibit D**. The permit authorizes CAW to produce up to 51.74 AFA and deliver a maximum of 46.57 AFA for the RCV Project identified in **Attachment 1** to the Conditions of Approval. Special Conditions have also been included to ensure that water consumption at the RCV Project does not exceed the amount permitted, that no unmetered use of riparian water occurs on the Site, and that the Site complies with District rules and reporting. In addition, CAW is required to construct and operate a new production Well at the Well Site conveyed to CAW as part of the RCV Project.

CEQA Compliance: In the review of this application, MPWMD has followed those guidelines adopted by the State of California and published in the California Administrative Code, Title 14, Section 15000 *et seq.* Specifically, the MPWMD as a Responsible Agency under CEQA for this action has complied with Guidelines Section 15096, and relies on actions by the County of Monterey, the CEQA Lead Agency in this case. The MPWMD, as a Responsible Agency for this project, has considered the Monterey County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 21-307 certifying the Second Final Environmental Impact Report (“SFEIR”) prepared for the Rancho Cañada Village (RCV) Project and the SFEIR itself. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 21-307 that its certification of the EIR included environmental determinations related to the CVAA and of the riparian water rights associated with the RCV Project. The Board of Supervisors action is also consistent with the March 30, 2018, determination by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights related to the CAW CDO and Condition 2.

RECOMMENDATIONS: District staff recommends that the Administrative Hearing Officer take the following actions:

1. Adopt the MPWMD Findings of Approval and Conditions of Approval for Application #WDS-20241025CAW to increase the Main California American Water System Production Limit by **51.74 AFA (46.57 AFA Consumption)** and allow delivery through a Master Meter to individually metered Users within the Rancho Canada Village Project identified in Attachment 1.
2. Direct staff to file a CEQA Notice of Determination with the County Clerk (**Exhibit E**).

EXHIBITS

- 1-A** Application #20241025CAW received October 25, 2024
- 1-B** Rancho Canada Village Project Consumptive Use Calculation
- 1-C** MPWMD Draft Findings of Approval
- 1-D** MPWMD Draft Conditions of Approval with Attachments
- 1-E** Notice of Determination