

Submitted at  
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Item: Oral Communications

**Marc Beique**

1209 Harrison St., Monterey, CA 93940 Tel (831) 373-0922 E-mail: marc@beique.com

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**COMMENTARY TO MPWMD  
CONCERNING THE NEW LOS PADRES DAM PROJECT**

**WHY AN IMPROVED RESERVOIR IS THE BEST WATER SUPPLY SOLUTION:**

1. **It is the most ecological solution.** A new reservoir is far and away the environmentally superior alternative. A new reservoir does not have a never-ending carbon footprint. In these days of \$100 oil, all of which it imported to this water district, we must find ways to reduce, reuse and recycle our energy needs—just like our water. Ecological Points:
  - a. A new reservoir will be filled by natural flow from rain falling from the sky, at absolutely no cost to us. Other than the cost of concrete to build the reservoir, there is no net energy input or carbon footprint.
  - b. In contrast, about 2kWhr of power are needed to produce 1 cubic meter of water<sup>1</sup>. A new 10,000 acre-foot desal plant will use 24.66 mWhr of power annually, at a cost of \$2,700,000 at a proposed rate of \$0.11 per kWhr. This is equivalent to about 14,000 tons of carbon dioxide dumped into the atmosphere every year--FOREVER. This is equal to about 3,330 new cars on the road, or the addition of 2,120 households to our area—EVERY YEAR.<sup>2</sup>
  - c. It should be apparent to you that the real promoter of growth, and its negative environmental consequences, is any water supply project that is energy dependent. Only a new reservoir will limit this unnecessary increase in energy use.
2. **A new reservoir is the only solution that helps protect the fish.** Of all the water supply systems reviewed and analyzed by MPWMD, a new reservoir can provide flow to the Carmel River in dry years, helping to stabilize the steelhead migration patterns. No other water supply solution can provide water in these quantities.
3. **It is the most cost effective.** The \$400 million price tag stated for a new desalination plant does not include finance costs. When these are included, the price of the project will at least double (at 5.3% interest) and may well be two and one-half times the cost, \$1,000,000,000 (One Billion Dollars), at a market rate of 7.5%. All this must be paid through Cal-Am's water bills. This means that desalination will increase our water bills by not less than \$50 per month, per bill, for at least 30 years. And we will still have to pay for the water we use. This is a non-starter in today's economy.
  - a. You may say that the RDP desalination plant is not your project. Please remember that all of MPWMD's current water supply solutions are ultimately desal-dependent.
4. **It provides adequate amounts of water.** Unlike the small scale projects now proposed by MPWMD (including ASR, reclaimed water and ultimately, desalination plants) the new reservoir actually solves our water supply solution to the extent that we currently use water. It is the right size.

**FOR THESE REASONS, IT IS TIME TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH NOAA  
AND SWRCB TO PUT THE VIABLE NEW LOS PADRES DAM PROJECT BACK ON THE  
TABLE—COMPLETED EIR AND ALL. THANK YOU.**

<sup>1</sup> Sources: <http://www.desline.com/articoli/5721.pdf>, and <http://www.theoil drum.com/node/5155>.

<sup>2</sup> Sources: <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/calculator.html> and [http://www.clemetrobar.org/uploadedFiles/CMBA\\_Site\\_Home/Committees/Green\\_Initiative/CMBA%20Green%20Initiative%20Carbon%20Footprint%20Calculator.pdf](http://www.clemetrobar.org/uploadedFiles/CMBA_Site_Home/Committees/Green_Initiative/CMBA%20Green%20Initiative%20Carbon%20Footprint%20Calculator.pdf).