

VIA EMAIL

July 13, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Quint and Members of the State Water Resources Control Board,

I am writing as a concerned citizen and small business owner in the Monterey Peninsula. I have also served four years as an elected official on the Board of Directors of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, representing my district. So I have spent my time and effort working hard to help our region solve its water challenges. While we are pleased that your staff is recommending an extension of the deadline for the CDO to take effect, my family and I are greatly concerned about the changes that are being recommended by your staff to further reduce the effective diversion limit (EDL). PLEASE consider increasing this EDL to 8310 acre feet a year. Although a small increase from your staff's recommended number, it means a lot to our community's ability to continue to function as a vibrant and dynamic region.

Our area has worked diligently to conserve in all facets of our lives – our homes, our schools, our local government offices and our hospitality industry. We are proud to be among the state's lowest water consumers per capita. These efforts have been costly both on personal levels to all of us but also for our businesses and local cities. And the costs continue as we are working to build a desalination plant with a groundwater recharge program that promises to remedy the situation of overdraft of the Carmel River. None of this is cheap and the expenses continue. By limiting the diversion limit to 7990 AF, we will most likely be put into the early stages of water rationing – thus incurring yet additional costs on all of us. The costs are rising drastically and soon will become unmanageable for many of us.

Our community has been contesting water concerns for years and it is only recently that a convergence of opinion and a consensus has been reached between the many different facets of our community and the many water agencies. Those changes aim to protect both the river resources as well as the *people* of our region.

Please accept the changes that our agencies represented by California American Water, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority have requested. These changes clearly represent a hard earned balance and we hope that your board will respect our local authorities and extend the CDO with their recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Knight, PhD, Owner, Adventures by the Sea, Resident, Pacific Grove