

Received at 4/16/12
Board meeting
Item 12

Coalition of Peninsula Businesses

A coalition to resolve the Peninsula water challenge to
comply with the CDO at a reasonable cost

*Members Include: Monterey County Hospitality Association, Monterey Commercial
Property Owners' Association, Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce,
Carmel Chamber of Commerce, Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce,
Monterey County Association of Realtors, Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula*

April 16, 2012

The Honorable Dave Potter, Chair, and Board
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
5 Harris Court, Building G
Monterey, CA 93940

Re: Opposition to current Proposition 218 User Fee proceeding

Dear Chair Potter and Board Members:

The Coalition of Peninsula Businesses is opposed to the Proposition 218 protest procedure the District is proposing to use to impose a new District fee. The Coalition's present concern is about the District's proposed process regarding approval of the fee.

The Coalition would support a fee, if needed, devoted exclusively to developing an approved water supply project or participation in a portfolio of projects. The fee you currently propose appears to face legal complications.

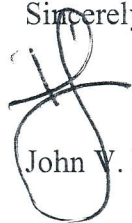
The Coalition wants a water supply project (or projects) that will provide a sufficient and sustainable water supply for the Peninsula at a reasonable cost. The Coalition has led the demand for such a project and has pushed our local elected officials to lead that effort. Any belief that the Coalition is not supportive of a project or portfolio of projects that will provide that long-term water supply is unequivocally wrong.

The Coalition believes the people who will ultimately pay the bill and the voters to whom the District is accountable should have a clear voice in deciding what will be paid to the District and for what purposes. That can only be accomplished through a ballot measure that can be fully reviewed, discussed and decided by the people who are affected.

A protest vote conducted by mail only to owners that is based on the assumption that the absence of a no vote is the same as a yes vote lacks the accountability that the public expects from its governing agencies. Just because agencies have done it this way in the past does not make it right for MPWMD today, times have changed. The public also has the right to be totally informed by MPWMD as to what the water supply project or projects are, any and all timelines, the benefit of such and the complete cost to the user.

The Coalition urges the District to discontinue its current course and instead instigate a process that allows for discussion and a vote on fees and their intended uses. We, the Coalition of Peninsula Businesses, would gladly support such a process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John V. Narigi', written in a cursive style.

John V. Narigi, Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mike Zimmerman', written in a cursive style with a trailing flourish.

Mike Zimmerman, Co-Chair