

From: Mark Watson [<mailto:mark.watson@innsbythesea.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 12:57 PM
To: Quint, Matthew@Waterboards
Subject: SWRCB CDO Modification Hearing - California American Water

Dear Mr. Quint:

I'm writing to you regarding the SWRCB hearing on Tuesday, July 19, wherein the Board will consider modifying the CDO which is set to reduce the amount of water California American Water is permitted to pump from the Carmel River. I'm hopeful the CDO can be modified with an extension to allow us the time necessary to bring our new water sources online, and that during this extension we will have reasonable measures to ensure our community will not suffer a risk to our economic sustainability, and in turn potential risk to our compliance with the CDO.

I was recently informed of the Staff Preliminary Recommendation, which was much more restrictive than what the staff and our representatives had collaborated toward. It seems we have now been thrown quite a curve ball, after all of the earnest efforts made by our community, California American Water and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to reach acceptable modifications to the CDO. This concerns me greatly.

Although I understand there are several issues in the staff's recommendation that differ from what had been negotiated, I'm particularly troubled by the methodology used to reduce the EDL from 8310 acre feet to 7990 during the extension. My understanding is that the basis for recommending this reduction was founded on water usage over the past five or six years, to which I would point out this period reflects the depth of the economic downturn which severely impacted commerce, and shuttered many peninsula businesses. As such, this period produced an aberration of water usage that was historically low, and grossly unfair to impose on an economically recovered community.

Additionally, this community has also voluntarily conserved water on a remarkable scale, having reduced our usage by 46% since Order 95-10, which is further evidence of our determination and commitment to solving the water challenges in this district. It strikes me as particularly distressing to reward these extraordinary efforts by imposing more severe restrictions.

In closing, we have made tremendous progress to develop an alternative water supply, even as the project has been beset with delays (some of which I understand were imposed by the PUC regarding an EIR). We need a little more time, and reasonable interim modifications in order to reach the goal of compliance with the CDO. I support the changes California American Water, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority have requested to your staff's preliminary recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

--

Mark T. Watson
General Manager
Inns-by-the-Sea
P. O. Box 101
Carmel, CA 93921

831.625.8718 voice | 831.624.2967 facsimile

Room Reservations: 800.433.4732

Visit us on the web at www.innsbythesea.com

