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30 SEPTEMBER 1998

DARBY FUERST  
 MPWMD  
 Monterey, CA 93942

Dear Mr. Fuerst.

As you know, I have been very concerned about over-pumping of the Seaside aquifer for some time. My concerns were validated by Fugro West in their September 1997 study that verified that we were extracting too much water and that we should reduce Cal-Am and non Cal-Am pumping from 4505 af/yr to 4375 af/yr. Total pumping for 1996 and 1997 was 5064 af and 5444 af respectively. We have set the Cal-Am limit to 4000 af but the non-Cal-Am users have not established similar limits and controls.

I am particularly concerned about some recent developments on the Fort Ord property. As you know, The City of Seaside has undertaken a major renovation of the two golf courses at Fort Ord. This effort is being managed by BSL Golf Group with Seaside as the lead agency. Although I have not seen the project documents, I have visited the courses on numerous occasions during the past year. It is apparent that they are letting out all the stops in order to provide a world class facility. This includes increasing the size of the courses and upgrading the quality. The length of the courses are extended and there has been a substantial upgrade to the irrigation system. My conservative estimate is that they have increased the area of the irrigated landscape by more than 20%. They have also dramatically increased the amount of water that is being used for irrigation. Some of this is for construction but it is also a basic change in operating procedures in order to upgrade the quality of the facility. I would not be surprised if they doubled the amount of water that is used on the facility. I would like the staff to provide a report on the non-Cal-Am use for 1998 ASAP.

While I support the intent and the purpose of this project, I am very concerned about the potential long term and irreversible damage to the Seaside Coastal Basin. I recently read that Seaside and BSL have installed another 12" well to support their operation. I also reviewed your 28 May 1998 letter addressing some of these concerns and requesting a response. My understanding is that they have not yet responded.

I would ask that a copy of this letter be furnished to the other Directors and this issue be placed on our agenda as soon as possible.