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May 23, 2005

The Honorable John Laird
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, California 94249-0027

Re: Oppose AB 1421

Dear Assemblymember Laird:

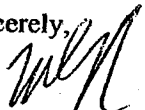
The Monterey County Hospitality Association opposes AB 1421.

We have waited until now to inform you of our opposition because we have been waiting to see if discussions with the Monterey Peninsula Management District or with local elected officials and community leaders would lead to a version of the bill we would not find objectionable.

The pretext for a special law addressing the need for a water supply for affordable housing on the Monterey Peninsula is flawed. We on the Peninsula have struggled for years to realize a safe, stable, secure and sufficient water supply for all our community needs. An historic collaboration is underway among various local entities to accomplish a public water supply project to serve Peninsula and other critical water supply needs. AB 1421 does not offer any help in accomplishing that worthy goal and in fact creates one more impediment to the ongoing collaborative effort.

Singling out the Monterey Peninsula makes no sense since the need for affordable housing is critical throughout coastal California. As you should know, the twin struggle for adequate water supplies and affordable housing is present elsewhere in California, and is even present elsewhere within Assembly District 27. The annual water supply production AB 1421 requires be permanently dedicated to affordable housing does not correspond to any of the Peninsula jurisdiction's certified Housing Elements and does not correspond to categories of overall water use in the area.

We urge you to drop AB 1421. This bill serves no useful purpose and is certainly not in the best interest of the Monterey Peninsula area or the greater region of which it is a part.

Sincerely,

 Mike Oprish
 President