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Sent via email to Mathew.Quint@waterboards.ca.gov

July 13, 2016

Ms. Felicia Marcus, Board Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: CDO Hearing July 19, 2016

Dear Madame Chair, and Members of the Board:

I am a third generation Monterey Peninsula resident and lifelong member of that community, having grown up there, attended school there, and raised my family there and built a number of business here as a Realtor. It is truly one of the most beautiful places on this earth and I consider myself lucky to call it home.

I consider myself a bit of a political junkie, having run for office before and been an active community leader all of my adult life. I have been a longtime opponent of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, simply because as a youngster in the 1970's and early 1980's I had nothing to do with their formation and over the course of the next 20 years since their inception, I became convinced that a long term water supply project was never going to be a reality under the divided leadership at the Monterey Peninsula Water Management. I formed a website called, "dissolvethedistrict.com" and I helped lead a peninsula "Advisory Vote" to disband the district with others who shared our views, that advisory vote received over a 64% vote in favor of eliminating the district, and our final effort ended when legislation to actually eliminate the district authored by then Senator Bruce McPherson was defeated in the 1990's.

Since then a lot has changed on the Monterey Peninsula, and your State order in 1995 and again in 2009 basically woke up our community to the fact that we must solve our problem and end the overdrawing that is occurring on the Carmel River. The community has become galvanized behind solving this problem, and the only areas where we still seem to differ is exactly how we solve the problem. It is clear that we have made some great strides in the last few years at narrowing the options for a project, and even though we have been unable to bring on line a project to address the problem, we did accomplish something that I never thought we as a community could accomplish, we actually reduced our taking off the Carmel River by 46%.

I like to think I understand the role of the State Water Resources Control Board a bit better than just any member of the public. I served under Governor Schwarzenegger and Governor Brown as an appointee serving as their Real Estate Commissioner from 2004 through 2011. Those were some terrible times for real estate and lending in California and I learned that sometimes you have to look at the situation you are in and decide if anyone has ever dealt with something like this before, and if not, then the existing tools and rules may not be enough for one to govern, so you have to be willing to be even more flexible, so that the best outcome can be realized for all. I know if we did figure out new ways to help borrowers deal with the mortgages, or if we didn't work closely with all levels of law enforcement from the FBI to the State's Attorney General we may not have been able to stop some of the fleecing of so many innocent citizens.

I understand that in your position it is your obligation and requirement to address what has been going on here on the Monterey Peninsula for decades now. I understand the amount of unlawful taking of water from the Carmel Valley River is significant such that action should have been taken years ago. I also know you have the overall public trust in your hands and you are responsible for ensuring that the Monterey Peninsula stop what it's doing, but at the same time, you have to realize that we are doing some things to address this and in fact we have already addressed nearly 50% of the problem on a voluntary basis and for a nominal cost. Most important, we as a community know we are not done here, we now have a plan to take care of the remaining over pumping over the next five years.

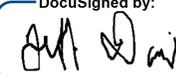
I realize many have hoped for a solution in the form of a project or several projects for some time. Well, one of our solutions has come in the form of a "non-project" our community coming together and simply conserving, we use only 56 gallons per day on a voluntary basis. The last time I remember rationing we were limited to 50 gallons per day and that was a requirement, we are down to 56 per day just because we know we have to do something.

We couldn't agree on what to build or create so while we debated options, we did one thing together, we literally completed a project to address nearly 50% of the overdraft by doing nothing at all but conserving.

Please give our community credit for that. I realize you have to balance the best for our environment and the best for the entire State or World over that of our little Monterey Peninsula, but if you can give us the credit we deserve for the 46% cut back and then decide to give us the Effective Diversion Limit of 8310 acre feet per year, I know our community will come up with the rest of the solution over the next few years as required.

I truly appreciate and respect your service to our State and I hope you can see your way to modifying the current "preliminary staff recommendations" to what we truly can live with.

Sincerely,

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Jeff Davi