

STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD

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DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO



300 Forest Avenue
Pacific Grove, California, 93950



July 8, 2016

VIA EMAIL AND OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Felicia Marcus, Board Chair, Felicia.Marcus@waterboards.ca.gov
Tom Howard, Executive Director, Tom.Howard@waterboards.ca.gov
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Matthew Quint, Matthew.Quint@waterboards.ca.gov
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Re: ORDER WR 2009-0060 CALIFORNIA AMERICAN WATER-MONTEREY

Dear Ms. Marcus, Mr. Howard, and Mr. Quint:

We are writing in response to the State Water Resources Control Board's ("SWRCB") Preliminary Staff Recommendation to Modify Cease and Desist Order WR 2009-0060 ("Preliminary Recommendation"), released by the SWRCB on June 17, 2016. We support the joint response by CalAm, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority, Pebble Beach, and our City of Pacific Grove.

The individual citizens of our city have responded well and willingly to the need for water conservation, recognizing both the situation on the Carmel River and the dire circumstances of the statewide drought. As a City, we have initiated and are making progress for a reclamation project that will eliminate usage of potable water for irrigation of our golf course and cemetery. This project moves forward in spite of some local concern for potential high financial risk.

We appreciate that the staff recommendation generally supports the extension of the deadline for the CDO. We also share the frustration evident in that recommendation. It has been very

difficult to move projects ahead as quickly as we would like.

Yet the preliminary staff recommendations impose the near certain hardship of extended rationing on those citizens who have worked so hard to demonstrate exceptional conservation on a voluntary basis. Few citizens can understand the extraordinary hurdles that face the portfolio of projects needed for a comprehensive solution to eliminating the excess diversions from the Carmel River and Seaside Basin.

The CDO is directed toward CalAm. Yet inevitably, the consequences fall on the water users who are not individually at fault.

It will do little to build community cohesion around the long term perseverance needed to create an alternate supply. We believe that the recommendations carry a high risk of undermining SWRCB objectives for replacement water from a timely project consistent with State Ocean Policy for desalination facilities.

Constraints as outlined in the staff recommendation not only put existing small and modest sized businesses at risk. They also jeopardize major anchors of our economy such as the Naval Post Graduate School and the Defense Language Institute, which are vulnerable in the next round of Base Realignment and Closure reviews (BRAC). A reliable water supply and the flexibility to adapt for future needs are factors necessary to retain these facilities. The prospect of rationing would create high risk. Loss of these institutions would change the character of our peninsula and our city permanently and damage our economy for decades into the future.

The Monterey Peninsula portfolio approach represents an historic collaboration of multiple parties.

We urge you to recognize and support the original multiparty agreements represented in the amended CalAm filing, and thus support the critical collaboration necessary for success in any potential project that will eliminate excess diversions and restore the Carmel River for future generations.



Bill Kampe
Mayor
City of Pacific Grove