

February 12, 2014

To: Monterey Peninsula Water Management District Board of Directors

From: Central Coast Coalition of Communities for Wastewater Equity

Submitted at 2/13/14
Board Meeting
Item-Oral
Communications

Regarding:

- Request MPWMD take a position for accessible locations for Public Participation Hearings for A.13-07-002
- Request MPWMD add to its current website the available digital documents related to A.13-07-002

Dear Board Members:

Location of Public Participation Hearings in Monterey County for A.13-07-002

Though this is nowhere indicated on the MPWMD website, the MPWMD has filed a motion and become a party to California American's General Rate Case A.13-07-002 which seeks water rate increases for Cal Am's thousands of Peninsula customers. Our organization, the Central Coast Coalition of Communities for Wastewater Equity has filed similar motions and is also a recognized party in opposition to those segments of A.13 which seek wastewater rate increases by Cal Am impacting the 700 ratepayers of Spreckels and Oak Hills.

The California Public Utilities Commission has held two hearings on A.13-07-002 on September 17, 2013 and January 21, 2014 in San Francisco. A significant portion of each hearing was taken by Administrative Law Judge W. Anthony Colbert to seek input as to the locations for CPUC Public Participation Hearings in Monterey County. These hearings are the only opportunity for Monterey County residents to participate and be heard without traveling to San Francisco.

On both occasions, the district legal counsel of the MPWMD made no comment and expressed no preferences despite the Public Advisors Office of the CPUC recommending the primary hearing for Peninsula residents be held on the CSU MB campus. Our Wastewater Coalition vigorously opposed the CSU MB location that is not convenient to anyone and strongly encouraged the PPH be held at Oldemeyer Center in Seaside and/or at other locations that are far more convenient and accessible than CSU MB. And there may be some confusion/hesitation in naming Seaside as a potential location for the PPH as it may not be clear that many thousands of Cal Am ratepayers reside in Seaside as well as in other cities of the Peninsula. Informal discussions of our Coalition with Cal Am Treasurer Mr. David Stephenson indicated that Cal Am was open to more than one PPH on the Peninsula, though it did not express support or opposition to the CSU MB location. Our organization acceded to Cal Am's desire to hold a PPH in Chualar, however, many residents of our areas have also attended only the Peninsula hearings in the past.

Our Coalition urges the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District which represents the vast majority of Monterey County Cal Am customers take as a whole or as individual Board Members a position for accessible locations the the CPUC Public Participation Hearings and communicate your preferences to Administrative Law Judge W. Anthony Colbert, wac.cpuc.ca.gov, , CPUC, Division of Administrative Law Judges, Room 5115, 505 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, CA. 94102-3214

A transcript of the full discussion of the locations for the PPH September 17, 2013 hearing was obtained

by yours and the Pacific Grove legal representative, Mr. Loreda, according to the CPUC Records office. Our Coalition suggests that this transcript be placed on the MPWMD website so all can be equally informed and have equal access to the filed records and motions for A.13-07-002. Going forward, we urge the MPWMD subscribe to all transcripts of A.13-07.002 which are available at a cost of \$2 per page, available in four to six weeks, or a the expedited rate of \$6 per page available in a week to 10 days. The additional \$4 per page for the expedited rate, however, is reduced and divided by the number of subscribers. Currently, Cal Am subscribes to the expedited transcripts, if MPWMD also subscribed to the expedited rate that cost would be cut to \$2 extra or \$4 total per page and so divided and reduced for each additional subscriber. Currently there have been 113 pages of transcript including both the 9/17/2013 and 1/21/2014 hearings. As the process progresses, there may be as much as 100 pages of transcript generated per day, however, given what is at stake, the cost is minimal.

The MPWMD Website include a Section for A.13-07-002

Currently the MPWMD website has no information regarding A.13-07.002 despite it's filing a motion and becoming a party to this Cal Am application for a general rate increase. On the MPWMD website under Important Announcements there is a link to: California American Water General Rate Case and Conservation Applications however, this refers to a Cal Am packet regarding its 2008 GRC: A.08-23!!! Given the excellence and breadth of the existing MPWMD website, it would not require much additional expense to include the formal filings, motions, and transcripts related to A.13-07-002. This would provide quick, simple and equal access for information so important to informed discussion and decisions this application will have for tens of thousands of Peninsula residents. Referring people to the CPUC website will simply not do as it is not at all user friendly and many if not most Peninsula residents easily become lost in attempting to navigate it.

Both of the above requests are entirely within the stated goals MPWMD for Public Outreach and Information as well as inexpensive to implement.

attached: MPWMD Motion for Party Status to Cal Am's A.13-07-002 General Rate Case Application for Rate Increases in Monterey County.

Thank You,

Sincerely,

/s/James R. Riley, CoChair

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