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CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE

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March 23, 2007

Mr. David Berger, General Manager
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
Post Office Box 85
Monterey, CA 93942-0085

Subject: Current Replacement and Future Water Needs for the Monterey Peninsula

Dear Mr. Berger,

This is in response to your November 30, 2006 request for feedback from the Pacific Grove City Council on the water quantity targets created by the Board of Directors of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District. At its meeting of March 7, 2007, the Pacific Grove City Council authorized me to provide these written comments.

Two water quantity estimates have been developed. The first is the current replacement need in the amount of 12,500 acre feet per year. This amount is based on an analysis by staff of the Water Management District and is the sum of water necessary to satisfy the variety of regulatory and physical requirements that affect the Monterey Peninsula's water supply. The report adequately documents the analysis used in the development of this replacement need and we agree with the amounts reached in its conclusion.

The second quantity target indicates a future projected need of 4,500 acre feet per year. This Council understands that the number was based on maximum build-out projections of all the General Plans of the jurisdictions within the Water District. Therefore, we do not think that these estimates give an accurate or balanced projection of the actual water demand.

There are a number of alternative methods worthy of exploration. One is a method that uses trend analysis coupled with general plan build-out projections, which would surely give a more realistic water needs projection. **Therefore, we strongly encourage the Water Management District Board of Directors to consider a different method for projecting the future water needs of the region so that managed and responsible growth, as opposed to maximum growth, can be supported.** However, if the District decides to continue to utilize the existing methodology, we support the 4,500 acre feet per year.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment and are ready to assist the Water Management District with information that can be used in the development of estimates that more accurately reflect responsible growth.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Cort,
Mayor, City of Pacific Grove

cc: City Council Members
City Manager
City Attorney
Community Development Director