

EXHIBIT 1-F

MPWMD SERVES VITAL ROLE

By Alvin Edwards, Chairperson, MPWMD Board of Directors

At the request of local citizens, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) was created by the State Legislature, and ratified by local voters in 1978. Our mission is to manage, protect and augment water resources on the Monterey Peninsula for the benefit of the community and environment. To that end, we have achieved many successes.

SB 1529 proposes to dissolve the Water District, but does not say what will replace the District. It is irresponsible to abolish MPWMD without providing for a viable replacement entity to carry out the important planning and regulatory functions of the District.

Rash Action

Dissolving MPWMD **will not** create a reliable water supply or provide affordable housing. It will not remove the State Water Board Order that currently limits diversions from the Carmel River, our major source of water. It will not remove the many state and federal environmental laws that constrain water use. It won't reduce energy costs and it won't make it rain.

Such rash action **will** remove a local agency directly accountable to local voters, not foreign investors or shareholders. It will destroy years of effort and success in aquifer storage and recovery, evaluation of feasible water solutions, conservation, reclamation, water resources management and environmental protection. It is unwise to eliminate an agency that protects water resources and ensures conservation without specifying a replacement agency, and describing its governance, powers and responsibilities.

MPWMD Did Its Job

I share your frustration that we do not have a major new water project for current and future needs. But, remember that the District brought two water supply projects for voter approval -- a desalination project in 1993, and a new Carmel River dam in 1995. The voters turned both projects down after years of environmental work had been completed, and millions of dollars were spent meeting project approval requirements imposed by federal, state, and regional agencies.

The District has been criticized for not providing water for affordable housing. But land use decisions are made by the cities, not MPWMD. The cities have chosen not to support affordable housing, even when water was available.

MPWMD Successes

It is easy to be critical and negative. Positive examples of District accomplishments include:

- Injected over 1,000 acre-feet (AF) of excess Carmel River winter flow into Seaside Basin; provided over 400 AF to Cal-Am system;
- Served as fiscal sponsor for project to irrigate Pebble Beach golf courses with up to 800 AF per year of reclaimed wastewater;
- Prepared environmental and permitting documents for Cal-Am's largest Seaside well;
- Prevented seawater intrusion within MPWMD due to groundwater monitoring and setting production limits;

- Improved and restored Carmel River environment;
- Rescued, reared and released thousands of threatened steelhead fish;
- Saved millions of gallons of water each year through conservation programs;
- Conducted scientific studies to better define available supply;
- Served as watchdog to protect existing water customers and the environment.

Voters Speak

Measure B was a November 2002 advisory vote that recommended dissolving MPWMD based on dissatisfaction about District governance at that time. But voters were never told they would lose their right to vote on major water projects.

In November 2003, people voted for a change with the current MPWMD Board. Please give us a chance to pursue water supply solutions that emphasize partnership and cooperation. As directed by state law, we first explored options inside the District. Now, we are also exploring options outside the District such as Moss Landing desalination.

Positive Action Needed

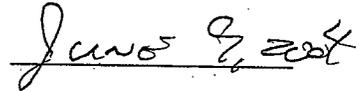
This is not the time to dissolve an important local agency. This is the time for MPWMD, Cal-Am, the County and others to work together to solve the very real problems facing our community. The District has twice asked to meet publicly with Senator McPherson, with no response. The positive contributions of MPWMD for the betterment of the entire community and the environment should not be squandered for short-term political gain.

(above text is 652 words, excluding title)

Signed by:


Alvin Edwards

Date:



Alvin Edwards currently serves as Chairperson of the MPWMD Board of Directors. Mr. Edwards represents MPWMD Voter Division 1 (Seaside area). He submits this commentary as an individual.

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