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July 8, 2016

The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Board Chair
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

I am writing to urge the State Water Resources Control Board to take a common sense and environmentally responsible approach to modifying the Carmel River Cease and Desist Order (CDO). I have long been engaged with the effort to restore the Carmel River and reduce its over-pumping and it is dear to my heart.

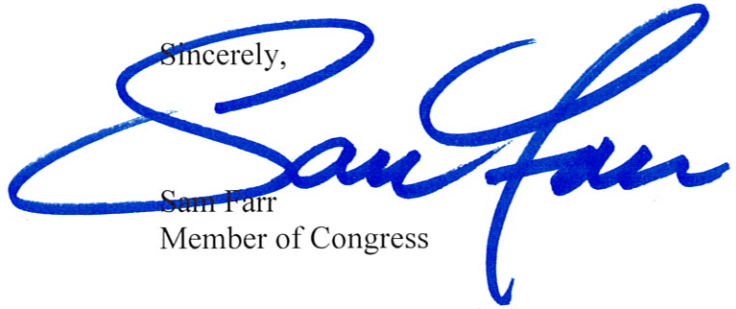
As you know, much progress has been made in recent years by California American Water, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and many others, including the local Mayors of the Monterey Peninsula, to reduce diversions from the river and find a replacement water supply. That is why I was very pleased to see your staff's willingness, in its Preliminary Staff Recommendation to Modify CDO WR 2009-0600, to extend the deadline on the required Carmel River cutback to 2021. I also commend your agency for all its efforts over the past two years to negotiate a modification to the Cease and Desist Order (CDO) with local stakeholders.

I am advised, however, that key items in the staff preliminary recommendation must be changed in order to ensure the viability of the Monterey Peninsula community and its ability to comply with the CDO. On these items, I urge you to adopt the provisions described in the Amended Request to Change Order WR 2009-0060 that was submitted to you by California American Water, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority and the City of Pacific Grove on April 28, 2016. These provisions enjoy broad community support and include:

- 1) Adopt an effective diversion limit of 8,310 acre-feet-*per annum* (AFA);
- 2) Allow carryover water credits;
- 3) Provide water credits for the acquisition of supplemental water rights and instream flow dedications; and
- 4) Adopt a deadline of December 31, 2016 for Milestone #1.

Recent progress on the Carmel River, including the removal of the San Clemente Dam, has been remarkable. It has been a model of practical innovation. Please ensure that progress continues in this mode and restore these four previously negotiated provisions, which are supported by a broad array of environmental and community groups. They represent a compromise that protects both the river and the people of the Monterey Peninsula. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Farr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Sam Farr
Member of Congress

SF/aa