



September 10, 2012

Monterey County Board of Supervisors
Dave Potter, Chairman
P.O. Box 930
Salinas, CA 93901

VIA: E-mail to all Supervisors

RE: Board of Supervisors Agenda 9/11/2012: Items #16 & #17

Dear Chairman Potter and Supervisors:

Monterey County Farm Bureau supports the participation of Monterey County in the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority ('Authority') as recommended in your staff report.

Several points to consider in support of joining the Authority include:

- Fully one-third of the water connections on the Peninsula are within the County's unincorporated area and should be represented on this Authority.
- Salinas Valley water users are at risk as the current CalAm project proposal places their slant wells within the boundaries of the Salinas Valley aquifer area; this would cause a protracted water rights dispute and possibly trigger an adjudication of the water basin.
- County resources would be useful in evaluating all water project proposals as possible solutions to the Peninsula's water needs.
- Salinas Valley farmers, ranchers, and businesses have expended millions of dollars building a wide variety of water resource projects to ensure their water supply; the County should be an advocate to protect those water supplies and the rights of these landowners.
- Recent information released by the Water Resources Agency suggests that salt water intrusion is slowing but there is a long ways to go before a full halt or reversal is achieved, if ever; any project that jeopardizes the delicate balance of the Salinas River project should be reviewed with utmost care to ensure no further harm will be caused by any water supply project.

While Monterey County Farm Bureau ultimately supports a water supply solution for the Peninsula area, we do not support any water project that places a straw in the Salinas Valley aquifer. Nor do we support any expenditures by the Water Resource Agency to gather information, support water supply studies, or provide support for any Peninsula water supply project; this is the County's responsibility.

We urge your support in joining the Authority to provide support to vetting information on all possible water supply solutions on the Peninsula, while also actively working to protect the water rights of Salinas Valley landowners and residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman C. Groot', is written over the typed name.

Norman C. Groot
Executive Director