January 29, 2014

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Chair Potter and Board of Directors Monterey Peninsula Water Management District 5 Harris Court, Bldg G Monterey, CA 93940

RE: Item # 21, Public Water Now Initiative Petition

Dear Chair Potter and Members of the Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute comments as they relate to the qualified Public Water Now petition before you for consideration and action.

On behalf of The Monterey County Association of REALTORS[®], I would like to express our collective support for taking the appropriate steps to ensure this initiative goes before the public for a vote. The option of adopting the ordinance without proper public discourse and vetting would result in a diminished opportunity for voters to be fully apprised of the surrounding challenges associated with an issue of this magnitude.

It is the belief of our organization that the Public Water Now Initiative could distract from the focus that is required to solve the immediate water availability challenges facing Peninsula ratepayers today. While public ownership options may make sense in certain areas at certain times, we strongly believe that today is neither the right time, nor place.

We respectfully request that you move the Public Water Now petition forward to the voters for consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to address this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Karen Cosart

Karen Cosentino 2014 MCAR President