

# THE FACTS

## Water costs are skyrocketing!

In the last 2 years, our water costs on the Peninsula have increased a whopping 68%\* with more increases on the way.

### Who is responsible?

For over 50 years California American Water, a private corporation, has owned and controlled our water system. Cal Am is a subsidiary of American Water headquartered in New Jersey whose main focus is on providing the highest profits for shareholders.

### What went wrong?

- Cal Am was ordered by the State to stop overdrawing the Carmel River in 1995. It's been 22 years and they're still taking more water from the river than they are legally entitled to. In that time, they have implemented no new water solutions, but they have charged us \$34 million for three failed water projects.

- Cal Am is years away from a desalination solution. The source water for its proposed plant is not drawn from the ocean as they originally promised. Instead, a mix of salt and fresh water would be drawn from a protected ground water aquifer by slant wells. Cal Am has no water rights to this water, making litigation highly likely. Cal Am has proposed no Plan B in the event their project fails.

- There are no slant wells currently used as intakes for a desalination plant anywhere in the world! The costs for this experimental research and development will be paid by Cal Am customers and included in our bills.

Cal Am is currently charging us \$53 million for water we didn't use! After they asked us to conserve water, they rewarded our efforts with increased costs to make up for their lost revenue.

## THE SOLUTION FOR AFFORDABLE WATER

- Public Water Now (PWN) has drafted an initiative to be placed on the November, 2018 ballot that would require the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to pursue a buyout of Cal Am if it is found to be financially feasible and in the public interest.
- The PWN petition to put the initiative on the ballot is now in circulation. Please **Sign the Petition!** Public ownership is the only way we can provide an affordable and sustainable water solution for the Monterey Peninsula!



- Currently 87% of the people in the U.S. receive their water from public agencies. Public ownership provides local control and lower costs, on average 30% less than private utilities.

- Missoula, Montana and Ojai, California have both been successful in their recent public buyouts and both were able to lower water cost to customers immediately.

\* Since 2005 Food & Water Watch, a national non-profit, has led the fight for national corporate accountability relating to food and water. Learn more: [http://www.publicwaternow.org/most\\_expensive\\_water](http://www.publicwaternow.org/most_expensive_water)



## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP. SIGN THE PETITION!

Stop by the PWN office at 1340 Munras in Monterey between Noon and 3pm on Wednesdays and Sundays to sign the petition. For more options, visit us at [publicwaternow.org](http://publicwaternow.org) and click Sign the Petition NOW.

### Can we afford to buy Cal Am?

Yes. Research proves that we can pay for the low interest bonds to buy Cal Am with the profits and taxes that Cal Am now takes annually as a private corporation. As a "Buyer," rather than a "Renter," the bond cost would be repaid on our water bills in place of Cal Am's profits and taxes, with no resulting increase in our bills. In 2016 Cal Am took \$19 million in profit and corporate taxes.

### Who would replace Cal Am?

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) would replace Cal Am. Created in 1978 to find new water solutions, the MPWMD is the only existing local public agency with the authority to purchase Cal Am. They would be responsible for new water projects. MPWMD has implemented five new water supply projects since 1995, while Cal Am has not completed a single one.

### Who is Public Water Now?

Public Water Now is a local non-profit organization made up of citizens like you who are tired of being held captive by Cal Am and are dedicated to creating an affordable and sustainable water solution for the Monterey Peninsula.

Learn more: [publicwaternow.org](http://publicwaternow.org)



## THE SOLUTION

Achieve affordable, sustainable water on the Monterey Peninsula. It's time to buy out Cal Am and replace them with public ownership.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

Jane Parker, Supervisor, Monterey County

*I support an independent cost benefit analysis of public ownership.*

*Knowledge is power.*

Clyde Roberson, Mayor, Monterey

*Now is the time to study the feasibility of public ownership.*

Bruce Delgado, Mayor, Marina

*Let's get the facts. I support the feasibility study on public ownership.*

Alan Haffa, Monterey City Council

Ken Cuneo, Pacific Grove City Council

Jason Campbell, Kayla Jones, Dave Pacheco

Seaside Council Members

Gail Morton, Marina City Council

Thomas P. Moore, Ph.D., Jan Shriener

Marina Coast Water District Directors

Kristi Markey, Regina Doyle, Alvin Edwards, Judi Lehman

Former MPWMD Directors

## ORGANIZATIONS

League of Women Voters of Monterey County

Monterey County Democratic Central Committee

Carmel Valley Association

Save Our Shores

(PARTIAL LIST)

[publicwaternow.org](http://publicwaternow.org)

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Monterey Peninsula  
now has the  
Most Expensive  
Water  
in the U.S.

Food & Water Watch, 2017 Study\*

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

NOW or Never!

PUBLIC WATER NOW  
P.O. Box 1293  
Monterey, CA 93942



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