

The Coalition strongly supports assistance for all low income wastewater and water customers. Eligibility for low income assistance needs to be revised and qualification limits on income raised to a realistic level.

To justify Special Request 17 and the Monterey Wastewater High Cost Fund, the testimony of Jeffery Linham on pages 94-98 and Appendix 9 uses a bogus median income for the entire Central Coast of \$70,300. Mr. Linham wants us to believe that the median income for Chualar equals that of Pebble Beach. 93908 is in fact the highest median income zip code in Monterey County actually under states the median income as the zip includes Old Stage Road down to Chualar. 93908 also contains the overwhelming majority of the active wastewater system. According to the U.S. Census:

https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml

93908 Population 13,043 (Las Palmas, Hwy 68, River Road) 2010 Demographic Profile
Median Household Income

\$ 127,070 **Source:** 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The 93923 zip code of Carmel/Pebble Beach

Population 12,073 **Source:** 2010 Demographic Profile

Median Household Income

\$ 92,778 **Source:** 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Cal Am needs to provide copies of its applications and supporting information to the public

Aside from the failures over the years to mail or publish notices, Cal-Am no longer places copies of its applications and ALL supporting documents in the public libraries. There was exactly one copy of Cal Am's A.16-07-002 available to the public; it was located on the locked 2nd floor of Cal Am's Pacific Grove office ...which closes at 4pm. In 2008, there were 11 locations.

Since 2004 when Cal-Am took over the Spreckels and Oak Hills systems, what we have gotten are bogus numbers, happy talk and lawyers rather than capital investment and service. It took a Motion to Compel Discovery to learn that 40% of the gross income from the passive systems goes to " Allocated General Office Costs".

We lastly suggest the MPWMD place transcripts of the CPUC hearings on its website.

Respectfully submitted, Central Coast Coalition of Communities for Wastewater Equity

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Excerpts from:

**PROTEST OF Central Coast Coalition of Communities for Wastewater Equity
filed with the Public Utilities Commission July 29
To Cal Am APPLICATION 19-07-004**

Interest in This Proceeding and Background

In 2004, California-American Water Company, Cal-Am, purchased the passive wastewater systems of Spreckels and Oak Hills from Watertek. In its application, A.04-09-011, Cal-Am eloquently promised lower rates, capital investment, better service and delineated its extensive wastewater experience in other areas. Rates were initially reduced in the first two years with a nominal rate increase in the 3rd. Any illusions of the preceding ended in 2008. Then Cal Am’s A.08-01-023 sought to combine all wastewater units, active and passive, into a single unit with the same rate for all. The resulting rate increases would have been 135% for Oak Hills and 163% for Spreckels. The Coalition, representing the 700 passive wastewater systems ratepayers of Oak Hills and Spreckels was formed in response. In decision Decision 09-07-022, Judge Bushey denied the combination of units and the single rate for all.

Relief for All Low Income Ratepayers as opposed to Special Request #17 “Monterey Wastewater High Cost Fund”. Relief is needed but it needs to be directed to those most in need. Special Request #17 does little to address the needed assistance of low income ratepayers in the active system and nothing for those in the passive system AND NOTHING FOR LOW INCOME WATER USERS.

According to the Coalition’s Data request to Cal Am those receiving low income assistance: Active: 25 customers, Passive: 18 customers for a total of 43.

CAL-AM’S RESPONSE:

Please see the below table –

Waste Water Low Income Customers as of March 2017

	via Applications	via Data Sharing	Total
White Oaks			
Spreckels	1	5	6
Village Green	1	0	1
Oak Hills	0	11	11
Las Palmas	5	14	19
Indian Springs	0	2	2
Carmel Valley	0	3	3
Pasadera	0	0	0
Laguna Seca	0	1	1
Total	7	36	43

Number of persons in household	Total gross annual household income*
1-2	\$32,840 or less
3	\$40,320 or less
4	\$48,800 or less
5	\$56,780 or less
6	\$45,160 or less
7	\$73,440 or less
8	\$81,780 or less
9	\$90,100 or less
10	\$98,420 or less
Each additional person, add	\$8,320

*Before taxes based on current income sources.
Table data applies to residential, single-family customers. It is valid through May 31, 2017.