

Carmel River Watershed Conservancy
PO Box 223833, Carmel, CA 93922



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July 12, 2016

Board Meeting 7-19-16--Item 7
California-American Water Company
Deadline: 7/13/16 by 5:00pm

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



Dear Mr. Quint:

The Carmel River Watershed Conservancy conducted the very first watershed assessment of the Carmel River watershed back in 2004-5 and then developed the first Action Plan for preserving and restoring this watershed. The Conservancy chairs and coordinates the Carmel River Task Force, composed of all the governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations with authority over or an interest in the Carmel River.

We have always sought to balance the interests of threatened species with those of people and their businesses in the watershed and neighboring communities. That is why we are supporting the efforts of the SWRCB to reduce over-drafting of the Carmel River aquifer while balancing those actions with fair and reasonable diversion limits that ensure adequate water supplies for our local communities. Our communities have reduced their water draft from the Carmel River by 46% since Order 95-10, and we pride ourselves on how conservation minded we have been for many years. Our per-capita use is down to 55 af per year, a remarkable figure compared with the state average. It is doubtful that we can conserve much more without endangering our health as well as the economy of our Monterey Peninsula. In addition, we have developed a three-part alternative water supply project that includes a desalination plant, ASR, and GWR projects—an amazing accomplishment for such a small community.

Thus we support the changes that the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, Monterey Peninsula Water Authority, and California American Water have requested to your staff's preliminary recommendation of a 7,990 diversion limit. We had understood that the diversion limit of 8,310 was agreed on by your staff during negotiations with our representatives, and it seems unfair to now face a diversion limit recommendation of 7,990 af/year.

We urge the Board to approve the extension of the CDO but with a fair diversion limit that reflects all the hard work of your staff and our representatives over such a long period.

Respectfully,

Lorin Letendre, Executive Director