

Submitted by David Beech at 1/23/2019 Board Meeting

Item 15

# **Urgent Suggestions for the Written Plan process**

**David Beech**

**Monterey residential ratepayer**

**Public Comment to MPWMD Directors**

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# WMD Board needs to be fully involved in the WP process

- **WMD Staff**
  - Execute well, but need guidance
  - Unilateral decisions so far have had problems:
    - Format of public outreach
    - Solicitation of consultants
- **WMD Board**
  - You are scheduled to approve staff-recommended consultants Feb 23 without any apparent prior involvement (not even in closed session so far)

# Suggestion 1

- **Schedule a WMD meeting early in February**
  - i) **To review RFQ job specifications (in open session, except where Brown Act allows closed session)**
  - ii) **To consider the WP process after consultant selection, in preparation for a Feb 23 motion**
  - **Preferably conduct as a workshop, allowing dialog without “single 3-minutes at start” rule**

# Suggestion 2

- **Please avoid premature decisions cf. Brexit!**
  - Do not establish in advance a precise measure of feasibility (Cal Am never had one for the test slant well!)
  - Do not ask consultants (or WMD staff) to make recommendations on feasibility, but make a Board decision when the final WP gives you the factual basis for making this judgement.

# Suggestion 3

- After long experience in producing documents like the WP, I would be happy, when given the time, to outline the most common successful process:
  - Focus from the start on a draft WP
  - Editor has control of changes, as directed
  - Establish the approval process for changes
  - Monthly distribution to, and review by, the Board