



July 30, 2020
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

Re: Cal Am's Bypass Pipeline - Agenda item #1

Dear Chair Edwards, Board, and Staff,

From a ratepayer's perspective, we're asking if this project is cost-effective and necessary at this time. What is the actual cost, and how much ASR water would it save?

All we've heard so far is a loose estimate of \$5 to \$6 million from Cal Am. We would hope that your Board would want to see an engineering estimate of cost before making a decision to move forward on this project.

Why the rush? Is this pipeline really necessary at this point? Everyone agrees that ASR is important, but it's not clear if this pipeline is needed to deliver actual ASR water or Pure Water Monterey water from ASR wells. It appears that more engineering details are required to explain this project. Has a cost/benefit analysis been done to justify this expense? Are other less costly options available to solve the problem?

This pipeline is clearly needed for Cal Am's desal. It's no coincidence that this pipeline is in the exact location to bypass the only section of pipe that Cal Am has no access to for its proposed desal plant.

This appears to be the same pipeline that Cal Am put up \$350,000 of ratepayer money to include in the PWM Expansion SEIR. When Cal Am succeeded in blocking that SEIR, they lost the pipeline and our \$350,000. Now they're asking for the same pipeline without the Expansion for another \$6 million.

Is Cal Am in such a rush to get this pipeline approved only to save a small amount of ASR water? Or are they doing this because they want to use this pipeline at the Coastal Commission hearing in September to support their desal project, a project your Board opposes? Why not wait to see how the Coastal Commission rules on Cal Am's desal before moving ahead with this pipeline?

Ratepayers are already paying \$50 million for the new Monterey pipeline. It was supposed to solve delivery problems, but it hasn't. Projects like the Monterey pipeline, the forest lake pumps, and now this proposed bypass pipeline keep getting approved and added to our bills to solve isolated problems. Where is the big picture modeling that would ensure there's not another problem and another \$5 million project next year?

Even if this is needed, it appears there's plenty of time to approve it since it wouldn't be required for a year or more until reductions of Carmel River water kick in and diversions are much lower. It appears this pipeline would only be needed for a month or two every several years and therefore, would save only a small amount of ASR water. Does your Board have a precise understanding of how much additional ASR water we would be getting for \$6 million? If it's only 100 acre-feet, how would that cost ever be justified?

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