

From: Judy Souza [<mailto:jsouza@oldfishermansgrotto.com>]

Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 11:55 AM

To: Mrowka, Kathy@Waterboards

Cc: O'Hagan, John@Waterboards; Aue, Marianna@waterboards; Grober, Les@Waterboards

Subject: Letter to the Board regarding Condition 2

March 20, 2017

Ms. Kathy Mrowka

Mr. John O'Hagan

Ms. Marianna Aue

Mr. Les Grober

State Water Resources Control Board

P.O. Box 100

Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Ms. Mrowka, Mr. O'Hagan, Ms. Aue and Mr. Grober:

The people and businesses of the Monterey Peninsula are working hard to conserve water, and the results show we are doing it. We have invested in water-saving infrastructure; we are replacing lawns with drought-resistant fauna and teaching young children and grown adults to use water more wisely. The Monterey Peninsula is a model that the entire state can look to.

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District has led this. With state authorization to establish the rules and regulations regarding our water, it has managed to conserve and allow for the inevitable growth on the peninsula. Monterey's business community has cut water use in half in the last decade even as the population has grown, both through migration and childbirth.

But now, I am hearing that the MPWMD's ability to be flexible and allow for the smart use of our peninsula's water might be in jeopardy due to a stricter interpretation of "Condition 2" in the order. This is a real concern. If a strict interpretation prevents a property owner's legal rights to their water after a zoning change, or a proper transfer of water, I fear it could create more problems than it will solve.

I have more than 300 employees here on the Monterey Peninsula and their biggest challenge is finding affordable housing. Most Americans would be shocked at how much it costs to rent a small home, condominium or even apartment here. Some people drive more than an hour to get here, which clogs roads, creates greenhouse gases and causes other problems. Long commutes represent more expense and less time for people and families. It generally results in less home-cooked meals, less time helping kids with homework and so on.

This community is not looking to squirm its way out of conserving water. Very few people who live here want to see new development mar our beautiful landscape. But I think everyone wants to see the smart use of land, infrastructure and water through smart growth. This includes converting the second story of commercial properties to affordable housing units, but even though this requires no additional water, it would not be allowed under a very strict interpretation of Condition 2.

Homeless shelters are also under threat. A strict interpretation of Condition 2 would eliminate most of the solutions our communities are looking at.

A reasonable interpretation of Condition 2 would allow for smart growth, but establish that no increase at a service connection should exceed the permitted use when the service was established, and that the Monterey Peninsula overall adheres to the cease-and-desist order. I believe an objective interpretation of Condition 2 should be entered into the public record so that our local agencies completely understand what the rules are and can make smart decisions.

With the MPWMD's leadership, this Peninsula will continue to be a model in water conservation, but in order to be a cohesive community that properly addresses the many other social and environmental issues on the Monterey Peninsula, the agency in charge of our water needs the flexibility and power to make sure the water we have is used wisely and for the best purposes.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Chris Shake
CEO, CHRIS SHAKE ENTERPRISES

CS/jls

Emailed by:

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