

Submitted by
Roger Dolan at
4/15/13 Board Meeting
Item 13



Dear Board of Directors:

The Water Committee of the Carmel Valley Association would like to suggest two changes to the MPWMD Mission Statement to:

- 1) Undertake a review and revision of the District's conservation program; and
- 2) Expand the wording of the statement to make clear your full responsibility associated with the water supply.

The Conservation Program

The Mission Statement should include as a goal for the first year, updating of the Conservation Program to ensure effectiveness and to eliminate unproductive program elements.

Program elements that should be retained

The requirement to use only low water consuming appliances and fixtures should be retained because it has contributed substantially to water savings. For example, limits on oversized tubs and high flow showerheads should be kept as they directly affect water use. However, an individual only uses one shower or tub at a time, regardless how many there are in the home. Anyone showering too long is going to be charged with tier 3 or 4 water rates.

Program elements that can be eliminated

We recommend eliminating those elements of the fixtures and appliances program that limit the freedom of citizens while making no beneficial impact on water consumption. We understand that at the time the fixture-limiting program was adopted, similar programs were in existence in water-limited areas across the country, but the more nuanced and effective tiered rate system is more commonly accepted today.

Some elements may appear to have a benefit, but are redundant to, or even in conflict with the far more successful and effective tiered rate system. Any apparent slight correlation between fixture count and water use in existing dwellings is due to the fact that larger families prefer to live in homes with several bathrooms and larger families (more people, not more fixtures) use more water. Also, most of the larger homes are older and are more likely to have high use fixtures and appliances. The new, tiered rates take the larger families into consideration, not in a punitive or restrictive way, but rather these rates provide a greater water allocation for the larger families. That is fair.

We suggest that the District cease counting fixtures and limiting the size of sink bowls, and concentrate on ensuring that low flow toilets, showerheads, lavatory faucets, dishwashers, clothes washers, etc., are used. This means that a home inspection will still be needed on sale or major remodel. The expensive, useless and irksome record keeping and bargaining over a bar sink, etc, will come to an end. Also, home remodeling and additions will move ahead, subject only to inspection of the type of fixtures and appliances and no longer concerned about the number.

Program elements that can be added

One of the shortcomings of the tiered rate structure is that the tier rate is set by self-reporting. This practice dangles a tempting prize in front of homeowners to inflate some of the water use criteria. Some are bound to seize it. If WMD makes the recommended change on fixture counts, a WMD inspector will still visit each new and remodeled home. So, why not have the inspector fill out the form, rather than the homeowner? We would not suggest a heavy-handed interrogation. But, a face-to-face interview coupled with a look around the property can be expected to increase the level of correct tier criteria data. It is unlikely that CalAm is checking to see if large animals or an oversized lot, or a large number of residents really exist at the site.

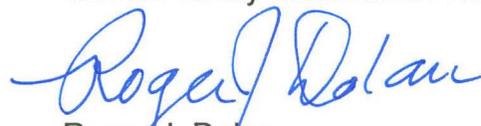
The wording of the mission

The draft states: *“The mission of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District is to provide for long-term sustainable water supply, and to manage and protect water resources for the benefit of the community and the environment”*.

It is recommended that the words “safe and reliable” be inserted ahead of “long term” and elsewhere in the document, as appropriate. The community needs to know that you believe that our supply must be safe and reliable. Few would challenge the fact that the Groundwater Recharge project is sustainable. However, it will be essential for you to set forth the data, reasoning and safeguards that can assure the community of its safety. The Aquifer Storage project must be designed within a range that will ensure its reliability. Of course, the sustainability of the Desal project will be questioned, but compromises will be made to ensure reliability.

Thank you for your consideration of these suggestions.

Carmel Valley Association Water Committee


Roger J. Dolan
Chair