



Received at 8/15/2011
Board meeting
Item 16

August 15, 2011

Mr. Bob Brower, Chair
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
5 Harris Court
Monterey, California 93940

Re: Agenda Items 15 and 16

Chair Brower and Members of the Board:

The Monterey County Hospitality Association represents the hospitality industry throughout Monterey County. The Hospitality industry is the second largest industry in the Monterey County generating more than \$2,000,000,000 in direct visitor spending and \$50,000,000 in local tax revenue while employing more than 23,000 people. Water is the lifeblood not only of our industry but also of every resident and business on the Monterey Peninsula. Decisions that affect the future of the Peninsula's water supplies and water providers is of great to concern to our Association and its members.

MCHA does not believe the District's limited time or money should be spent on a 'citizen's advisory committee' to investigate buying Cal Am as advocated by WaterPlus. The recent WaterPlus presentation to you was a compilation of misrepresentations and erroneous information. We believe Cal Am will correct those tonight. The District's five water supply augmentation projects that are underway are far more critical to the Peninsula and would benefit greatly from the resources that would otherwise be spent on a committee.

The issue of buying Cal Am was settled with the 2 to 1 defeat of Measure W in 2005. Cal Am has clearly and publicly stated it is not for sale. The only way to buy Cal Am against its will is to through eminent domain and condemnation. That will take many years and millions of dollars. Neither the District nor those it serves has the money or time to spare. Most importantly the effort will not result in one new gallon of water.

MCHA strongly urges the District to not be distracted from the urgent work needed to avoid the devastation the Cease and Desist Order will bring to Peninsula residents, businesses and local governments. The "committee" should not move forward.

Sincerely,

Janine M. Chicourrat, President
Monterey County Hospitality Association