

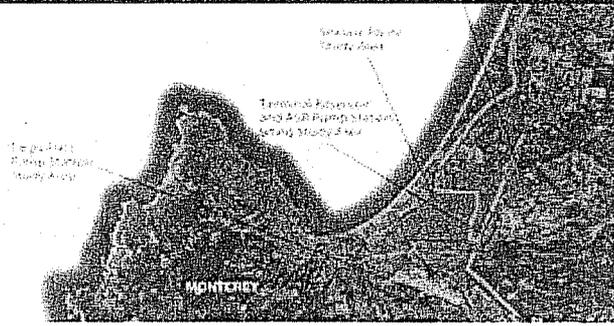
CENTER FOR INTEGRATED WATER RESEARCH & DIVISION OF RATEPAYER ADVOCATES
Monterey Regional Water Supply Reliability Dialogue

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MONTEREY REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY DIALOGUE

The Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA) of the California Public Utilities Commission and the UC Santa Cruz Center for Integrated Water Research Urban and Regional Water Research team are facilitating the development of a regional water supply project in the Monterey region that is designed to provide, among other things, the ratepayers of California American Water Company (Gal Am) with increased economic benefits and reduced costs. A collaborative group composed of all interested agencies and other parties meets monthly to discuss water issues. From this plenary group, three committees, or technical working groups, have the task to define specific supply options for plenary group consideration. [More]



News

The next meeting of the **Monterey Regional Plenary Oversight Group** will take place **Wednesday, July 2, 2008 at the UC MBEST Center in Marina, starting at 9:30a.m.**

June 4, 2008 Lyndel Melton, RMC Water and Environment updated the REPOG about the status of Water for Monterey County. June 5, the project description was submitted to the Environmental Impact Review team for evaluation. Click here to view the latest presentation about the regional water supply plan.

April 30, 2008, the REPOG heard a status report on the regional project technical work group's progress. [Click here](#) to view the information on projected regional water gaps, criteria for evaluations, and alternatives to supply the gaps.

The regional water supply project has a name and a tagline! "**Water for Monterey County - An affordable, sustainable water supply solution**" was selected in the meeting April 30, 2008 to make it easier to communicate with people about the project.

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A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR

The Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA) of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), with the assistance of the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC), is engaged in a project with the goal of developing a comprehensive water resource plan for the Monterey Peninsula. To accomplish this goal, DRA is facilitating a series of meetings, which we call "dialogues," with all interested parties during 2007. The objective of the dialogues is to achieve consensus through collaboration among the various interested parties on a solution, or perhaps several complementary solutions, to supplying the water needs of the Monterey Peninsula in a cost-effective and sustainable way.

In the effort to assure the most economically beneficial service for California American Water Company (Cal Am) customers in one of the company's regulatory cases, DRA has embarked on a unique, new approach to our regulatory mandate, broadening our analysis beyond Cal Am's reach to the Monterey region as a whole. DRA anticipates that the dialogue process will result in a regional water supply and management implementation strategy that balances and meets the needs of all stakeholders. The implementation strategy could include an array of new water supply projects including desalination of brackish or sea water, recycled water, water conservation, and ground and surface water conjunctive management programs. Moreover, any array of regional projects and programs must satisfy the regulatory requirements faced by Cal Am and increase the financial and economic benefits to its ratepayers over Cal Am's current supply plan called the [Coastal Water Project](#).

The regional dialogues are now underway in the Monterey County region with water agencies, municipalities, other governmental agencies responsible for resource management or quality, interested citizens, and interest-group stakeholders participating. We strive to identify a diverse set of new water supply projects, water management programs, and multiple-agency agreements that have the greatest potential for providing a solution to the region's water supply challenges.

BACKGROUND—the reason for the Regional Dialogues**The legal perspective—what happened?**

Cal Am serves a large portion of the water demands on the Monterey Peninsula including the Cities of Seaside, Sand City, Monterey, Del Rey Oaks, Pacific Grove, and Carmel-by-the-Sea, Monterey Airport District, and areas of unincorporated Monterey County. Cal Am's water supply sources are local and entirely dependent on local rainfall. The Monterey Peninsula region is vulnerable to drought and consequently experiences unreliable water supplies.

Exacerbating the climatological uncertainties, Cal Am's current source of water from the Carmel River Aquifer was found to be untenable by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). In 1995, the SWRCB adopted Order 95-10 which found that Cal Am was diverting approximately 10,730 acre-feet per year (AF/Y) more water from the Carmel River Aquifer than the amount to which it is legally entitled (3,376 AF/Y). In 1995, 10,730 AF/Y represented 69 percent of Cal Am's water supply for the entire Monterey District. The order required Cal Am to find a new source of water to replace diversions over and above 3,376 AF/Y. In addition, Cal Am was ordered by the SWRCB to reduce pumping from the Carmel River by 20% from historic levels.

In 1998, the California Legislature approved Assembly Bill (AB) 1182 requiring the CPUC to develop a long-term water supply contingency plan to meet the water needs of Monterey Peninsula residents. The plan developed by the CPUC included seawater desalination and an aquifer storage and recovery component. The CPUC published this plan in July 2002 ("Plan B"). In 2003, Cal Am adopted the plan concept and formally applied to the CPUC to undertake the project, which came to be known as the Coastal Water Project (CWP).

The broader perspective—what are the regional needs; what's available?

Although Cal Am is a significant water provider in the region, the water needs in the Monterey region are beyond Cal Am's jurisdiction and ability to satisfy. It is clear that water resources in the region must be enhanced to assure adequate supply in future years. The cost of such enhancements will likely be significant, and it behooves us to focus on alternatives that will spread those costs over as many water users as possible in order to keep cost-per-customer at a minimum. Hence, the regional approach.

[More on water demand]

[More on supply alternatives]

THE PROCESS—a collaboration

The dialogue process—public involvement

DRA has inaugurated a series of project strategy implementation dialogues amongst the agencies and publics who are interested in Monterey regional water supply reliability. The meetings are public and are held monthly, on the last Wednesday of each month. Currently, the meetings are held at the University of California's MBEST Center in Marina, CA, and are facilitated by members of the UCSC Center for Integrated Water Research team.

WHO'S INVOLVED?

Regional Dialogue participants abound. Among them are water and energy utilities, consumer groups, legislators and a host of federal, state, regional, county and city agencies and boards.

