MONTEREY PENINSULA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Supplement to 01/27/2022 MPWMD Board Packet

Attached are copies of letters received between December 8, 2021 and January 18, 2022. These letters are listed in the January 2022 Board packet under Letters Received.

Author	Addressee	Date	Topic
Melodie Chrislock	General Manager and Board of Directors	12-10-2021	Voices of Monterey Bay on LAFCO Vote
Melodie Chrislock	General Manager and Board of Directors	12-10-2021	KAZU on Pure Water Monterey
Melodie Chrislock	General Manager and Board of Directors	12-19-2021	LAFCo Letters to the Editor 12/10/2021
Melodie Chrislock	General Manager and Board of Directors	12-19-2021	MC Weekly Op-Ed | Sara Rubin
Melodie Chrislock	General Manager and Board of Directors	12-19-2021	Letters to the Editor 12/17/2021
Melodie Chrislock	General Manager and Board of Directors	12-20-2021	MC Weekly Op-Ed | Sara Rubin
Melodie Chrislock	General Manager and Board of Directors	12-22-2021	Most Expensive Water Going Up Again!
Melodie Chrislock	General Manager and	12-22-2021	2002 Measure B Advisory Vote to Disband MPWMD

	Board of Directors		
Melodie Chrislock	General Manager and Board of Directors	12-30-2021	MC Weekly on LAFCO
Melodie Chrislock	General Manager and Board of Directors	12-30-2021	A Troubling Vote
Melodie Chrislock	General Manager and Board of Directors	12-30-2021	MC Weekly on LAFCO
Melodie Chrislock	General Manager and Board of Directors	01-03-2022	Public Water Now Response to LAFCo Resolution
Melodie Chrislock	General Manager and Board of Directors	01-04-2022	Letters to LAFCO on Chualar
Melodie Chrislock	General Manager and Board of Directors	01-05-2022	Herald on Today's LAFCO Vote
Melodie Chrislock	General Manager and Board of Directors	01-05-2022	Cal-Am Chualar Letter
Melodie Chrislock	General Manager and Board of Directors	01-08-2022	Letters to the Editor 12/30/2021 to 1/7/2022

Author	Addressee	Date	Topic
Susan Schiavone	General Manager and Board of Director's	December 9, 2021	Letter of Interest to Serve on the MPWMD Redistricting Advisory Commission
Esther Malkin		December 27, 2021	
Nancy Selfridge		January 10, 2022	
Tama Olver		December 3, 2021	
Myrleen Fisher		December 28, 2021	
Troy Ishikawa		December 13, 2021	
Steven Liley		January 5, 2022	
Konny Murray		January 18, 2022	
Bob Siegfried		December 10, 2021	
Mark Posson		December 6, 2021	
N Monica Lal		December 14, 2021	
Marc Eisenhart		January 11, 2022	
Wayne Downey		January 10, 2022	

Joel Pablo

From:	mwchrislock@redshift.com
Sent:	Friday, December 10, 2021 10:01 AM
To:	Alvin Edwards; Amy Anderson; Clyde Roberson; Dave Stoldt; George Riley; Joel Pablo; Karen Paull; Mary Adams; SAFWAT MALEK
Subject:	Voices of Monterey Bay on LAFCO Vote

Published this morning.

Voices of Monterey Bay | DECEMBER 9, 2021

A Troubling Vote

LAFCO's denial of public water makes little sense

By Melodie Chrislock

https://voicesofmontereybay.org/2021/12/09/a-troubling-vote/

Troubling Vote

| OPINION

By Melodie Chrislock

On Dec. 6, in a brazen display of special interest politics and complete disregard for the will of the voters in passing Measure J, five LAFCO commissioners blocked the Cal Am buyout.

Why does LAFCO have any say in this? LAFCO stands for Local Agency Formation Commission. One of its jobs is to oversee changes in the services public agencies provide.

ey Peninsula Water Management District was ready to make Cal Am an needed LAFCO to approve the change in service and activate their latent power to sell water retail. In a 5-2 vote, LAFCO refused.

In October, LAFCO heard the application again. The independent study had confirmed that MPWMD could afford the buyout. But the day before the hearing, Cal Am's attorneys sent LAFCO 400 pages of what they claimed was new information that had to be considered.

Why? Here's where things get really troubling. LAFCO's staff has had the application since February. They've brought it before the commissioners several times. Cal Am attorneys insisted each time that LAFCO needed more information.

LAFCO decided it had to determine if MPWMD could afford to buy Cal Am. This had already been clearly demonstrated in their feasibility study, but LAFCO insisted on another study. It cost the water district $70,000.

Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo drove the vote to require this study. He was later forced to recuse himself due to campaign contributions from Cal Am president Kevin Tilden and two of Cal Am's law firms, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, and Anthony Lombardo and Associates.

LAFCO heard the application again. The independent study had at MPWMD could afford the buyout. But the day before the hearing, Cal Am's attorneys sent LAFCO 400 pages of what they claimed was new information that had to be considered. The vote was delayed again to Dec. 6.

LAFCO staff had twice recommended approval. The independent study LAFCO asked for confirmed the buyout was feasible. But after all this, five LAFCO commissioners decided to defy their staff and the voters' mandate.

Supervisor Chris Lopez argued that this might increase water bills for his Chualar Cal Am customers and the other four Cal Am satellite systems that Cal Am owns. Chualar is a disadvantaged community. Any rate increase is limited by the CPUC to inflation. Lopez already knew this. He told me so in a meeting on Dec. 3. The impact on the other satellite systems can't be known at this point but would likely be minimal.

Commissioner Pete Poitras argued he had no guarantee that the cost to the fire district he represents, the Monterey County Rural Fire District, would be made up by the water district, even though MPWMD had offered to do a tax-sharing agreement with affected districts. Poitras is a Carmel Valley resident, but he voted against the buyout based on a less than 1% tax revenue loss to his fire district.

Commissioner Matt Gourley made the motion to oppose the proposal, saying, "I'm definitely from the private sector, not the public sector, I don't think government can run anything efficiently."

Then there was the real elephant in the room – water supply. LAFCO has no authority over water supply, but that didn't stop Salinas Valley members. They have an issue with the roughly 3,000 acre-feet of agricultural wastewater that will go to the Pure Water Monterey Expansion for the Peninsula. Salinas Mayor Kimbley Craig called it "our water." Lopez and Craig see Cal Am as their savior that can force a desal plant on the Peninsula.

›r Ian Oglesby, Supervisor Wendy Root Askew, and Soledad Mayor uez argued the case for approval eloquently, pointing out that there was no case for denial, but it fell on deaf ears.

In the face of all the evidence supporting MPWMD's buyout of Cal Am, LAFCO's additional study and its own staff recommendations, five commissioners sided with Cal Am and said "no" to 24,000 Peninsula voters.

These are the folks responsible for this travesty who should be held accountable: Lopez, Craig, Poitras, Gourley and Mary Ann Leffel of the Monterey Regional Airport District.

So what now? MPWMD will meet in closed session this week to decide how to proceed with a lawsuit.

The cost of the buyout would be covered by the profit Cal Am takes and the corporate taxes it pays on that profit. In 2015 Public Water Now estimated that would be $19 million annually.

Background on Measure J

Public Water Now drafted Measure J and put it on the ballot in 2018. Voters passed it by 56% even though Cal Am spent $3 million in a deceptive ad campaign against it.

ındated that the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District buy
. Monterey Peninsula system, if and when feasible.

Buying back the Peninsula's water system from a for-profit investor-owned private company and putting it under the ownership of a nonprofit public agency eliminates profit on our water and gives us local control through the water district's elected board. Eighty-seven percent of the nations' water customers get their water from publicly owned water systems.

The cost of the buyout would be covered by the profit Cal Am takes and the corporate taxes it pays on that profit. In 2015 Public Water Now estimated that would be $19 million annually. There would also be other savings to cover the cost of the buyout.

Of the 500 largest water systems in the country, the Monterey Peninsula was documented by Food & Water Watch to have the highest water costs in the nation in 2017. Our water costs have only risen since then.

Featured image: Water meter | Provided

Have something to say about this story? Send us a letter.

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About Melodie Chrislock

Melodie Chrislock is the director of Public Water Now, the citizens' group that organized and promoted the Measure J initiative that requires the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to pursue a possible public takeover of Cal Am. She lives in Carmel.

VIEW ALL POSTS

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Joel Pablo

From: mwchrislock@redshift.com
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2021 10:19 AM
To: Alvin Edwards; Amy Anderson; Clyde Roberson; Dave Stoldt; George Riley; Joel Pablo; Karen Paull; Mary Adams; SAFWAT MALEK
Subject: KAZU on Pure Water Monterey

Finally some great PR for Pure Water Monterey :-)
Love it! – Melodie

KAZU 90.3 | December 10, 2021

Monterey One Water leads Northern California in turning wastewater into drinking water.

Listen here: 5 minutes

https://www.kazu.org/kazu-news/2021-12-10/monterey-wastewater-to-drinking-water

90.3 kazu
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Monterey One Water leads Northern California in turning wastewater into drinking water.

KAZU | By Suzanne Saunders

Published December 10, 2021 at 12:00 AM PST

LISTEN • 5:14

Monterey One Water /

The Monterey One Water wastewater reuse complex north of Marina. Pure Water Monterey operates under the

Among the humming machines and maze-like pipes of the water purification plant just north of Marina, Mike McCullough fills a cup with water from a row of faucets.

"I'll drink it first," he said, before tipping the cup back.

The water is remarkable because it looks — and tastes — completely ordinary. But the water's journey to McCullough's plastic cup involved a series of tanks, screens, and filters that transformed it from raw sewage to drinking water.

"Nobody can really tell the difference," said McCullough, who is the director of external affairs for Monterey One Water, the utility that manages all parts of the wastewater treatment process.

A third of the drinking water that flows through Monterey Peninsula taps is derived from wastewater treated at the Pure Water Monterey plant. And after a planned expansion in 2024, recycled wastewater will make up more than half of the Peninsula's drinking water supply.

If approved, the expansion would cement the publicly-owned Monterey One Water as an industry pioneer.

The Pure Water Monterey plant is just one project under Monterey One Water's umbrella, which has delivered potable purified wastewater to California American Water's peninsula customers since 2020. Monterey One Water oversees the collection of wastewater, its multi-stage treatment, and the delivery of treated water to Peninsula customers and Castroville farms.

The purification process involves a state-of-the-art method using microscopic membrane filtration and reverse osmosis to destroy all the harmful pathogens and pollutants.

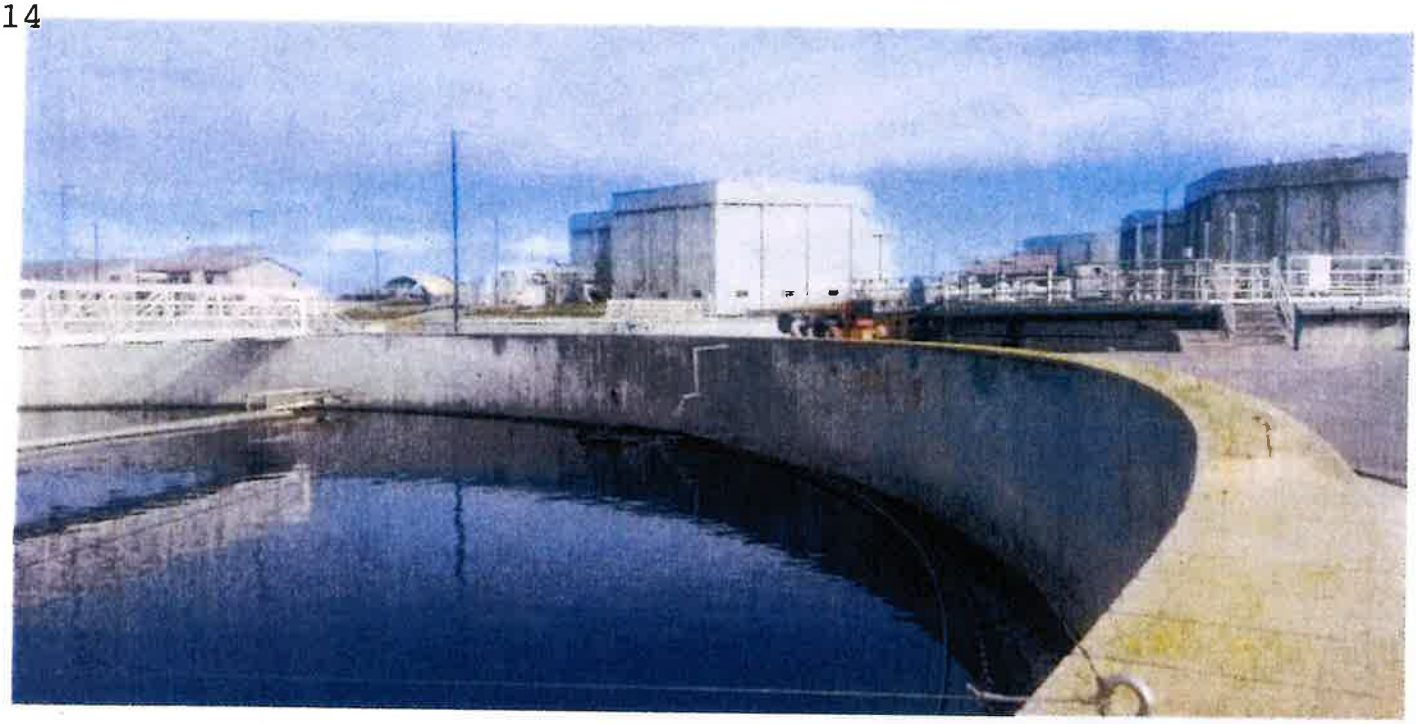
"We can recover about 81 percent of the water that goes through that treatment process," McCullough said. "So, 10 gallons go in. We get eight gallons (of purified drinking water) that come out."

Monterey One Water /

Inside the Pure Water Monterey plant where wastewater is purified for drinking. It was built with room to expand.

The water reuse process starts outdoors in a vast compound where sewage — and everything else that goes down the drain — swirls through massive tanks of wastewater. After sticks and rags are screened out, bacteria begin to break down the larger compounds.

There are six stages of treatment before the water reaches safe drinking levels. The early stages, in these outdoor tanks, produce water safe enough to be pumped into Monterey Bay and out to farms in nearby Castroville for irrigating crops.



Suzanne Saunders / KAZU News /

Wastewater is broken down by bacteria in massive outdoor treatment tanks.

Only a quarter of the wastewater is pumped indoors to undergo the more costly purification process at the Pure Water Monterey plant. There, the next four stages are monitored through a computerized network of shiny pumps, pipes, and gauges. McCullough said the resulting water is so pure that minerals like calcium have to be added back in to stabilize the water molecules, so they don't leach metal from the pipes. Tests show the final product exceeds government drinking standards.

The highly computerized advanced purification process is monitored 24/7 from a control room on the M1W grounds.

There are six similar purification plants in Southern California, but Pure Water Monterey is the first of its kind in Northern California. Paul Sciuto, the general manager of Monterey One Water, said the operation is unique because it takes in four sources of wastewater — not just sewage, but also runoff from storm drains, from agricultural irrigation ditches, and from an enormous amount of wastewater called agricultural wash.

That "ag wash" comes from water used to pre-wash all the packaged lettuce and veggies from the Salinas Valley. Ag wash alone, Sciuto said, generates four million gallons of drain water a day.

Supporters of this full-cycle reuse system say it could solve the Monterey Peninsula's chronic water shortage.

m1w-diagram.pdf 1 / 1 19%

Across the West, water starved communities are watching the water reuse model and

But water recycling is still fairly rare.

"In California, we only treat about 15 to 18 percent of our wastewater and reuse it," said Peter Gleick, the founder of the Pacific Institute, a global water think tank based in Oakland.

The Pure Water Monterey expansion project will be entirely powered by methane from the nearby public landfill at the Monterey Regional Waste Management District — a model that Gleick said was developed by the East Bay Municipal Utility District along San Francisco Bay.

There, methane is captured from sewage instead of a landfill, then converted to electricity to power the plant that treats the sewage.

"They actually produce more energy than they use. So it's a net positive," Gleick said. "They burn methane, which turns it to CO2. That's still a greenhouse gas, but it's less severe than methane."

Still, Gleick says we could do more.

"All along California's coast, we collect wastewater, partially treat it, and dump it back in the ocean. Increasingly, highly treated wastewater is seen as a source of reliable supply that ultimately, we're going to have no choice but to turn to."

Monterey One Water's Paul Sciuto agrees.

"It's a shame to use water once and dispose of it into the ocean," he said.

Currently, Monterey One Water is finalizing designs to expand Pure Water Monterey and increase production. All of the potable water will continue to be delivered to Cal Am, the private water company that supplies water to the Monterey Peninsula's six cities and the unincorporated areas of Carmel Valley and Pebble Beach.

Ian Crooks, Cal Am's vice president of engineering, says the company fully supports the recycle model and is partnering with Monterey One Water to build pipes and other infrastructure for the project's expansion. But the company has said it doubts recycled water will be enough to solve the shortage.

Instead, Cal Am champions desalination — the more costly process of removing salt and other particles from seawater to make it suitable for drinking. The company has argued desal is the only long term drought-proof solution for the peninsula's water woes.

Cal Am has pushed for a desalination plant along Monterey Bay for almost two decades. Their proposal will go back before the California Coastal Commision next year.

The Pacific Institute's Gleick believes desalination should be a community's last option, after "cheaper, faster and more environmentally smart" alternatives have been tried, like stormwater capture and wastewater reuse.

For now, the Pure Water Monterey expansion project is the only new source of water developed for the Peninsula's 100,000 customers. Monterey One Water still needs approval from the California Public Utilities Commission to start construction. If all goes as planned, the bigger purification plant will be in full operation by 2024.

Meanwhile, water supplies are shrinking. Cal Am is under state orders to sharply reduce its draws from the Carmel River by Jan. 1, 2022, and water rationing could be ordered in 2023. Whether conservation and water recycling will solve the shortage remains to be seen.

Cal Am is one of KAZU's many business supporters.

Tags KAZU News | Local News | Environment | Water | Recycled Water | Monterey Peninsula

Suzanne Saunders

See stories by Suzanne Saunders

Joel Pablo

From: mwchrislock@redshift.com
Sent: Sunday, December 19, 2021 8:06 AM
To: Joel Pablo; Dave Stoldt
Subject: LAFCO Letters to the Editor 12/10/21

Please add these letters to the editor to the record. Thanks.

Melodie Chrislock
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Monterey Herald | December 10, 2021

Fiscal sanity prevails with LAFCO's buyout vote

Thank you, LAFCO! Fiscal sanity prevailed Monday night and LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) turned down the water board's application to expand into the retail water business.

We have heard over and over that the voters have spoken on Measure J. Through the LAFCO process we found out that satellite water systems not to be acquired would have their rates double or greater, and they did not get to vote on Measure J.

During the Measure J campaign no one told us that school districts would lose millions or dollars in funding if Cal Am were purchased, or that fire districts would lose millions as well. Many would never have voted yes had they known.

LAFCO's job is to ignore the hype of boosters and objectively review the water board's proposal. It is a countywide commission because that brings objectivity they saw through the hype and misinformation and did the courageous thing and stopped the out-of-control freight train. Kudos and thank you.

Rick Heuer, President, Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association

Irresponsible decision by LAFCO on Cal Am buyout

Is Monterey County dysfunctional or what? It is hard to imagine a more irresponsible decision than the one the LAFCO board made on Monday by putting a boulder right in

the middle of the road to freedom of the Monterey Peninsula from the costly clutches of Cal Am and the CPUC (California Public Utilities Commission). Commissioner Matt Gourley supported Cal Am because he believes the private sector can run anything more efficiently than the government. Cal Am does not run the water system independently, with efficiency created by competition, as a private business would; it runs it as a monopoly, with no competition, regulated by the CPUC, which is a government (like LAFCO, inefficient?) agency.

So, like the other LAFCO naysayers, his argument for rejection holds no water. The commission in fact was stupidly irresponsible to make the decision it did. That is because either decision, yea or nay, could lead to a lawsuit, but, while the water management district would pay LAFCO for defending a yea vote in court, LAFCO will have to pay its own costs for defending its nay vote if it loses, which it will.

The money to pay for that loss will come from county coffers and simply add to any loss of county revenue due to the municipalization of Cal Am.

Ron Weitzman, Carmel

Monterey Herald | December 12, 2021

Demand LAFCO Accountability

Five out of the seven LAFCO commissioners' votes defied both logic and facts at their Dec. 6 regular meeting on agenda item 14, to not allow the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to reactivate their latent powers to operate as a retail water purveyor. The majority of commissioners voted with their special interest groups in mind and disregarded their professional staff recommendation (who all should be highly commended), their consultant, Berkson and Associates (which did the third analysis study, all paid for by Cal Am ratepayers), and the 24,000 voters for Measure J (2018).

According to LAFCO's mission statement, "LAFCO is also charged with reviewing and approving ways to reorganize, simplify, and streamline governmental organizations." Apparently, these are just words without any meaning. Why doesn't LAFCO apply this mission to your own commission?

There's a lot of foot-draggings when it comes to Cal Am and new water projects that they do not own and can't take all of the profits. These are some of the reasons why we need public water! There are no profits, and thus the savings to ratepayers!

— *Troy Ishikawa, Carmel*

Monterey Herald | December 15, 2021

LAFCO vote goes against the will of the people

How is it possible that a nonelected board (LAFCO) can stop the will of the people expressed in an open, honest vote?

Has Trumpism hit the Monterey Peninsula? Hope not.

— *Dan Presser, Carmel*

LAFCO derelict in its duty to the local voters

Astoundingly, as noted in Monterey Herald's article on Dec. 8, the LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) board voted to deny the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's application to activate its legislatively approved latent powers. The shocking fact is the blatant disregard for voter-approved Measure J and violation of California Government Code (Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act) Section 56668 (n), which codifies the requirement that LAFCO must consider the interests of the voters who overwhelmingly approved Measure J, which is the mandate of the "voters or residents of the affected territory."

This LAFCO proposal cost the water district $240,000. It included meticulous expert feasibility analyses. LAFCO's independent consultant confirmed buyout feasibility and LAFCO dedicated, competent staff repeatedly recommended approval.

These five no-vote commissioners only considered special interests and future electability, ignoring their job to respect voters' and affected residents' lawful interests. Their water supply issues fall outside LAFCO's jurisdictional charter.

This decision ensures LAFCO will assume future litigation costs, reducing county coffer funds and exacerbating the 1% or less tax loss special districts could incur, which the water district generously offered to compensate, thus fully offsetting any tax loss while providing the huge plus of cheaper water rates.

LAFCO is derelict in its duty to uphold the voter's constitutional rights.

— *Margaret-Anne Coppernoll, Marina*

LAFCO vote a disgrace to Peninsula residents

Your Monday vote is a disgrace to the already victims on the Monterey Peninsula of

unbelievable years of ever-increasing costs of water provided by a corporation that seeks and always receives complete support from such state agencies as the California Public Utilities Commission and LAFCO. Your agency is supposed to be a county-wide agency that has adopted its policies and action by encouraging the orderly formation of local governmental agencies reserving agricultural land resources, discouraging urban sprawl, all in the delivery of encouraging the efficient local government. These policies and actions are important and should be followed on all issues before LAFCO's board. A proper and accurate result is extremely important, especially when a current and major issue regarding the acquisition of California American Water's main distribution systems by the county water district before the agency's board.

Last week, your majority on the board ignored the appropriate process of making decisions that result in appropriate, fair and helpful conclusions. Personal bias and politics should not be involved. Rather, making a decision should be based only on reviewing data and information provided by experienced persons, including your staff. Instead, recommendations from your staff and consideration of other information provided to you how LAFCO is supposed to be reviewing issues. They should be based on facts and consistent with the appropriate and best results for those affected.

I would expect you would have jumped to "preserving ag lands" that help those who live and work there. And you would do the same for "discouraging urban sprawl" of Salinas and other valley cities. But you obviously don't have the interest or concern to help the Peninsula citizens who receive their water from Cal Am. You clearly have ignored helping those who will suffer when you have voted against LAFCO's own policy and action to ensure the "delivery of encouraging efficient ... government service."

It's sad but easy to wonder how you got on the board in the first place, with no concern about representing all of the people in the grand county of Monterey.

— William S. Hood Jr., Former and part-time Peninsula resident, former AMBAG executive director

Monterey Herald | December 16, 2021

No logical reason for LAFCO to oppose buyout

What is going on with an entity like LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission), set up to review and make decisions on our never-ending Cal Am debacle, only to find that their decision was contrary to the interests of those 25,000-plus voters whose choice was to terminate this Cal Am interference in our progress to manage our own water!

I wouldn't criticize, but in reading their own research/ findings, you will see they have not listed ANY logical reason that supports their ultimate decision, which is highly suspect if you ask me.

Perhaps further investigation will bear out the political or monetary ties that bind us to the second largest grift on our community. I would be interested to read the Monterey Herald's investigation on exactly how this decision was reached.

— *Cate Mulligan, Seaside*

LAFCO board made the right decision with vote

The LAFCO board made the right decision in denying the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's application to activate its latent powers. Unfortunately, The Herald's coverage of the hearing did not point out the multitude of reasons that were given by board members and Cal Am's attorney for rejecting the proposal — including that it would be the largest debt issuance in Monterey County history and that the water district does not even have the reserves to cover its expected legal fees. In addition, the tax losses to local agencies that would result from a Cal Am takeover are significant — $75 million over 20 years! The regional fire district testified they would lose one firefighter. Is that something our community can afford in current times?

Finally, Cal Am customers outside the district's boundaries could see their rates double. Particularly for the disadvantaged community of Chualar, this is not fair. LAFCO's role is to look at the impacts to the entire county, not to simply follow the will of Peninsula voters only. Their role is to be a checkpoint so that bad ideas by local zealots don't get out of hand and go too far.

— *Carol Chorbajian, Monterey*

MC Weekly • Letters to the Editor 12.16.21

Water Worked

We knew it would be a long, hard slog getting public control of our water situation, but we didn't know that this public agency, LAFCO, would work against it ("A rejection of next steps for a buyout of Cal Am is a failure of democracy," Dec. 9-15). Fortunately, we still have the California Coastal Commission on our side. They actually believed the work of their staff.

Myrleen Fisher | Carmel
Fisher is on the board of Public Water Now, the group that wrote Measure J.

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This article is inspirational. Many thanks for defending voters, democracy and our constitutional republic.

Margaret-Anne Coppernoll | Marina

Thank you for a common-sense analysis of LAFCO's majority decision to oppose the public's approval of a Cal Am buyout. In LAFCO's tunnel-vision mindset, one $140,000 firefighter is more important to the county than millions of (potential) savings to more than 40,000 county residents. Feasibility studies have given substantial indication that a public owned and operated water utility will provide lower consumer rates than Cal Am, a privately owned monopoly, which must contribute to its New Jersey-based parent, American Water Works (AWK).

Every year American Water must pay its dividend, currently $2.41, to 181.5 million shares. Nationwide over 85 percent of water utilities are publicly owned. Why? Because they have lower rates than private monopolies. That should put an end LAFCO Commissioner Matt Gourley's position "that government can't run anything efficiently."

Roland Martin | Carmel Valley

Joel Pablo

From: mwchrislock@redshift.com
Sent: Sunday, December 19, 2021 8:11 AM
To: Joel Pablo; Dave Stoldt
Subject: MC Weekly Op-ed Sara Rubin

Please add this to the record. Thanks.

Melodie Chrislock
Managing Director
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Monterey County Weekly | December 9, 2021

A rejection of next steps for a buyout of Cal Am is a failure of democracy.

Sara Rubin

In 2018, California American Water spent $2.1 million urging Monterey Peninsula voters to reject Measure J, a public buyout initiative, yet the measure passed overwhelmingly, with 55.8 percent of the vote on Nov. 6.

What has followed in the three years since that election is a long slog of studies and analyses, commissioned by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, seeking to determine if it is feasible to pursue a public buyout, as the district is directed to do. The latest in that string of procedural steps was approval from an esoteric government agency, the Local Agency Formation Commission of Monterey County, which represents something of a third-party gatekeeper. Instead of a determination by the water district or its arch-nemesis Cal Am, this was an analysis from a neutral government agency. LAFCO staff spent months studying the question of whether it's feasible for the water district to publicly acquire Cal Am, and their answer was yes. Referring to a ream of documents 189 pages deep, LAFCO Executive Officer told commissioners on Dec. 6: "These items provide a body of evidence that acquisition is feasible."

There are, of course, unanswered questions in what would be the largest eminent domain case in California history if the buyout moves forward. Among the issues: a government property owner, rather than a private company, would mean $1.3 million

less in property tax revenue, affecting dozens of agencies.

Commissioner Pete Poitras, who represents special districts on LAFCO and is president of the Monterey County Regional Fire District board, was looking at an estimated loss of $140,000 per year in revenue: "That represents a firefighter. We can't afford to lose a firefighter as a result of this," he said.

Commissioner Mary Ann Leffel, of the Monterey Peninsula Airport District, echoed that: "I do not believe I can in good faith take from one part of the community to make another part of the community happy."

Nobody ever said a public buyout of a private company that is not for sale would be seamless or without hidden expenses. But what voters said, loudly and clearly, is that they want the water district to pursue a buyout of Cal Am – if feasible. The loss of a firefighter at one agency, while a burden, does not impact the feasibility of a buyout of Cal Am.

Generalized opposition to the public sector was part of the guiding logic as LAFCO commissioners laid out their arguments for ignoring their own staff's determination.

"I'm definitely from the private sector, not the public sector. I don't think government can run anything efficiently," said Commissioner Matt Gourley, a former Gonzales City Council member, before making a motion to deny the water district's application. (Serious question: Why serve in government, then?)

LAFCO commissioners Chris Lopez (a county supervisor) and Kimbley Craig (mayor of Salinas) joined in the no bandwagon – too many uncertainties, they said.

Next up is the inevitable lawsuit. The day after the vote, MPWMD Chair Alvin Edwards told *Weekly* Staff Writer Christopher Neely the district will sue LAFCO over blocking them from fulfilling their obligations under Measure J.

Joining Commissioner Wendy Root Askew on the losing side of the 5-2 vote, Ian Oglesby (Seaside's mayor) said: "In my opinion, a judge or a jury would be very comfortable deciding in the district's favor that LAFCO's board disregarded the facts, as set out before us in our own draft study. I believe the only legally defensible position for me is to vote to approve."

It's always been presumed that it will be a judge who decides if it's really feasible. But that's supposed to be about substantive questions – whether the water district can operate the system at a reasonable cost. Instead, a court will now decide on this procedural step: Did LAFCO err in denying the water district's request to activate its "latent powers"?

If Oglesby is right, and if the LAFCO's staff analysis is right, the answer is an obvious yes.

Next, LAFCO staff will put their work in the shredder and write a new resolution in defense of the commission's no vote, so they have something to stand on in court. Whatever happens legally, LAFCO commissioners are ultimately accountable to voters – the same voters who approved Measure J.

SARA RUBIN is the *Weekly*'s editor. Reach her at sara@mcweekly.com

https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/opinion/local_spin/a-rejection-of-next-steps-for-a-buyout-of-cal-am-is-a-failure-of/article_59217d04-5868-11ec-86d8-8b87c2e93b71.html?fbclid=IwAR1dFmaXQotnibMpRSkK5Gun4moaYvSMpC9RW-iPbU6CZJMPFoDAT2shQMo

Joel Pablo

From: mwchrislock@redshift.com
Sent: Sunday, December 19, 2021 8:06 AM
To: Joel Pablo; Dave Stoldt
Subject: Letters to the Editor 12/17/21

Please add these letters to the editor to the record. Thanks.

Melodie Chrislock
Managing Director
PUBLIC WATER NOW
http://www.publicwaternow.org
mwchrislock@redshift.com
831 624-2282

http://pineconearchive.fileburstcdn.com/211217PCA.pdf

Carmel Pine Cone | December 17, 2021

Buyout deserves 'fair process'

Dear Editor,

The Pine Cone's recent article about the vote to deny the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's LAFCO application omitted a crucial fact: LAFCO was only being asked for conditional approval. LAFCO's professional staff spent 9 months researching and evaluating every objection to the application, and had imposed 6 detailed conditions to minimize any potential negative effects of a successful buyout of Cal Am. For example, the District was required to work with every organization that would lose $5,000 or more in annual tax revenues if the buyout was successful and to document good faith efforts to compensate each organization for its loss. Even though the District had not begun any buyout, it had already begun working with those organizations.

LAFCO'S staff recommended conditional approval 3 times. LAFCO could still have denied final approval after a court rendered its verdict if any conditions were not met. This was a no risk vote for LAFCO. The five commissioners who voted to deny mentioned things that could have been addressed successfully through the conditions. This made their votes seem senseless, and simply aimed at overturning Measure J and blocking all efforts at a buyout.

It is hard to imagine that the no votes from Salinas Valley Commissioners, who don't

pay Cal Am's rates, are based on any understanding of the facts, or of the reasons people on the Peninsula voted for a buyout and truly deserve a fair process.

Marli Melton, Carmel Valley

Will of the voters

Dear Editor,

Thanks for covering the recent LAFCO meeting. It was stunning to witness the vote on conditionally approving MPWMD's application to enact its legal latent power to become a public retail water agency, denying the will of the voters and staff and consultant recommendations.

Commissioners voting no went outside LAFCO's scope with issues unrelated to approving latent powers. They focused on whether or not the peninsula should have Cal Am's desal plant, and government cannot do anything right, as stated by Matt Gourley, complaining that the public was in the way of Cal Am. Kimbley Craig noted it was clear the peninsula didn't want desal, then complained the peninsula is taking water from Salinas. Seventy-five percent of recycled water goes back to Salinas valley farmland and we also contribute 40 percent of the wastewater. While repeatedly saying they had concerns about estimated 1% tax reductions and satellite systems, no real discussion ensued.

As a condition of approval, MPWMD already agreed to negotiate agreements to soften tax revenue impacts. A motion to include satellite systems was voted down.

LAFCO must legally issue a written decision based on evidence, not opinion. It now may be decided in court, undoubtedly in MPWMD's favor. LAFCO will incur high legal fees, along with MPWMD—passed on to us.

Susan L. Schiavone, Seaside

LAFCO Writes off democracy

Dear Editor,

LAFCO's Dec 6 no-vote by five commissioners, four from Salinas, one from Monterey Peninsula, made a mockery of democracy. They displayed alarming special interests politics and partisan prejudice.

Ironically, the voters who approved the buyout of Cal-Am are the same voters who pay the taxes that support the fire district and other agencies who voted against approval because they would lose tax revenue (less than 1%) if MPWMD's buyout succeeds. These naysayers were appointed to LAFCO, which is unbalanced in favor of Salinas Valley. Chair Lopez was disingenuous in claiming the buyout will bring higher water rates for his constituents when he knows the CPUC has a protective rate cap for Chualar as a disadvantaged community. Commissioner Gourley contradicts himself by denigrating government while serving in government! Some commissioners exhibit poor judgment, such as driving under the influence for which two have been arrested in the past.

Let the public hold these commissioners accountable. Let our democracy flourish and not be stifled by self-serving politicians who flout the principles of democracy. Corporations have become over-sized monopolies worshipping their one idol – money, defying free market competition. Greed cannot sustain a constitutional republic.

LAFCO's decision will add to the tax revenue loss as it diminishes county coffers, incurring costly litigation fees. How many firefighters would that cover? LAFCO defied its own staff approval recommendation and the independent consultant it hired to confirm buyout feasibility.

MPWMD is in the right to support the voters' mandate and fight against CalAm's tyranny.

Vive Democracy!

Margaret-Anne Coppernoll, Marina

Disband water district

Dear Editor,

We should all applaud LAFCO's rejection of the water management district's attempt to take over Cal Am, a private company. Finally, an agency with some oversight took an honest, commonsense look and exposed what this is really all about, a power and money grab. How much taxpayer money has been spent and will be spent to save the current customers of Cal Am a whopping $22 per month? This entire issue of water control comes down to the lesser of two evils, and while Cal Am has not been stellar, it is preferable over unrestrained government agencies that simply want to control the behavior of private citizens.

For MPWMD to use the argument that this is "the will of the people" and should be honored is just about the most hypocritical statement to ever come from a big government agency. Let's all remember that the will of the people not very long ago was to dissolve the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District completely as they had failed in their mission to find new water sources for those it serves. Of course, in that instance they did not like the will of the people and found a local politician to find a way to ignore it.

How about we honor that original vote now?

Lauren Cohen, Monterey

Why Did LAFCO block the buyout?

Dear Editor,

Should LAFCO's board of appointed commissioners from Salinas and South County have the right to block the Cal Am buyout on the Peninsula?

It was clear from the LAFCO staff report and the $70,000 LAFCO consultant's report that the water district could afford to buy Cal Am and operate the water system at a reasonable cost. That was the only question LAFCO was supposed to consider and the only one it was supposed to vote on. LAFCO staff recommended approval TWICE. There were no grounds to deny the water district's application. So why vote no?

They claimed this was about the tiny tax revenue loss of less than 1% for some of the affected special districts and the "possible" minimal Cal Am rate hikes to five satellite water districts. But make no mistake; this was a vote on water supply with the Salinas Valley once again trying to dictate water policy to the Peninsula.

LAFCO commissioner and south county Supervisor, Chris Lopez, believes the Peninsula must have Cal Am's desal, so he and Salinas Mayor Kimbley Craig voted against the buyout in an attempt to force desal on the Peninsula. Three other commissioners followed their lead. The problem is that LAFCO has no authority on water supply, so they had to disguise their no-vote with other issues.

The tax revenue losses can be mitigated and none of the issues raised justify blocking the will of the voters and the water district's mandate to move forward on Measure J.

This is Monterey County lettuce curtain politics at its worst.

Melodie Chrislock, Carmel

Investigate LAFCO

Dear Editor,

Can someone please explain to me how LAFCO can make a decision on our relationship with CalAm, which completely opposes even their own findings?

Please correct me on any of this if I am wrong, but over 25,000 citizens voted to oust the grifting waterworks, which has already a terrible reputation for taking water that is not theirs, and charging homeowners for it...(OK, perhaps they were/are charging for its transportation to our homes? But how can they charge us if the pipes are shooting brown water out of spigots...indicating that in all these years, they have done little to assuage using that as an excuse for 'services rendered.')

We all want to know exactly what the logical reason is for ignoring their own findings.

Transparency is much needed on LAFCO's decision-making process. Let's subpoena communications if we don't get a satisfactory response. That would be an investigation that many community members would find worth reading about.

Cate Mulligan, Seaside

Joel Pablo

From: mwchrislock@redshift.com
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 7:32 PM
To: Joel Pablo
Subject: Re: MC Weekly Op-ed Sara Rubin

Thanks Joel. There may be a few more this week.

Melodie

On 12/20/21, 5:42 PM, "Joel Pablo" <Joel@mpwmd.net> wrote:

Melodie:

Received all three e-mails and will be included for the record.

- Joel G. Pablo with MPWMD

From: mwchrislock@redshift.com <mwchrislock@redshift.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 19, 2021 8:11 AM
To: Joel Pablo <Joel@mpwmd.net>; Dave Stoldt <dstoldt@mpwmd.net>
Subject: MC Weekly Op-ed Sara Rubin

Please add this to the record. Thanks.

Melodie Chrislock
Managing Director
PUBLIC WATER NOW
http://www.publicwaternow.org
<https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.publicwaternow.org&c=E,1,YstRI9ElQgFRI7JLAcpUH3SJ02n0ZW9VWnPwBJYC54U15n68yptL_ehIvh8by6vVcOP4--X_YTs5C6Hj3zbSRLqZCMgVwRRYsB9EIEFA6DiIh4U76h4,&typo=1>
mwchrislock@redshift.com
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Monterey County Weekly | December 9, 2021

A rejection of next steps for a buyout of Cal Am is a failure of democracy.

Sara Rubin

In 2018, California American Water spent $2.1 million urging Monterey Peninsula voters to reject Measure J, a public buyout initiative, yet the measure passed overwhelmingly, with 55.8 percent of the vote on Nov. 6.

What has followed in the three years since that election is a long slog of studies and analyses, commissioned by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, seeking to determine if it is feasible to pursue a public buyout, as the district is directed to do. The latest in that string of procedural steps was approval from an esoteric government agency, the Local Agency Formation Commission of Monterey County, which represents something of a third-party gatekeeper. Instead of a determination by the water district or its arch-nemesis Cal Am, this was an analysis from a neutral government agency. LAFCO staff spent months studying the question of whether it's feasible for the water district to publicly acquire Cal Am, and their answer was yes. Referring to a ream of documents 189 pages deep, LAFCO Executive Officer told commissioners on Dec. 6: "These items provide a body of evidence that acquisition is feasible."

There are, of course, unanswered questions in what would be the largest eminent domain case in California history if the buyout moves forward. Among the issues: a government property owner, rather than a private company, would mean $1.3 million less in property tax revenue, affecting dozens of agencies.

Commissioner Pete Poitras, who represents special districts on LAFCO and is president of the Monterey County Regional Fire District board, was looking at an estimated loss of $140,000 per year in revenue: "That represents a firefighter. We can't afford to lose a firefighter as a result of this," he said.

Commissioner Mary Ann Leffel, of the Monterey Peninsula Airport District, echoed that: "I do not believe I can in good faith take from one part of the community to make another part of the community happy."

Nobody ever said a public buyout of a private company that is not for sale would be seamless or without hidden expenses. But what voters said, loudly and clearly, is that they want the water district to pursue a buyout of Cal Am – if feasible. The loss of a firefighter at one agency, while a burden, does not impact the feasibility of a buyout of Cal Am.

Generalized opposition to the public sector was part of the guiding logic as LAFCO commissioners laid out their arguments for ignoring their own

staff's determination.

"I'm definitely from the private sector, not the public sector. I don't think government can run anything efficiently," said Commissioner Matt Gourley, a former Gonzales City Council member, before making a motion to deny the water district's application. (Serious question: Why serve in government, then?)

LAFCO commissioners Chris Lopez (a county supervisor) and Kimbley Craig (mayor of Salinas) joined in the no bandwagon – too many uncertainties, they said.

Next up is the inevitable lawsuit. The day after the vote, MPWMD Chair Alvin Edwards told *Weekly* Staff Writer Christopher Neely the district will sue LAFCO over blocking them from fulfilling their obligations under Measure J.

Joining Commissioner Wendy Root Askew on the losing side of the 5-2 vote, Ian Oglesby (Seaside's mayor) said: "In my opinion, a judge or a jury would be very comfortable deciding in the district's favor that LAFCO's board disregarded the facts, as set out before us in our own draft study. I believe the only legally defensible position for me is to vote to approve."

It's always been presumed that it will be a judge who decides if it's really feasible. But that's supposed to be about substantive questions – whether the water district can operate the system at a reasonable cost. Instead, a court will now decide on this procedural step: Did LAFCO err in denying the water district's request to activate its "latent powers"?

If Oglesby is right, and if the LAFCO's staff analysis is right, the answer is an obvious yes.

Next, LAFCO staff will put their work in the shredder and write a new resolution in defense of the commission's no vote, so they have something to stand on in court. Whatever happens legally, LAFCO commissioners are ultimately accountable to voters – the same voters who approved Measure J.

SARA RUBIN is the *Weekly*'s editor. Reach her at sara@mcweekly.com

https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/opinion/local_spin/a-rejection-of-next-steps-for-a-buyout-of-cal-am-is-a-failure-of/article_59217d04-5868-11ec-86d8-8b87c2e93b71.html?fbclid=IwAR1dFmaXQotnibMpRSkK5Gun4moaYvSMpC9RW-iPbU6CZJMPFoDAT2shQMo

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<https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.montereycountyweekly.com%2fopinion%2flocal_spin%2fa-rejection-of-next-steps-for-a-buyout-of-cal-am-is-a-failure-of%2farticle_59217d04-5868-11ec-86d8-8b87c2e93b71.html%3ffbclid%3dIwAR1dFmaXQotnibMpRSkK5Gun4moaYvSMpC9RW-iPbU6CZJMPFoDAT2shQMo&c=E,1,DANdqSCGT5SbEuaiAaehkbPmQ4i61t1pZ40qH_mEI67mWzZcfP-gVROv7Jl3-2eZNRavbD_LcY3QI8zqod2rgtYR0H8bcoBIcEeu3_ZG1EuwgntIgxR7&typo=1>

Joel Pablo

From: mwchrislock@redshift.com
Sent: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 8:34 AM
To: Alvin Edwards420; Amy Anderson(E); Clyde Roberson; Dave Stoldt; George TRiley; Joel Pablo; KarenP Paull; District 5; SAFWAT MALEK
Subject: Most Expensive Water Going Up Again!

The fact that we have the most expensive water is the nation is verified by the Food & Water Watch 2017 update of the top ten most expensive water systems in the country. It's copied on our website at https://www.publicwaternow.org/most_expensive_water

Back then it was $1,202 a year for 5,000 gallons a month, now it's up to $1,500 a year for that same amount! We just verified that from actual bills.

The link to the original study is in the article. They surveyed the 500 largest water systems in the U.S. using 5,000 gallons monthly as the standard. That would be a tier 2 bill under Cal Am. Cal Am will be raising our rates again over the next three years.

Melodie Chrislock
Managing Director
PUBLIC WATER NOW
http://www.publicwaternow.org
mwchrislock@redshift.com
831 624-2282

What Measure J will do HERE

PUBLIC WATER NOW

Most Expensive Water in the U.S.

The Most Expensive Water in the Country... Brought to You by Cal Am!

By Melodie Chrislock

In 2015 Food & Water Watch completed a study of the 500 largest public and private water systems across the county, ranking them by the annual cost of water to the consumer. This is the largest study of its kind ever done. The study was based on a household using 5000 gallons of water monthly / 60,000 gallons annually.

In the original study, the Monterey Peninsula was ranked #9 of the Top Ten Most Expensive water providers in the country with an annual cost to the consumer of $716. Since then the average Cal Am customer on the Peninsula has seen a 68% increase in their water cost and that percentage is much higher if you use water in tiers 3, 4 or 5. The Food & Water Watch study is based on moderate water usage of 5000 gallons monthly, which falls into Cal Am's Tier 2 billing here on the Peninsula.

In April 2017 Food & Water Watch announced their 2017 update of the Top Ten Most Expensive Water Providers in the Country. The Monterey Peninsula now ranks #1 with the most expensive water in the United States. The annual cost to Cal Am's Peninsula customers for 60,000 gallons is $1202.

To put the cost of our water in perspective, the average cost of publicly owned water across the country is $315 a year, the average cost of privately owned water is $500 a year or 59% higher. But here on the Peninsula our cost is now $1202 a year.

In general, publicly owned systems have the lowest water cost to the consumer and private systems have the highest. 87% of U.S. consumers get their water from publicly owned systems. It's worth noting that six of the Food & Water Watch Top Ten Most

Expensive water providers in the country are owned by American Water, Cal Am's parent company.

With Cal Am's March 2017 changes in rate structure and additional charges, water bills for many Cal Am customers doubled or tripled. One of the new charges on our Cal Am bills is $64 million for water we didn't use due to our conservation efforts as a community. That's right, Cal Am can charge us for water we did not use to make up for their lost revenue under the California Public Utilities Commission rules.

To make matters worse, the cost for new water projects like Cal Am's proposed desal plant, the Pure Water Monterey (recycled water) project, or the pipeline currently under construction, are NOT yet included on our water bills. Plus Cal Am is asking the CPUC for another 22.7% rate increase over the next three years. Costs will continue to rise sharply with Cal Am. We can do better than this with publicly owned water.

Top Ten Most Expensive Water Providers in the Country: 2017 Update

In 2015, Food & Water Watch surveyed the 500 largest community water systems in the United States to find out how much they charge a typical household using 60,000 gallons a year.[1] Since then, California American Water — a state arm of the nation's largest private water corporation[2] — has substantially increased its water rates on the Monterey Peninsula, California.[3] In April 2017, we reexamined the 10 most expensive providers to see how their rates have changed. Among these systems, California American Water charges typical Monterey households the highest water rates.

New Rank	Old Rank	Utility	State	Owner	2015 Bill	2017 Bill	Increase	% Increase
1	9	California American Water - Monterey	CA	Private	$716.18	$1,202.59	$486.41	68%
2	2	Padre Dam Municipal Water District	CA	Public	$826.94	$959.27	$132.33	16%
3	8	Goleta Water District	CA	Public	$736.62	$958.55	$221.94	30%
4	3	Pennsylvania American Water – West	PA	Private	$792.84	$847.59	$54.75	7%
5	4	Pennsylvania American Water - Pittsburgh	PA	Private	$792.84	$847.59	$54.75	7%
6	5	Pennsylvania American Water – Lake Scranton	PA	Private	$792.84	$847.59	$54.75	7%
7	6	Pennsylvania American Water - Norristown	PA	Private	$792.84	$847.59	$54.75	7%
8	10	West Virginia American Water – Kanawha Valley	WV	Private	$710.63	$827.37	$116.74	16%
9	7	Aqua Pennsylvania	PA	Private	$782.38	$782.38	$-	0%
10	1	Flint	MI	Public	$910.05	$710.83	$(199.22)	-22%

NOTES: Annual bills were calculated for households using 60,000 gallons a year, using rates inside the main service area, as of January 2015 and April 2017.

Endnotes

1 Food & Water Watch, "The State of Public Water in the United States," February 2016.

2 American Water Works Corporation, Inc. U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Form 10-K, February 21, 2017 at 3 and exhibit 21.1.

3 Johnson, Jim. "Cal Am water bills to rise as much as 79 percent by March; more increases pending," *Monterey County Herald*, January 21, 2017.

1814 Franklin St. Suite 1100 • Oakland, California 94612
info@fwwatch.org • 510.922.0720

foodandwaterwatch.org • June 2017

foods&waterwatch

Joel Pablo

From: mwchrislock@redshift.com
Sent: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 10:54 AM
To: Alvin Edwards420; Amy Anderson(E); Clyde Roberson; Dave Stoldt; George TRiley; Joel Pablo; KarenP Paull; District 5; SAFWAT MALEK
Subject: 2002 Measure B advisory vote to disband MPWMD

Here is the background on the 2002 Measure B advisory vote to disband MPWMD. – Melodie

March 2002 Mayor asked staff for information regarding an advisory measure on the Water District.

March 19, 2002 Under "Council Comments" the City Council unanimously agendized a discussion of an advisory measure to eliminate the Water Management District.

March 2002 Staff advised Mayor that EC 9603 (d) says that the City could place an advisory measure on the ballot for the entire District.

April 2, 2002 Under a public Appearance item, the City Council took public testimony, discussed the matter, and unanimously directed staff to put an advisory initiative together asking the voters if they would like to dissolve the MPWMD, and to ask other jurisdictions to join Monterey in a District-wide election.

April – July 2002 The City Clerk spoke with the Monterey County Registrar of Voters and with Ken Davis from the Legal Division of the Elections Department in the California Secretary of State's office and received verification that the City of Monterey City Council could call an advisory vote for the entire MPWMD, pursuant to E.C. 9603 (d) and that it would not exceed the ballot capacity.

April – July, 2002 The City of Monterey received letters of support for an advisory measure from the Monterey Peninsula Airport District and the Cities of Carmel, Del Rey Oaks, Sand City and Seaside. We received a letter from Pacific Grove stating that they had considered the issue and did not take an action.

July 16, 2002 The Monterey City Council received a report, took public testimony, discussed the matter and adopted Resolution No. 02-146 ordering the submission to qualified electors of the MPWMD of an advisory measure asking "Should the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District be dissolved?" and requesting the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to order the consolidation of this advisory election with the Statewide General Election to be held on Tuesday November 5, 2002. The vote was 4-1, with Councilmember Roberson voting no.

July 18, 2002 The City Clerk Transmitted a certified copy of the resolution to the Board of Supervisors and Monterey County.

July 22 – August 26, 2002 The City Clerk had conversations with the Registrar of Voters regarding the procedure for the consolidation of the election, and the Registrar confirmed that he planned to routinely take the matter before the Board for consolidation after the Board returned from Summer break.

July 22 – August 8, 2002 The City Clerk received ballot arguments and rebuttals and impartial analysis for the advisory measure and transmitted those to the Registrar of Voters as required.

August 27, 2002 Monterey County Board of Supervisors consolidated with the Statewide

election.

November 5, 2002 Advisory measure passed; 20,671 yes – 10,621 no. Water District voter turnout was 63.5%

https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/local_news/monterey-city-council-will-ask-the-entire-peninsula-to-consider-its-move-to-dissolve-water/article_efc039d9-6757-573b-af20-eea384f63738.html

MC Weekly | Jul 25, 2002 Updated May 17, 2013

Water Pressure

Monterey City Council will ask the entire Peninsula to consider its move to dissolve water district.

By Jessica Lyons

On Nov. 5, Peninsula voters will be asked short, albeit, loaded question: Should the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District be dissolved?

The Monterey City Council voted 4-1 on July 16 to put that question, in the form of an advisory vote, to the district"s entire constituency-residents of Monterey, Pacific Grove, Seaside, Del Rey Oaks, Carmel and parts of unincorporated Monterey County.

Councilmember Clyde Roberson voted against the advisory measure.

"My philosophy is every time someone"s up for an election, it"s an advisory vote," he says. "If people are happy with the water board, they will reelect people who represent their viewpoints."

If they are unhappy, they will elect like-minded individuals, he says. "We have elections, we have representative government, and that"s the place to say "yes, we like the job you"re doing" or "no, we don"t like the job you"re doing."

Roberson won"t say whether or not he personally likes the job the water management district is doing.
Monterey Mayor Dan Albert, on the other hand, makes his feelings clear.

"[The district] has been here 24 years," Albert says. "We still have a water problem. Isn"t it time the citizens of Monterey look at that and ask themselves the question, should the water district be dissolved?"

He points to the amount of money the district has spent-roughly $51 million-between 1978 and 2001. "When I saw that figure I was kind of taken aback," he says. "We still have a water problem. How long does this go on without at least raising the question?"

When it was formed, the district was charged with managing, augmenting and protecting water resources, says board member Molly Erickson, adding that it"s done the job it was tasked with.

Of the $51 million spent, $20.4 million has gone towards water-supply planning-the Paralta Well in Seaside, the now-dead Carmel River dam, and "Plan B," a combination of local desalination plants, groundwater injection and recycling.

Voters later rejected two of these major projects-a desalination plant and a dam.

Erickson also lists the group"s achievements since 2000-the two-year reign of the "new board," with anti-dam directors making up the majority. Among other things, the new board has given the green light to an environmental review of Plan B, stopped water credit transfers, built and operated fishery restoration projects, required better monitoring of the Carmel River and allowed homeowners second bathrooms without requiring additional permits.

Albert counters that a Peninsula joint powers authority could easily manage the local water supply.

"If we put something else in place, the question might be, well are they going to be able to do the job," he asks rhetorically. "I don"t know, but we"ve had a board in place for 24 years have they done the job? I don"t think so."

Erickson disagrees.

"Dissolve the district, and you will transfer the power to protect the environment, protect the aquifers from seawater intrusion and plan water supply projects to Sacramento and Washington," she says. "Sacramento and Washington will take a lot longer to come up with solutions. Sacramento and Washington will not be responsive to the local voters and the local concerns about growth and the environment."

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Disband water district

Dear Editor,

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How about we honor that original vote now?

Lauren Cohen, Monterey

https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/local_news/monterey-city-council-will-ask-the-entire-peninsula-to-consider-its-move-to-dissolve-water/article_efc039d9-6757-573b-af20-eea384f63738.html

Water Pressure

Monterey City Council will ask the entire Peninsula to consider its move to dissolve water district.

Water Pressure

By Jessica Lyons
Jul 25, 2002

Photo: Dan the No-Water-Board Man: Monterey Mayor Dan Albert is leading the charge to get rid of the water board with an advisory vote in November.

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Of the $51 million spent, $20.4 million has gone towards water-supply planning-the Paralta Well in Seaside, the now-dead Carmel River dam, and "Plan B," a combination of local desalination plants, groundwater injection and recycling.

Voters later rejected two of these major projects-a desalination plant and a dam.

Erickson also lists the group"s achievements since 2000-the two-year reign of the "new board," with anti-dam directors making up the majority. Among other things, the new board has given the green light to an environmental review of Plan B, stopped water credit transfers, built and operated fishery restoration projects, required better monitoring of the Carmel River and allowed homeowners second bathrooms without requiring additional permits.

Albert counters that a Peninsula joint powers authority could easily manage the local water supply.

"If we put something else in place, the question might be, well are they going to be able to do the job," he asks rhetorically. "I don"t know, but we"ve had a board in place for 24 years have they done the job? I don"t think so."

Erickson disagrees.

"Dissolve the district, and you will transfer the power to protect the environment, protect the aquifers from seawater intrusion and plan water supply projects to Sacramento and Washington," she says. "Sacramento and Washington will take a lot longer to come up with solutions. Sacramento and Washington will not be responsive to the local voters and the local concerns about growth and the environment."

Joel Pablo

From: mwchrislock@redshift.com
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 12:23 PM
To: Alvin Edwards; Amy Anderson; Clyde Roberson; Dave Stoldt; George Riley; Joel Pablo; Karen Paull; District 5; SAFWAT MALEK
Subject: MC Weekly on LAFCO

Check out the PWN ad in MC Weekly on page 9 and the LAFCO story on 16 and all the letters on page 20.

Melodie

https://flipbook.montereycountyweekly.com/archive/2021/12-30-21/#mcw-1

MC Weekly | December 30,2021

Barring buyout vote flip, local water district prepares for court. It's the latest chapter in an effort to take over Cal Am.

Christopher Neely

https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/local_news/barring-buyout-vote-flip-local-water-district-prepares-for-court-it-s-the-latest-chapter/article_d167beb8-68e4-11ec-8c8f-4301c5f0be14.html

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Barring buyout vote flip, local water district prepares for court. It's the latest chapter in an effort to take over Cal Am.

Christopher Neely
Dec 30, 2021

A public takeover of Cal Am would turn the utility's property holdings into tax-exempt public assets. MPWMD officials estimate it would cost the district nearly $2 million to subsidize tax revenue losses.

DANIEL DREIFUSS

The reasons why a key commission rejected the local water district's voter-approved mandate to buy water utility California American Water on Dec. 6 ranged from social equity to free-market politics. However, one major question hung over the vote: If all of Cal Am's private property holdings turn into tax-exempt public assets, how will that impact public agencies reliant on those property taxes for funding?

George Riley, a board member on the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District – the agency responsible for leading the buyout of Cal Am's water system – has been meeting with commissioners on the Local Agency Formation Commission of Monterey County since the commissioners voted 5-2 against activating the district's power to become a water utility, a crucial step before the buyout. In their nay votes, commissioners Chris Lopez, Mary Ann Leffel and Pete Poitras cited uncertainties with how public agencies and satellite systems would fare without Cal Am. They wanted ironclad agreements that the water management district would subsidize some of the immediate property tax revenue loss for school and fire districts, and that Cal Am's satellite service areas, such as Chualar, would not see water rate increases.

The water district has committed to addressing the issues – resolving the problems was a condition of approval when LAFCO voted against the district in December. However, district officials say they cannot agree to contractual dollar amounts at this point in the buyout process.

Dave Stoldt, the water district's general manager, says the plan is to cover 75 percent of the tax revenue loss the first year after the acquisition, stepping down to 50 percent in the second and to 25 percent the third year, then zero.

LAFCO's December vote was on a resolution to approve the district's utility powers. Commissioners are scheduled to now vote to deny the water district's application on Jan. 5. Riley, who says he was "pretty shocked" by the Dec. 6 denial, says his efforts to negotiate a change of heart with commissioners have "not been particularly successful." He says if LAFCO votes against the district, the district will sue.

"I'm expecting a [denial]," Riley says. "If they vote no, the only option is a reconsideration vote in February. If they vote no then, they will get sued."

On Wednesday, Dec. 29, the water district board met for one closed-session discussion to review "significant exposure to threatened or potential litigation… MPWMD v. LAFCO of Monterey County."

The legal authority to be a water utility is a crucial element to the buyout. Stoldt says the district is also considering a route to bypass LAFCO. Since the water district sells water to local golf courses for irrigation, they could argue their powers as a water utility are already activated, making LAFCO's decision irrelevant.

"From our standpoint, we've been doing the services, but we would rather first figure out whether we can prevail in litigation over the [LAFCO] decision itself," Stoldt says.

Christopher Neely

Christopher Neely covers a mixed beat that includes the environment, water politics, and Monterey County's Board of Supervisors. He began at the Weekly in 2021 after five years on the City Hall beat in Austin, TX.

Recall Mary Ann Leffel

for blocking the Cal Am buyout.

In a startling rebuke of Peninsula voters who overwhelmingly favor the Water Management District's buyout of Cal Am, Mary Ann Leffel, Monterey Peninsula Airport District board member, said NO. As a member of LAFCO, a local regulatory agency, she and four other commissioners (PETE POITRAS, CHRIS LOPEZ, KIMBLEY CRAIG, and MATT GOURLEY) dismissed the recommendations of their own staff and a paid consultant and voted to block the Water Management District from proceeding with the buyout. Leffel claimed loss of tax revenue, but the Airport District would only lose 85 cents annually in tax revenue. Leffel should be removed from office immediately for violating LAFCO statutes and subverting democracy.

TELL Mary Ann Leffel to reverse her vote! Email her at mleffel@montereyairport.com before Jan. 5, 2022.

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Final Push

Barring buyout vote flip, local water district prepares for court. It's the latest chapter in an effort to take over Cal Am.

By Christopher Neely

A public takeover of Cal Am would turn the utility's property holdings into tax-exempt public assets. MPWMD officials estimate it would cost the district nearly $2 million to subsidize tax revenue losses.

The reasons why a key commission rejected the local water district's voter-approved mandate to buy water utility California American Water on Dec. 6 ranged from social equity to free-market politics. However, one major question hung over the vote: If all of Cal Am's private property holdings turn into tax-exempt public assets, how will that impact public agencies reliant on those property taxes for funding?

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A Troubling Vote

LAFCO's denial of public water makes little sense

| OPINION

By Melodie Chrislock

On Dec. 6, in a brazen display of special interest politics and complete disregard for the will of the voters in passing Measure J, five LAFCO commissioners blocked the Cal Am buyout.

Why does LAFCO have any say in this? LAFCO stands for Local Agency Formation Commission. One of its jobs is to oversee changes in the services public agencies provide.

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District was ready to make Cal Am an offer. But it needed LAFCO to approve the change in service and activate their latent power to sell water retail. In a 5-2 vote, LAFCO refused.

In October, LAFCO heard the application again. The independent study had confirmed that MPWMD could afford the buyout. But the day before the

hearing, Cal Am's attorneys sent LAFCO 400 pages of what they claimed was new information that had to be considered.

Why? Here's where things get really troubling. LAFCO's staff has had the application since February. They've brought it before the commissioners several times. Cal Am attorneys insisted each time that LAFCO needed more information.

LAFCO decided it had to determine if MPWMD could afford to buy Cal Am. This had already been clearly demonstrated in their feasibility study, but LAFCO insisted on another study. It cost the water district $70,000.

Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo drove the vote to require this study. He was later forced to recuse himself due to campaign contributions from Cal Am president Kevin Tilden and two of Cal Am's law firms, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, and Anthony Lombardo and Associates.

In October, LAFCO heard the application again. The independent study had confirmed that MPWMD could afford the buyout. But the day before the hearing, Cal Am's attorneys sent LAFCO 400 pages of what they claimed was new information that had to be considered. The vote was delayed again to Dec. 6.

LAFCO staff had twice recommended approval. The independent study LAFCO asked for confirmed the buyout was feasible. But after all this, five LAFCO commissioners decided to defy their staff and the voters' mandate.

Supervisor Chris Lopez argued that this might increase water bills for his Chualar Cal Am customers and the other four Cal Am satellite systems that Cal Am owns. Chualar is a disadvantaged community. Any rate increase is limited by the CPUC to inflation. Lopez already knew this. He told me so in a meeting on Dec. 3. The impact on the other satellite systems can't be known at this point but would likely be minimal.

Commissioner Pete Poitras argued he had no guarantee that the cost to the fire district he represents, the Monterey County Rural Fire District, would be made up by the water district, even though MPWMD had offered to do a tax-sharing agreement with affected districts. Poitras is a Carmel Valley resident, but he voted against the buyout based on a less than 1% tax revenue loss to his fire district.

Commissioner Matt Gourley made the motion to oppose the proposal, saying, "I'm definitely from the private sector, not the public sector, I don't think government can run anything efficiently."

Then there was the real elephant in the room – water supply. LAFCO has no authority over water supply, but that didn't stop Salinas Valley members. They have an issue with the roughly 3,000 acre-feet of agricultural wastewater that will go to the Pure Water Monterey Expansion for the Peninsula. Salinas Mayor

Kimbley Craig called it "our water." Lopez and Craig see Cal Am as their savior that can force a desal plant on the Peninsula.

Seaside Mayor Ian Oglesby, Supervisor Wendy Root Askew, and Soledad Mayor Anna Velazquez argued the case for approval eloquently, pointing out that there was no case for denial, but it fell on deaf ears.

In the face of all the evidence supporting MPWMD's buyout of Cal Am, LAFCO's additional study and its own staff recommendations, five commissioners sided with Cal Am and said "no" to 24,000 Peninsula voters.

These are the folks responsible for this travesty who should be held accountable: Lopez, Craig, Poitras, Gourley and Mary Ann Leffel of the Monterey Regional Airport District.

So what now? MPWMD will meet in closed session this week to decide how to proceed with a lawsuit.

The cost of the buyout would be covered by the profit Cal Am takes and the corporate taxes it pays on that profit. In 2015

Public Water Now estimated that would be $19 million annually.

Background on Measure J

Public Water Now drafted Measure J and put it on the ballot in 2018. Voters passed it by 56% even though Cal Am spent $3 million in a deceptive ad campaign against it.

Measure J mandated that the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District buy out Cal Am's Monterey Peninsula system, if and when feasible.

Buying back the Peninsula's water system from a for-profit investor-owned private company and putting it under the ownership of a nonprofit public agency eliminates profit on our water and gives us local control through the water district's elected board. Eighty-seven percent of the nations' water customers get their water from publicly owned water systems.

The cost of the buyout would be covered by the profit Cal Am takes and the corporate taxes it pays on that profit. In 2015 Public Water Now estimated that would be $19 million annually. There would also be other savings to cover the cost of the buyout.

Of the 500 largest water systems in the country, the Monterey Peninsula was documented by Food & Water Watch to have the highest water costs in the nation in 2017. Our water costs have only risen since then.

Featured image: Water meter | Provided

Have something to say about this story? Send us a letter.

Joel Pablo

From: mwchrislock@redshift.com
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 11:13 PM
To: Joel Pablo
Subject: Re: MC Weekly on LAFCO

Thanks Joel, add all these recent letters to the editior as well.

Melodie

Monterey Herald | December 28, 2021

Thankful for letter writer rebutting false claims

I'd like to thank Walt Notley of Carmel for his exceptional rebuttal of those false claims by those anti-Cal Am buyout folks. Also, Anna Thompson of Carmel asks an interesting question: Why is Cal Am is pushing desal and stalling the Pure Water Monterey project? I have a feeling she knows and many of us as well.

Cal Am's guaranteed monopolistic profits are at stake. Profits are miniscule buying water compared to building a desal project.

Charles Biller, Monterey

Monterey Herald | December 25, 2021

Cal Am, not voters, are special interest to LAFCO

Doreen Cursio was correct in her letter that we see politicians go against special interest much too infrequently today. However, she is completely wrong that LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) stood up to special interest. The special interest in this case is not Public Water Now and the substantial majority of voters who want local control of their water supply. The special interest is, by definition, Cal Am. They are the privately owned company seeking to maximize profits. That does not make them evil but it does require that their decisions are based on increasing revenues and thus stock value. The greater good for the people of Monterey is a clear (hopefully) second priority. The catastrophic outcomes being touted by Cal Am supporters simply do not hold up under scrutiny. It is always less work to fearmonger but a genuine look at one of the three independent studies conducted on a public take over of Cal Am, or even the LAFCO's own staff report, shows how exaggerated the doomsday claims are. LAFCO's straightforward responsibility was to keep this process

moving to the next step and not put their personal prejudices ahead of Monterey Peninsula voters' unambiguous desire to control our local water supply.

Gary Kreeger, Del Rey Oaks

LAFCO did not objectively approach buyout vote

I write to question Rick Heuer's assertion that fiscal sanity reigned when LAFCO recently turned down the water management district's application.

Surely it was not fiscal sanity from the point of view of Cal Am ratepayers who pay the highest water rates in the country. Yes, the highest!

Heuer also claims that the LAFCO board objectively viewed the water management district's application. Not so. Many reasons were given by those who voted against the water management district. But none of the reasons given were appropriate bases for a no vote, given LAFCO's limited and specific authority.

Finally, Heuer suggests that there will be a loss of tax revenues by school districts and other public agencies as a result of a public agency buyout of Cal Am. The water management district is already working with the 15 agencies that would lose more than $5,000 of tax revenue annually. The district has agreed to mitigate those potential losses, which, at worst, represent less than 1% of the tax revenues received by these agencies.

Renee Franken, Monterey

Carmel Pine Cone | December 24, 2021

Water District Saved the Day

Dear Editor,

It was sad to see the letter last week from Lauren Cohen who applauded LAFCO's denial of the Water District's latent powers to run a water service, as required by Measure J. The writer even recommended that the Water District be disbanded! Is the writer is totally unaware that in the past 5 years the Water District working with Monterey One Water has given us 3,500 acre-feet of new water from Pure Water Monterey. This water is the only reason Cal Am can meet the State's cease and desist order to stop over drafting the Carmel River. Even the Marina Coast Water District is involved. All of them are government agencies doing good work! And, they are doing it publicly, not privately with no accountability.

Cal Am hasn't provided one drop of new water for the Peninsula despite the CDO on the Carmel River since 1995. They have instead opposed and impeded the expansion of Pure Water Monterey. Once the Expansion is complete we will have all the water we need for the next 20 to 30 years.

Cal Am's only effort has been to try to develop an ill-conceived (slant wells in Marina's aquifer) and illegal (no water rights) desal plant of their dreams—one that would (if ever built) provide water, yes, but it would be the most expensive water in the world. Everything they do is a money grab. Rates are going up now.

Desal is definitely in our future—we will need it one day, but it should be properly planned as a regional desal for the entire Monterey Bay Area. It would provide economy of scale, be publicly owned and run, with open books for the public to see and not one designed to provide ever greater dividends to Cal Am shareholders.

Myrleen Fisher, Carmel

Monterey Herald | December 24, 2021

Anti-Cal Am buyout letters made unsupported claims

Three recent letters have made many unsupported claims.

The actual facts indicate: 1. Satellite systems' rates would not double. Chualar rate increases would actually be minimal because they are protected by the CPUC from any rate increase beyond the CPI, which has run 1-2% over the past years. Only 15 of the 40 affected agencies would lose more than $5,000 annually. The water district has made a commitment to make up a substantial portion of tax losses over several years. The total loss to the 40 affected communities would be $1.26 million.

2. Most school districts would lose nothing because they are made whole by the state backfilling policy.

3. The fire district would lose $140,000 not the millions as stated in one claim.

4. Some of the best financial experts in the country have determined that the buyout of Cal Am is feasible and in the residents' interest because of significantly lower customer rates.

5. A public agency tasked with carrying out the mandate of 24,000+ voters is not a special interest group.

6. It took two public agencies working together to produce the only new water source in

our area — the award-winning Pure Water Monterey projects.

7. The cost of the debt is unknown because the final cost of Cal Am assets by a jury will set the price.

8. The minimal rate increase for 904 households does not trump the desire for much lower rates to 39,489 households. Democracy supports the will of the majority.

Walt Notley, Carmel

LAFCO should reverse its Cal Am buyout vote

LAFCO's decision to deny the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's (MPWMD) request to activate its latent powers was unconscionable.

The buyout was found to be financially feasible. LAFCO's own independent consultant confirmed that the buyout is feasible. LAFCO's own staff recommended approval.

The LAFCO board ignored the facts and based their decision on personal biases like Commissioner Matt Gourley's comment, "the government cannot run anything efficiently," and irrelevant statements about water supply.

Cal Am has owned the Peninsula's water delivery system for over a half century. But, it is the MPWMD that has successfully developed several water supply projects for the Peninsula. The latest project, Pure Water Monterey (PWM), developed in partnership with Monterey One, is now producing sufficient water to allow Cal Am to stop its illegal overdrafting of the Carmel River.

Cal Am has known for several years that the PWM expansion project is feasible, cost effective and environmentally superior to its desal plant. However, Cal Am continues to promote its desal and stall the PWM expansion at the CPUC. Why?

Drinking water is a public resource that should be managed by public agencies, not private companies. Cal Am's profit motivation is at odds with the public good.

We have a capable, well-run water management district with a well-qualified, diligent staff, outstanding general manager, counsel and a board of directors that is attuned to the needs of its constituents.

For the good of all our communities, I urge LAFCO to reconsider and reverse its decision on Jan. 5.

Anna Thompson, Carmel

Monterey Herald | December 23, 2021

Cal Am skims profit that public entity would not

Something I learned in business a long time ago is that every dollar in my pocket was once earned by my customers. LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) has forgotten that every dollar in taxes that Cal Am pays was paid to them by Monterey residents. Tax dollars are the people's dollars. Cal Am arguing that local agencies would be losing "revenues" doesn't make any sense at all. We could pay ourselves those same funds in a public water system and still have lower water bills. No one seems to mention the huge profits that Cal Am is skimming off of income from residents that a public entity would not. Those dollars leave the pockets of residents and Monterey never to be seen again.

Roy Beckham, Monterey

On 12/30/21, 12:41 PM, "Joel Pablo" <Joel@mpwmd.net> wrote:

Melodie-

I will include it for the record and place it in our Letters Received Supplemental Packet.

Interesting Material. Thanks!

- Joel G. Pablo with MPWMD

From: mwchrislock@redshift.com <mwchrislock@redshift.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 12:23 PM
To: Alvin Edwards <alvinedwards420@gmail.com>; Amy Anderson <carmelcellogal@comcast.net>; Clyde Roberson <roberson@monterey.org>; Dave Stoldt <dstoldt@mpwmd.net>; George Riley <georgetriley@gmail.com>; Joel Pablo <Joel@mpwmd.net>; Karen Paull <karenppaull@gmail.com>; District 5 <district5@co.monterey.ca.us>; SAFWAT MALEK <samalek@aol.com>
Subject: MC Weekly on LAFCO

Check out the PWN ad in MC Weekly on page 9 and the LAFCO story on 16 and all the letters on page 20.

Melodie

https://flipbook.montereycountyweekly.com/archive/2021/12-30-21/#mcw-1 <https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fflipbook.montereycountyweekly.com%2farchive%2f2021%2f12-30-21%2f%23mcw-1&c=E,1,AqjfnQ1iUKaPEj2PAq1X4vzw6gvQeyG1vNKu2u4EXsQ2269IONp_sRL865ROOsUzk4pqp_WTBr8HAuTdksGLqunH3OiQpwiHITZxOkrrkIATSFMxvS8EH_VSWw,,&typo=1>

MC Weekly | December 30,2021

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Christopher Neely

https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/local_news/barring-buyout-vote-flip-local-water-district-prepares-for-court-it-s-the-latest-chapter/article_d167beb8-68e4-11ec-8c8f-4301c5f0be14.html <https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.montereycountyweekly.com%2fnews%2flocal_news%2fbarring-buyout-vote-flip-local-water-district-prepares-for-court-it-s-the-latest-chapter%2farticle_d167beb8-68e4-11ec-8c8f-4301c5f0be14.html&c=E,1,4g2U4JmR4BudqcoUXFp5uscYhD7iOoCGCJ3X695b4wMe49Lq__XI0pjEpHB3LgTKS8gu1y6_3E9GtUV7Nlx7wiRXelNt6R0KyzUrk1zfs_cV9MEuiqd_RmJIOA,,&typo=1>

Joel Pablo

From: mwchrislock@redshift.com
Sent: Monday, January 3, 2022 1:08 PM
To: Alvin Edwards; Amy Anderson; Clyde Roberson; Dave Stoldt; George Riley; Joel Pablo; Karen Paull; District 5; SAFWAT MALEK
Subject: Public Water Now Response to LAFCO Resolution

FYI

PUBLIC WATER NOW

January 3, 2022

LAFCO of Monterey County
c/o Executive Officer, Kate McKenna
132 W. Gabilan Street, Ste. 102
Salinas Ca 93901

Re: LAFCO Resolution on MPWMD's latent powers

Chair Lopez and Commission Members and Staff:

According to LAFCO's governing codes, commissioners are required to represent the public as a whole, not the special districts or agencies that appoint them.

The recent LAFCO decision to deny the Water Management District's latent powers violates this key requirement of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Reorganization Act of 2000.
https://calafco.org/sites/default/files/documents/CKH%20Guide%20Update%202021.pdf

The legislative intent stated in GC 56331.4 on page 43 is clear – Independent judgment of members reads:

"While serving on the commission, all commission members shall exercise their independent judgment on behalf of the interests of residents, property owners, and the public as a whole in furthering the purposes of this

division. Any member appointed on behalf of local governments shall represent the interests of the public as a whole and not solely the interests of the appointing authority. This section does not require the abstention of any member on any matter, nor does it create a right of action in any person."

We wonder whether LAFCO commissioners understand the laws they are governed by? Perhaps staff needs to make this clear to the commissioners.

Those who voted NO cited small tax losses to their special districts or purely speculative rate hikes to small numbers of their own constituents as grounds for their vote. They ignored the greater good of 95,000 Cal Am customers and the mandate of Measure J.

Your resolution claims probable undue hardship for residents of satellite communities. This is speculative. What about the real and current hardship for Cal Am's Peninsula customers? Isn't paying the highest water costs in the country an undue hardship?

Commissioner Leffel argued that the buyout would rob Peter to pay Paul, saying, "I do not believe I can in good faith take from one part of the community to make another part of the community happy." But she is not concerned that Cal Am is robbing the Peninsula with extraordinary water costs to pay its shareholders. She clearly does not understand who she is supposed to be representing on LAFCO. She has always supported Cal Am and the Peninsula business community against the residents. Her bias requires recusal.

Commissioner Poitras argues that the reason for his NO vote is his fire district's loss of $140,000 in tax revenue and the tax loss of $1.26 million, in total, to all 40 special districts. This is a tax revenue loss of less than 1%. He is considering only his own special district's interest, not the "interests of the public as a whole," as directed by LAFCO guidelines. The Water Management District has made a specific proposal to lessen the small tax impacts to his fire district and the other affected agencies.

Commissioner Lopez argued his concern that a buyout of Cal Am's Peninsula system would raise rates for the five satellite Cal Am systems that serve smaller communities such as Chualar and Corral de Tierra. This argument is hypothetical. There is absolutely no proof that any rate increases to satellite systems would actually occur. The CPUC would make that decision, and Cal Am would likely be allowed to spread any increased costs over its entire California base as it has done before.

Citing environmental justice for Chualar is a false argument. Commissioner Lopez knows very well that the CPUC protects Chualar's water rates. Under its disadvantaged community status, Cal Am cannot raise Chualar's water rates by more than the Consumer Price Index. Yet Lopez disingenuously used Chualar as his primary reason to vote NO, ignoring the clear legislative intent in LAFCO law.

Commissioner Lopez fails to recognize the environmental injustice to the Seaside resident living on $35,000 a year whose water bill for 5,000 gallons is $125 a month compared to Salinas at $50 or Chualar at $30 a month for that same amount of water.

Commissioner Craig argued that Salinas water should stay in Salinas. This is troubling. Isn't LAFCO supposed to be addressing the activation of the Water Management District's latent powers and the ownership of the Peninsula's water system?

Water supply for the Peninsula is a separate matter and one that LAFCO does not have the expertise to dictate.

There are no unresolved questions on water supply that apply here. But it's now quite clear that water supply is the real reason behind the NO votes of Commissioners Craig, Lopez, and Leffel. These commissioners are using LAFCO in an attempt to control water policy on the Peninsula. They want Cal Am in charge because they continue to believe Cal Am's desal is the solution. They oppose the Expansion of Pure Water Monterey based on the false belief that the Expansion takes Salinas Valley water. But the treated agricultural sewer water that will be used for the Expansion belongs to Monterey One Water, not the Salinas Valley.

The truth is that this entire LAFCO vote has been orchestrated to control water. Personal beliefs on water supply and bias in support of Cal Am's desal project should not be the grounds for a LAFCO vote on the activation of the Water District's latent powers. Commissioners Craig, Lopez, and Leffel should be recused if they cannot bring themselves to vote on the facts and the matter before them.

Cal Am is the problem, not the solution. Cal Am's desal has no path forward. Cal Am has not provided one drop of new water in the last 56 years. It blocked the new water supply from the Pure Water Monterey Expansion for almost two years and is still attempting to delay the Water Purchase Agreement for the Expansion, which is now before the CPUC.

On the other hand, the Water Management District, working with other

public agencies, has given the Peninsula over 7,000 acre-feet of new water to solve our water supply shortage. These are the facts that LAFCO commissioners choose to ignore.

Lopez and Craig cited "too many uncertainties" and unanswered questions. But after nine months, all of their questions have been answered in detail by the Water Management District. They simple don't like the answers.

In casting his NO vote, Commissioner Gourley stated, "I'm definitely from the private sector, not the public sector. I don't think government can run anything efficiently." Gourley is clearly biased against the Water Management District. With his stated attitude, why is he serving on any government board? One wonders how many times over his twenty years on this LAFCO board he has voted against a public agency without cause based solely on his personal prejudice. Gourley should be removed from LAFCO immediately.

In voting NO, Commissioners Chris Lopez, Kimbley Craig, Matt Gourley, Mary Ann Leffel, and Warren Poitras ignored LAFCO's governing rules in direct violation of Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg intent. They dismissed the will of the voters and abandoned democracy. Instead, they voted for their own special interests, and LAFCO control of the Peninsula's water policy.

On January 5, we urge the LAFCO majority to reconsider its flagrant disregard of the law and recognize the benefit of the Cal Am buyout to the public as a whole.

Melodie Chrislock
Managing Director
PUBLIC WATER NOW
http://www.publicwaternow.org
mwchrislock@redshift.com

Independent judgment of members

~~56325.1~~ 56331.4. While serving on the commission, all commission members shall exercise their independent judgment on behalf of the interests of residents, property owners, and the public as a whole in furthering the purposes of this division. Any member appointed on behalf of local governments shall represent the interests of the public as a whole and not solely the interests of the appointing authority. This section does not require the abstention of any member on any matter, nor does it create a right of action in any person.
(Renumbered by Stats. 2021, Ch. 31)

Independent special district selection committee

56332. (a) The independent special district selection committee shall consist of the presiding officer of the legislative body of each independent special district. However, if the presiding officer of an independent special district is unable to participate in a meeting or election of the independent special district selection committee, the legislative body of the district may appoint one of its members as an alternate to participate in the selection committee in the presiding officer's place. Those districts shall include districts located wholly within the county and those containing territory within the county representing 50 percent or more of the assessed value of taxable property of the district, as shown on the last equalized county assessment roll. Each member of the committee shall be entitled to one vote for each independent special district of which he or she is the presiding officer or his or her alternate as designated by the governing body. Members representing a majority of the eligible districts shall constitute a quorum.

Meetings

(b) The executive officer shall call and give written notice of all meetings of the members of the selection committee. A meeting shall be called and held under one of the following circumstances:

Anticipated vacancy

(1) Whenever the executive officer anticipates that a vacancy will occur within the next 90 days among the members or alternate member representing independent special districts on the commission.

(2) Whenever a vacancy exists among the members or alternate member representing independent special districts upon the commission.

(3) Upon receipt of a written request by one or more members of the selection committee representing districts having 10 percent or more of the assessed value of taxable property within the county, as shown on the last equalized county assessment roll.

(4) Upon the adoption of a resolution of intention pursuant to Section 56332.5.

(5) Upon receipt of a written request by one or more members of the selection committee notifying the executive officer of the need to appoint a member representing independent special districts on an oversight board pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (j) of Section 34179 of the Health and Safety Code.

Joel Pablo

From: mwchrislock@redshift.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 4:36 PM
To: Alvin Edwards; Amy Anderson; Clyde Roberson; Dave Stoldt; George Riley; Joel Pablo; Karen Paull; District 5; SAFWAT MALEK
Subject: Letters to LAFCO on Chualar

Joel, would you add these to the record. – Melodie

January 4th, 2021

LAFCO of Monterey County
c/o Executive Officer, Kate McKenna
132 W. Gabilan Street, Ste. 102
Salinas Ca 93901

Dear Chair Lopez and Commissioners:

In response to the issue of Chualar losing its low-income status for reduced water rates, it would appear that this alarm is yet another ploy by Cal Am to inhibit approval of the MPWMD's laten powers to purchase Cal Am's water system.

Given that the CPUC was amenable to reducing their rates when Cal Am attempted to raise them in the recent past, there is no reason to think that they would not affirm that commitment in the future.

Recent US census date reports **Chualar has a 2020 population of 1,512.** The **average household income in Chualar is $69,241** with a poverty rate of 23.28%.
Seaside has a population of **32,366,** with a median home value of $488,400; 48.2% speak another language than English, 43% Latino, and other minorities, with white only are 32.1%. **Seaside's median income is $63,575, actually less than Chualar.**

We have a per capita income of $26,172 per the recent census. Per capita income serves as a measurement of the stability and wealth within a particular region. **With a poverty rate of 13.4%, nearly 2,263 Seaside residents live below the federal poverty level. Seaside has a 43% low-income population.** We have a large minority population with 43% Latino residents, 7.3% African American and 7% Asian; 11% of residents are seniors, many on fixed incomes.

Yet, Seaside low-income residents, who are comparable in many ways to Chualar, pay the same high rates for water as wealthier residents. They are not eligible for assistance unless below the poverty rate and own their own meter--most poor people are renters, not owners, and those that are owners and low income are struggling to pay for water.

Seaside low-income Cal Am ratepayers bear a much higher cost per income level for water, and bear disruptions for infrastructure construction for pipelines, road stress from construction vehicles, and emissions. Cal Am is currently approved to raise its Monterey area average customers' bills by nearly 18 percent over a three-year period from 2021-2023. And is now applying for yet another increase.

Seaside, Monterey, Carmel Valley and other low-income residents on the Monterey Peninsula are being hurt every month by Cal Am's outrageous water bills. A Seaside home owner living on $35,000 a year pays $125 a month for 5,000 gallons of water, compared to a Chualar resident who pays $30 a month for that same amount of water.

Cal Am is deceptive in its arguments and tried to raise Chualar's rates to the same as Hidden Hills, but residents rose up and Cal-Am relented. Therefore, CPUC crafted the current structure. Cal Am essentially uses low-income disadvantaged customers on the Peninsula to subsidize disadvantaged customers in Chualar and elsewhere. Is this environmental justice?

Please reconsider your denial of the voter mandate to buyout Cal Am. The majority of low-income families in Monterey County will benefit from a buyout of Cal Am.

Sincerely,

Susan Schiavone, Seaside

January 4th, 2021

LAFCO of Monterey County
c/o Executive Officer, Kate McKenna
132 W. Gabilan Street, Ste. 102
Salinas Ca 93901

Sent via email to:
McKennaK@monterey.lafco.ca.gov

Chair Lopez and Commission Members:

I write on behalf of myself and many other low-income families here in Carmel Valley Village. We are astounded that LAFCO continues to block the popular Measure J mandate to purchase our water back from a company that hasn't brought us a single new drop of water in 50+ years and who charges our community the highest water rates in the U.S.A.: CalAm Water.

We are DROWNING in high cost water bills that are about to get much higher, thanks to LAFCO helping CalAm to delay our much needed buyout. Please see my attached water bill. My family of four is currently in debt to CalAm water and we have been ever since June of 2020. A water leak that we didn't know about, the pandemic, and family emergencies mean that we are now in water debt to the tune of $445+ We do not qualify for the discount and we don't qualify for pandemic relief of the bill. We aren't broke enough to get assistance and we're not rich enough to pay on time. We constantly receive cut-off threats from CalAm. Do you know what that is like? Do you think we wouldn't like to pay it off if we could?

Chair Lopez and his pro-CalAm cronies on the LAFCO board have made a false assumption that there are no low-income families living and working here on the peninsula. They assert that there aren't four and five families crammed together in one house, four people living in a one-room studio, all over Seaside, Monterey, and Carmel Valley. There are only rich white people who can afford to pay the highest water rates in the country and because of that, our communities deserve to be gouged, right? Wrong.

I sincerely ask LAFCO: Why should low income working-class families in Seaside, Monterey, and Carmel Valley pay $125 for the same amount of water Chaular receives for $30? What makes us any less deserving of getting a small break on the cost of our water bills? What does LAFCO think, that we are "rich by proximity?"

Has LAFCO ever heard of something called a "false dichotomy?" A false dichotomy is an old rhetorical argument that says that there are only two ways to look at an issue. Here, Chair Lopez has followed a CalAm tact or maybe I should say a "threat" that is a false dichotomy; LAFCO should vote against all low-income families on the peninsula and in the valley because Chualar **MIGHT** be impacted because CalAm wants to raise their water rates. CalAm loves to create these threatening narratives that help stall the buyout as long as possible so they can raise valley and peninsula water rates even more and continue to gouge our communities.

But the facts that MC LAFCO must acknowledge are these:

• **Blocking the public water buyout on the peninsula will not stop CalAm from continuing to attempt to raise Chualar's water rates.** CalAm has tried to raise rates in Chualar many times before, to make Chaular residents pay as much as Hidden Hills does, and they failed due to Chualar's community organizing. How ironic that Chaular is now being used as a CalAm tool to foist high water bills on the peninsula's low-income residents. I wonder if Chualar community members are aware of how they are being used by CalAm. Chaular needs to buy their water back from CalAm too and if Chair Lopez and MC LAFCO genuinely cared at all about that community, they would be working with the Monterey Peninsula Water Magangement District to do just that.

• **Chualar pays $30 for the same amount of water that costs peninsula & valley residents $125.** Due to community organizing with the CPUC low-income families in Chualar are protected from the highest water bills in the US, and low-income families on the peninsula and in the valley are not. People on the peninsula are being gouged by CalAm, we are being used by CalAm to subsidize Chualar's low water rates. Is that Enviornmental Justice?

• **There are MANY impoverished and low-income families living in the valley and the peninsula, despite CalAm's false dichotomy, "divide-and-conquer" rhetoric that MC LAFCO is parroting**. The following numbers are from 2020 Census data. Living in poverty means that these people are under the 2020 federal poverty guidelines of living on less than $12,760/year.

To Seaside's 4,200+ residents "living in poverty" MC LAFCO says; "pay more for your water!"

To Monterey's 3,020+ residents "living in poverty" MC LAFCO says "$125/month for water isn't enough!"

To Carmel Valley's 300+ residents "living in poverty" MC LAFCO says "we won't help you!"

This is NOT an exhaustive list, it's just a quick snapshot for MC LAFCO of what kind of burden a $125/month water bill really is for these families. Not including my own which is 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, and we still can't afford to pay our water bill every month!! We still have to decide on which utility bill to pay every month. And if a family emergency arises, we quickly go into water debt. I know we aren't alone in this struggle. MC LAFCO needs to grant MPWMD latent powers now. Families like mine are suffering!

I demand, on behalf of all low-income and impoverished families living in the valley and the peninsula:

MC LAFCO; please stop standing in the way of our access to affordable water. Low-income customers are DROWNING in high water bills. We VOTED FOR and NEED the buyout to proceed. Reconsider your decision. Grant MPWMD it's latent powers today. Families like mine and poorer, are suffering and we need your help to stop the CalAm water gouging.

Saoirse Folsom
Low-Income CalAm Customer
Carmel Valley, CA
93924

Joel Pablo

From: mwchrislock@redshift.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 4:52 PM
To: Alvin Edwards; Amy Anderson; Clyde Roberson; Dave Stoldt; George Riley; Joel Pablo; Karen Paull; District 5; SAFWAT MALEK
Subject: Herald on Today's LAFCO Vote

https://www.montereyherald.com/2022/01/05/lafco-finalizes-denial-of-monterey-peninsula-water-management-districts-cal-am-takeover/

Monterey Herald | January 5, 2022

LAFCO finalizes denial of Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's Cal Am takeover

By Tom Wright

The Monterey County Local Agency Formation Commission voted 5-2 Wednesday to finalize its denial of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's planned takeover of California American Water.

The 5-2 LAFCO vote followed its initial vote Dec. 6 to dismiss the water district's application for the buyout, an acquisition mandated by a 2018 ballot measure.

General Manager Dave Stoldt of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District said he wasn't surprised by the vote.

"We didn't expect any difference but I think it was very important to enter what we had to say into the record," he told The Herald Wednesday afternoon. "I think there were some real substantive points made by Mayor (Ian) Oglesby and a couple of other speakers about the paucity of evidence supplied to support these findings. So I think it's a very thin foundation to build a resolution on."

After about 30 minutes of public comment and presentations from the water district and Cal Am, Commissioner Chris Lopez said his position was unchanged from the previous meeting.

"I heard a lot of opinions about votes and percentages and numbers but the time and the effort was not spent in solving the issue for those satellite communities," said Lopez, a member of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors

The water district would not be acquiring all of Cal Am's assets, only its main system, which would leave small satellite systems that Cal Am would continue to operate including one feeding Chualar.

Cal Am says its charges are based on a system-wide economy of scale — providing a greater volume of water with the same fixed assets. If it loses those assets, Cal Am said it would have to raise rates on customers of the smaller water systems, including Chualar. Lopez cited the impact it would have on the community of Chualar, which is in his supervisorial district, in explaining his denial of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's buyout bid.

Typically, LAFCO is charged with encouraging the orderly formation of local governmental agencies, preserving land resources, discouraging urban sprawl and encouraging the efficient delivery of local government services. Much of its work concerns cities annexing unincorporated areas into their boundaries.

LAFCO was brought into the public buyout process because the water district would need to annex about 139 acres — 58 parcels — into its district boundaries that are currently served by Cal Am. LAFCO was also tasked with determining whether the district could exercise what's called its latent powers, meaning whether the district has the operational and financial wherewithal to run a different retail water distribution. A special district such as the water district cannot provide that kind of new or different service without LAFCO's approval.

"The LAFCO resolution does an excellent job of laying out the many, compelling reasons for denial articulated by the commissioners," Cal Am spokeswoman Catherine Stedman said. "Their action today finalized the board's decision, which we firmly believe to be in the best interest of our customers and the county as a whole."

The finalization of the denial comes after LAFCO staff and paid consultants supported the district's financial feasibility of the acquisition.

Along with Oglesby, Commissioner Wendy Root Askew was the other vote against finalizing the denial of the takeover bid. Root Askew is normally an alternate but the Monterey County supervisor sat in for Commissioner Luis Alejo, who recused himself because of a conflict of interest.

"It's clear from where I sit that the original work done by our LAFCO staff to prepare a resolution last December to approve the latent powers for the water management district was done with an abundance of due diligence, it was done with the abundance of independent assessments that verified the information," Root Askew said. "It would have been the right direction for LAFCO to go in."

Stoldt of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District said Measure J, which passed in 2018 with 56% of the votes cast, created a nondiscretionary rule on the district's books that says it is the district's job to make all water supply and distribution publicly owned, where feasible.

Stoldt said moving forward the district needs to exhaust its administrative remedies, which means applying for reconsideration of the buyout denial and looking into its legal remedies.

"We will have to make a decision based on the administrative remedies outcome and the legal remedies outcome if there are other next steps," he said. "We think there are."

Melodie Chrislock, director of the Public Water Now, the nonprofit organization that drafted Measure J, said the commission's goal is to force Salinas Valley water policy on the Monterey Peninsula. Five of the commissioners, based on the addresses of their offices, are based in the Salinas Valley but with Alejo's recusal that total dropped to four.

"Five LAFCO commissioners are subverting democracy and the will of 24,000 people who voted to buy out Cal Am. Behind the smokescreen of tiny tax losses and speculative increases in costs to Cal Am satellites, LAFCO's real goal is to force Salinas Valley water policy on the Peninsula."

LAFCO's next meeting will be held through Zoom on Jan. 24 at 4 p.m.

Joel Pablo

From: mwchrislock@redshift.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 6:18 PM
To: Alvin Edwards; Amy Anderson; Clyde Roberson; Dave Stoldt; George Riley; Joel Pablo; Karen Paull; District 5; SAFWAT MALEK
Subject: Cal Am Chualar Letter

Joel, would you add this to the record.

This is the letter Cal Am circulated for Chualar residents to send to LAFCO. I don' t know if any were actually received by LAFCO. – Melodie

January 4, 2022

Ms Kate McKenna
Executive Officer, LAFCO of Monterey County
132 W. Gabilian St. Suite 502
Salinas, CA 930001

Re: January 5, 2022 LAFCO Meeting; Agenda Item # 6 Adoption of a resolution

Dear Ms Mckenna,

As a resident of Chualar and customer of California American Water, I am writing to express my concern with the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's proposal to take California American Water's water system on the Monterey Peninsula through eminent domain.

While rate protections for Chualar residents are currently in place, as approved by the California Public Utilities Commission, these protections would be jeopardized, should California American Water lose 95% of the water assets in Monterey County. The cost to serve the community of Chualar would increase and the California Public Utilities Commission would change water rates in our community to reflect that.

Many of our residents are low-income, hard-working people who cannot afford rate increases, the only purpose for which would be to satisfy the ambitions of an agency that has nothing to do with our community and brings us no benefit.

I urge you to stand by your decision to deny the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's proposal. The people of Chualar should be heavily considered in you determination.

86

Sincerely,

Joel Pablo

From: mwchrislock@redshift.com
Sent: Saturday, January 8, 2022 9:58 AM
To: Alvin Edwards; Amy Anderson; Clyde Roberson; Dave Stoldt; George Riley; Joel Pablo; Karen Paull; District 5; SAFWAT MALEK
Subject: Letters to the Editor 12/30 to 1/7/2022

Joel,
Please add this to the record.

Thanks,

Melodie Chrislock
Managing Director
PUBLIC WATER NOW
http://www.publicwaternow.org
mwchrislock@redshift.com

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-No_c5XvrDlF1glhNo1BL0xeI4-4Ty18&authuser=pacificgrovepress%40gmail.com&usp=drive_fs

Pacific Grove Press | January 7, 2022

LAFCO FINALIZES WATER VOTE

Dan Miller

Pacific Grove Press, January 7, 2022

OUR WATER

By Karen Paull*

LAFCO listens to Cal Am but ignores the voters and Measure J

Five of seven voting LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission of Monterey County) commissioners turned a deaf ear to voters of the Monterey Peninsula in rejecting the Water Management District's request to provide retail water service if it buys out Cal Am.

The decision, at a special meeting on January 5, was not a surprise. In December, the commissioners voted 5 – 2 to reject their own staff's recommendation to approve the District's application with certain conditions. Based on that vote, Chair Chris Lopez directed LAFCO staff to prepare a resolution rejecting the District's application. On January 5, before that resolution was voted out, Commissioners Wendy Root Askew

(Chair of the Board of Supervisors), Ian Oglesby (Mayor of Seaside), and Anna Velazquez (Mayor of Soledad) urged their colleagues to reconsider. Members of the public did too. Commissioners Chris Lopez, Kimbley Craig, Mary Ann Leffel, Warren Poitras, and Matt Gourley voted to deny the District's application anyway.

In between the December and January meetings, LAFCO received over 160 letters and emails pleading with those five LAFCO commissioners to reconsider. Most were from Cal Am customers who had voted for Measure J in 2018. Let these people be heard! Here are excerpts from a few of those emails.

Many of the emails refer to Agenda Item 6. That was the resolution denying MPWMD's application.

People on the Peninsula want affordable water and accountability

"I am extremely concerned about access to affordable water throughout the county, and I am troubled that some LAFCO commissioners believe "the government can't run anything efficiently." All of the studies from independent, outside agencies, including LAFCO's own independent analysis showed that MPWMD can run a water distribution program.
It is urgent for our entire region, not just the residents on the peninsula, that we have local control of our water. Please reconsider the negative vote on Agenda Item 6."
Karen Hewitt, Pacific Grove

"I lived for over fifty years in a community with a public water system. It was efficient, fair, and affordable with elected members on the board who reflected their community and its needs. I have seen this system work efficiently and we have voted to invest in this type of system for our county."
Rosalie Pinkert, Carmel Valley

"Every year American Water [Cal Am's parent company] must pay its dividend, currently $2.41, to 181.5 million shares. Nationwide over 85 percent of water utilities are publicly owned. Why? Because they have lower rates than private monopolies. That should put an end LAFCO Commissioner Matt Gourley's position "that government can't run anything efficiently."
Roland Martin, Carmel Valley

"I am so disappointed in your vote to not proceed with a buyout of Cal Am. You have ignored the facts, your staff's recommendations, your independent consultant's report, and the mandate of 24,000 Measure J voters. The loss of taxes from Cal Am is negligible in the grand scheme of things, and all residents know that. You are setting yourselves up to be voted out, as well as lose your legacy for doing something beneficial for the peninsula. I urge you to retract your votes, so there is no

need to spend lots of money on legal action."
Marilyn Mason, Seaside

"LAFCO has forgotten that every dollar in taxes that Cal Am pays was paid to them by Monterey residents. Cal Am's argument that local agencies would be losing "revenues" doesn't make any sense at all. We could pay ourselves those same funds for a public water system and still have lower water bills. No one mentions the huge profits that Cal Am is skimming off of income from residents that a public entity would not. Those dollars leave the pockets of residents and Monterey never to be seen again."
Roy Beckham, Monterey

"Remember all the money comes from the ratepayers for whatever is required. Not going through Cal Am will save money which would go to the community instead of to Cal Am's shareholders. Please respect the voters who have voted YES to ask a public agency to consider managing our water supply."
Sylvia Shih, Seaside

"I am a local business owner, voter, and a homeowner for over 35 years. I have done my part on conservation, conformed to all the suggested low flow efforts for my properties -- only to watch my water bills quadruple monthly in the last several years with almost half the use! That is frustrating for everyone rich or poor in this area. I personally feel that affordable water should be a human right in a country as great as ours. Monterey water is not affordable!

"As a Monterey county voter, I voted for change in the public interest. It saddens me that you have chosen big money interests over your community! I beg you to help get money out of politics! Change your vote Please! . . . Stand up for the Community you are supposed to be working for!"
Lisa Haas, Monterey

"I don't think that LAFCO members were thinking about the right of voters to pursue a public buyout if such a buyout was found to be feasible. It is not LAFCO's role to create a needless roadblock to the buyout process."
Gary Kreeger, Del Rey Oaks

"Please reconsider your vote that denies Monterey Peninsula and Carmel Valley residents the right to affordable water. We voted overwhelmingly to buy out Cal Am. I don't think that private interests of Cal Am staying in business should overturn the will of the people. I see a lot of waste in Cal Am's business model, including millions spent on attorney fees and meaningless public relations programs that add to our monthly bill."
Timothy Ward, Carmel Valley

"The catastrophic outcomes touted by Cal Am supporters simply do not hold up under scrutiny. Three independent studies on a public buyout of Cal Am, and the LAFCO's own staff report, show how exaggerated the doomsday claims are. LAFCO's responsibility was to keep this process moving to the next step and not put their personal prejudices ahead of Monterey Peninsula voters' unambiguous desire to control our local water supply."
Gary Kreeger, Del Rey Oaks

"PLEASE LISTEN TO THE VOTERS WHO WANT CHEAPER WATER."
Bill Donovan, M.D., Carmel

"LAFCO representatives please see the lies; do not be fooled by Cal Am attorneys and its propaganda machine that somehow Cal Am is a friend of the people. Do the right thing; vote to allow the public buyout. Otherwise a lawsuit may lead to unnecessary expense and further delay for what is in the best interest of all the citizens of Monterey County." ***Mark Magruder Eckles, Pacific Grove***

"I live in Salinas but I follow water issues all over Monterey County. Voters in the Cal Am jurisdiction voted to pass the water authority to MPWMD. Please reconsider your vote. Do not deny the voters what they want."
Amy Pofcher, Salinas

"Water costs on the Peninsula under Cal Am are the highest in the nation for water systems with 10,000 or more customers. Cal Am places profit ahead of all other considerations in establishing its rate structure and in promoting only water supply projects that are highly profitable.

Public ownership of water systems will benefit ratepayers by lowering water service costs, guaranteeing transparency, and affording full accountability through locally elected officials. Cal Am's profit motivation conflicts with the public's best interests.

The commissioners should focus on the greater good of the whole population served by Cal Am. I urge LAFCO to grant conditional approval of the Water Management District's latent powers."
Anna Thompson, Carmel

There are low-income people on *both* sides of the "lettuce curtain."

"As a Monterey County Senior Citizen, trying to survive on my Social Security of less than $15,000/year, I urge you to reconsider your "No" vote on Agenda Item 6. We have had enough of Cal Am's mismanagement that has brought us the highest water bills in the country. If your water bills were the highest in the country and you can't cut back any further—you would understand why Cal Am has to go. 87% of Californian have PUBLICLY owned water. We deserve it too." ***Nancy Runyon, Monterey***

[Translated from Spanish]: "I am writing on behalf of my family and low-income families of Carmel Valley, Seaside, and Monterey. We rarely have an opportunity to speak to authorities who claim to represent the Latino community in our county.

My family is one of hundreds of families behind in paying sky-high water bills. There are many low-income working people who are living in communities where there is supposedly a lot of money, but we do not share in this abundance. We work hard and the cost of water goes up and up and it seems like there are no limits for California American Water.

My wife and I know that many families are having a hard time paying for water, and they are embarrassed to say so publicly. Hopefully my voice will adequately represent Latino families who are suffering.
Please help us lower the cost of water. Water is life, we cannot live without it."
Pascual Morales Rodriguez, Carmel Valley

I write on behalf of myself and other low-income families here in Carmel Valley Village. Chair Lopez and his pro-Cal Am cronies on the LAFCO board have incorrectly assumed that there are no low-income families living and working here on the Peninsula and Carmel Valley. There are only rich white people who can afford to pay the highest water rates in the country, right? Wrong.

There are MANY low-income families living in the Valley and the Peninsula. LAFCO, please stop standing in the way of our access to affordable water. Low-income customers are DROWNING in high water bills. We VOTED FOR and NEED the buyout to proceed. Reconsider your decision. Grant MPWMD its latent powers today."
Saoirse Folsom, Low-Income Cal Am customer in Carmel Valley

"On the issue of protecting Chualar's reduced water rates, this is yet another ploy by Cal Am to inhibit approval of the MPWMD's latent powers to purchase Cal Am's water system.

Recent US census reports Chualar has a 2020 population of 1,512. The average household income in Chualar is $69,241 with a poverty rate of 23.28%.

Seaside has a population of 32,366, and 43% of residents are low-income. Median income is $63,575, actually less than Chualar. Per capita income is $26,172. The poverty rate is 13.4%. 2,263 Seaside residents live below the federal poverty level. We have a large minority population with 43% Latino residents, 7.3% African American and 7% Asian; 11% of residents are seniors, many on fixed incomes.

Yet, Seaside low-income residents, who are comparable in many ways to Chualar, pay the same high rates for water as wealthier residents in Cal Am's Monterey system. A

Seaside homeowner living on $35,000 a year pays $125 a month for 5,000 gallons of water. A Chualar resident pays $30 a month for that same amount of water. Cal Am essentially uses low-income disadvantaged customers on the Peninsula to subsidize disadvantaged customers in Chualar and elsewhere.

Cal Am is going to raise its Monterey area average bills by nearly 18 percent over a three-year period from 2021-2023, and it has applied for yet another increase after that. Many low-income families in Monterey County will benefit from a buyout of Cal Am. Please reconsider your denial of the voter mandate to buy out Cal Am.
Susan Schiavone, Seaside

LAFCO's position is legally indefensible.

"The California Legislature created the MPWMD to provide water to the Monterey Peninsula. LAFCO's proposed denial is an improper, illegal nullification of this Legislation. By a majority vote of the affected population, the local water company is to be condemned and made a public service. For 5 commissioners to negate the will of the Legislature and the will of a majority of the residents of the Monterey Peninsula is unconscionable and illegal.
Alexander T. Henson, Carmel Valley

"Each commissioner's vote should be based on the interests of the population served by Cal Am. The substantial majority of voters who secured the passage of Measure J should not be summarily disenfranchised."
Victor W. Thompson, Carmel

"We were stunned to learn of the reasoning behind the Commission's vote to deny MPWMD's application to operate a regional water system, replacing Cal Am. The Commission acted with unjustified and willful disregard of the vote approving Measure J. We urge that LAFCO reconsider its previous no vote at its meeting this week and allow this project to move forward."
Larry and Sharon Bacon, Carmel Valley

"We the people have spoken a few years ago. We want a municipal/community water system, not the most expensive water in the country by Cal Am. Your professional staff and your paid professional expert stated that this is feasible. The majority on the board has let their biases and conflict of interest overrule all instead of following your own rules. I urge you all to reconsider your misguided votes and vote yes now."
Charles Biller, Monterey County

"I was VERY disappointed that you voted NO to approve the Water Management District's latent powers. I believe LAFCO acted inappropriately, ignoring the intent of the voter initiative Measure J. I find it irresponsible that some of the reasons given for voting NO had **no** validity. I expect better out of public officials."

Rev. Alice Ann Glen. Monterey

* Karen Paull represents Division 4 on the MPWMD Board and is its current Chair. In this column she speaks for herself only.

Carmel Pine Cone | January 7, 2022

The Real Reason for Shortage

Dear Editor,

The editorial in the Dec. 31 edition makes two insightful and valid claims: 1. Our water shortage is political; 2. We waste huge amounts of water that during a rain storm flow out to sea. However, the real reason Cal Am does not capture any of the storm water is that Cal Am has been more busy lobbying state and local government officials or "activists" such as many County Supervisors, the California Public Utilities Commission, the Governors (who appoint the commissioners who must follow the dictates of Cal Am so as to continue receiving campaign contributions).

Cal Am has focused and spent so much of our money on lobbying to control rates so as to make maximum profit, that the only solution that Cal Am offered was a massive, destructive, and unneeded desalination project – again to maximize its profit.

We must remember that Cal Am has done everything in its massive power to stop the award winning water reclamation project (Cal Am makes no profit from this project) the only new source of water ever produced on the Peninsula that was developed in a Monterey One Water and MPWMD creative local government partnership.

The reason Cal Am and its state and local supporters (additional "activists") are scheming so much is to thwart the will of the voting mandate of Measure J passed by a 56% majority of voters who are tired of paying some of the highest water rates in the nation and want the abusive relationship with Cal Am to end.

Cal Am is spending huge amounts of money (ours again) in litigation to keep their very profitable scheme going.

***Walt Notley**, Carmel*

Monterey Herald | January 4, 2022

Did LAFCO Read Its Own Rules?

According to LAFCO's governing codes, commissioners are supposed to represent the public as a whole, not the special districts or agencies they are appointed by.

But the recent LAFCO decision against the Water Management District violates this key requirement of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Reorganization Act of 2000.

The legislative intent stated in GC 56331.4 is clear:

"While serving on the commission, all commission members shall exercise their independent judgment on behalf of the interests of residents, property owners, and the public as a whole in furthering the purposes of this division. Any member appointed on behalf of local governments shall represent the interests of the public as a whole and not solely the interests of the appointing authority. This section does not require the abstention of any member on any matter, nor does it create a right of action in any person."

Do LAFCO commissioners understand the rules they are governed by? Those who voted NO cited small tax losses to their special districts or purely speculative rate hikes to small numbers of their own constituents as grounds for their vote. They ignored the greater good of 95,000 Cal Am ratepayers and the mandate of Measure J.

***Melodie Chrislock**, Carmel*

Tear down the Lettuce Curtain

I continue to ponder the recent LAFCO vote to reject the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's plan to buy Cal Am.

How much longer will the "lettuce curtain" be the stumbling block to regional cooperation? How many ways can narrow-minded elected officials and their allies thwart working relationships between the Peninsula and the Salinas Valley? Why do selfish attitudes and false arguments prevail in a county that urgently needs to work together?

How much longer will the Valley stand in the way of the Peninsula's solution to its water shortage? Why do Valley interests side with Cal Am instead of the Water Management District?

And how can the Peninsula's vote for public ownership be ignored by LAFCO?

LAFCO should reconsider its recent NO vote and start a new era of working out differences. I continue to wait.

***Alice Ann Glenn**, Monterey*

MC Weekly | Dec 30, 2021

Down Stream

LAFCO's decision to deny the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's request to activate its latent powers was unconscionable ("A rejection of next steps for a buyout of Cal Am is a failure of democracy," Dec. 9-15).

The buyout was found to be financially feasible. LAFCO's own independent consultant confirmed that the buyout is feasible. LAFCO's own staff recommended approval.

LAFCO's board ignored the facts and based their decision on personal biases like Commissioner Matt Gourley's comment, "the government cannot run anything efficiently" and other irrelevant excuses. Drinking water is a public resource that should be managed by public agencies, not private companies. Cal Am's profit motivation is at odds with the public's best interests. For the good of all our communities, I urge LAFCO to reconsider and reverse its decision on Jan. 5 ("Barring buyout vote flip, local water district prepares for court," Dec. 30-Jan. 5).

***Anna Thompson** | Carmel*

LAFCO was supposed to base its decision on the mandate of the voters and whether or not the water district can afford to buy Cal Am and operate the water system. Instead this was a proxy vote on water supply with the Salinas Valley once again trying to dictate water policy to the Peninsula.

But LAFCO has no authority on water supply, so they had to disguise it with other issues, like the tiny loss of tax revenue – less than 1 percent – to a few special districts or the minimal rate hikes to satellite water districts. All of these issues can be mitigated and none rise to the level of blocking the will of the voters and the water district's mandate to move forward on Measure J.

***Melodie Chrislock** | Carmel*
Chrislock is managing director of Public Water Now.

It's bad enough that the LAFCO board disregarded their staff's report on the Cal Am buyout, but to then order the staff to write another report to agree with the board's bad decision is unconscionable.

Now if the staff prepares a new report as directed they lose all credibility, essentially admitting the original report was totally bogus. For the staff, the decision is will they stay or will they go.

Mike Gunby | *Pacific Grove*

Monterey Herald | December 30, 2021

Water district is not a special interest group

The Water Management District is a public agency tasked with buying out Cal Am as mandated by Measure J. It is NOT a special interest group as Doreen Cursio's letter claims.

In a Cal Am buyout, the tax revenue loss to public agencies is less than 1% — $1.26 million annually across 40 agencies. And remember, it's the public, not Cal Am, who pays these taxes.

Gary Cursio and Mary Anne Leffel sit on the Monterey Peninsula Airport District board. Leffel is the Airport District appointee to LAFCO and one of the five LAFCO commissioners who recently voted to block the Cal Am buyout. Why? It's not because of the eight-five cents in tax revenue that the Airport District would lose annually.

LAFCO is wasting public dollars. Cursio should be asking who will pay for the lawsuit against LAFCO to correct its arbitrary and capricious decision to block the buyout, and who paid the $64 million for water we never used in the last drought? The public pays for all this, while Cal Am and its attorneys profit.

How much taxpayer money has been spent to support Cal Am (American Water) shareholders? That would be a daunting figure.

LAFCO politicians are bending to the will of a special interest all right — Cal Am and its money.

Leffel should be recalled from the Airport District board. She has defied the governing rules of LAFCO and the will of 24,000 Peninsula voters.

Phil Wellman, *Carmel*

Joel Pablo

From: susan schiavone <s.schiavone@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 9, 2021 11:21 AM
To: Joel Pablo
Cc: Alvin Edwards; Dave Stoldt
Subject: Statement of Interest - Redistricting Committee

December 9, 2021

To: MPWMD Chair Alvin Edwards and Board Members
Dave Stoldt, General Manager; Joel Pablo, Clerk of the Board

Fr: Susan Schiavone, Seaside

This statement is to express my interest in serving as the Board appointed volunteer for District 1, Seaside, on the Redistricting Committee.

I am a 27-year resident of District 1, and I have served on the 152 Ordinance Oversight Committee since 2017. Please let me know if you require any additional background information in order to be considered for this possible appointment.

I look forward to the possibility of serving on the Redistricting Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Susan L. Schiavone
1505 Ord Grove Avenue
Seaside, CA 93955
831-394-0827
s.schiavone@sbcglobal.net

From: esthermalkin
To: Joel Pablo
Cc: George TRiley
Subject: Redistricting Community of Interest - RENTERS
Date: Monday, December 27, 2021 2:22:42 PM

Hi Joel
It was nice speaking to you last week about my participation in the redistricting process.
Thank you for the brief education on these appointments.

I signed up for email notices on future meetings & am wondering if there's an application I must fill out to apply for George Riley's district which I live in &/or an at large one.

As we discussed given the renter issue is a countywide one so there seems to be value in my appointment to either spot.
I've spoken to George who agrees & would like to see me get on the committee.

Please let me know what following steps I need to take other than follow/attend the upcoming meetings as I'm hopefully notified of in the emails I signed up for.

Thanks again for your time on this.

Looking forward to the coming new year.

Stay Well & Best Regards,
Esther Malkin
(831) 238-4765
#RentersVote

Joel Pablo

From: esther malkin <esthermalkin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 27, 2021 3:36 PM
To: Joel Pablo
Cc: George TRiley; Sara Reyes; Erica Parker; Sarah Hardgrave; Wendy Office Email 883-7570; Yuri
Subject: Re: MPWMD Redistricting Community of Interest - RENTERS

Thx for the quick response, Joel.
Here you go:

Esther Malkin
456 Casanova Ave Monterey, Ca 93940

(831) 238-4765
Esthermalkin@yahoo.com

To whom this concerns:
I am requesting the community of interest of renters be represented in the redistricting process of the Monterey Peninsula Water District Management & am providing my bio below for this purpose.
Renters are the majority of residents in most of the peninsula cities as well as in other cities in Monterey county. Increasing supply of housing & giving priority to affordable housing while simultaneously creating renter protections is the only way our area can retain it's workers & prevent adding to the homeless population.

Water is the biggest obstacle in creating more affordable housing in our region & while the state requires more units be built to meet goals set by AMBAG, those goals cannot be met without water which the state is well aware of but doesn't assist with that critical detail.

Bio:
In an effort to prevent adding to the existing homelessness crisis in the region, Esther Malkin founded and directs,the Monterey County Renters United (MCRU) group created to advocate for both the addition of affordable housing and for the rights of renters. She is often asked to advise & support a variety of housing issues by elected officials, advocates & others involved in addressing the issue . Examples of this are supporting the construction of affordable housing projects, encouraging cities to create 100% affordable housing projects by analyzing their own underused properties for conversion, creating city renter protection guidelines.

At the onset of the pandemic Esther consulted, on a volunteer basis, with a number of local jurisdictions on the creation & implementation of COVID Emergency Renter Assistance Programs which she advocated for long before the pandemic. She continues to advocate for such programs to be made permanent as a critical tool in the prevention homelessness which is a community issue directly related to unaffordable rents.

Esther has strong relationships with policy makers at regional & state elected officials as well as an ongoing collaboration at the federal with Congressman Jimmy Panetta's Housing & Finance staff in Washington, DC.

Esther sits on the board of directors of the non-profit Housing Resource Center of Monterey County as well as a board member of the California Democratic Renters Council representing the Central Coast region.

All of the above mentioned is done on a volunteer basis.

Esther was named United Way's "Champion of Housing Solutions" in the 2021 "Live United" awards.

Esther holds a BA in business & marketing from Florida State University & has directed her lifelong career in corporate sales, marketing, training & public relations to shine a spotlight on social issues that are important to her.
She is a 20 year resident of the peninsula, currently in Monterey & previously in Seaside.
She in an active community member & is currently the Vice President of the Laguna Grande Neighborhood Association.

Esther is a proud first generation Cuban American & speaks fluent Spanish.
She is daughter of a Koren War veteran & granddaughter of Holocaust survivors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,
Esther Malkin
(831) 238-4765
#RentersVote
Monterey County Renters United
Founder
VP Laguna Grande Neighborhood Assn

On Dec 27, 2021, at 2:55 PM, Joel Pablo <Joel@mpwmd.net> wrote:

Hi, Esther:

Thank you for your e-mail. There is no application available.

The District is seeking letters of interest. In the letter, you can highlight relevant education, experience and other information that may be helpful to Director Riley or the Board in making their final selection. Please be sure to include your contact information within the body of your e-mail or letter of interest to include home address, phone number and e-mail address. Letters are due by Friday, January 7, 2022 and can be e-mailed or mailed to:

Joel G. Pablo, Board Clerk
P.O. Box 85
Monterey, CA 93942-0085
E-mail: joel@mpwmd.net

You are all signed up and I do see your name on our sign-up sheet for future updates.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Joel G. Pablo
Executive Assistant- Board Clerk
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

5 Harris Court, Building G, Monterey, CA 93940
Phone: 831-658-5652
LinkTree: https://linktr.ee/MPWMD

Please note that email correspondence with the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, along with attachments, may be subject to the California Public Records Act, and therefore may be subject to disclosure unless otherwise exempt.

From: esthermalkin <esthermalkin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 27, 2021 2:22 PM
To: Joel Pablo <Joel@mpwmd.net>
Cc: George TRiley <georgetriley@gmail.com>
Subject: Redistricting Community of Interest - RENTERS

Hi Joel
It was nice speaking to you last week about my participation in the redistricting process. Thank you for the brief education on these appointments.

I signed up for email notices on future meetings & am wondering if there's an application I must fill out to apply for George Riley's district which I live in &/or an at large one.

As we discussed given the renter issue is a countywide one so there seems to be value in my appointment to either spot.
I've spoken to George who agrees & would like to see me get on the committee.

Please let me know what following steps I need to take other than follow/attend the upcoming meetings as I'm hopefully notified of in the emails I signed up for.

Thanks again for your time on this.

Looking forward to the coming new year.

Stay Well & Best Regards,
Esther Malkin
(831) 238-4765
#RentersVote

Joel Pablo

From: Nancy Selfridge <self48@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 9:48 PM
To: Joel Pablo
Subject: Re: MPWMD Redistricting Advisory Commission - Letter of Interest

To whom it may concern:
As a resident of Monterey, I have lived here for 35 years. I served on the Monterey City Council from 2006 to 2014. I am currently on the board of the Dan and Lillian King Foundation and a member of Carmel Sunset Rotary Club and serve as chair of the Monterey/ Lankaran Friendship Association which is connected with Monterey's Sister City of Lankaran, Azerbaijan. I retired from teaching in 2006 but still work part time for Pacific Grove Unified School District.
Nancy Selfridge
831 224-9692

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 10, 2022, at 4:06 PM, Joel Pablo <Joel@mpwmd.net> wrote:

Good Afternoon, Nancy Selfridge:

If you not mind and to be fair with everyone who participated in this process, please submit to me a letter of interest it can be as long as paragraph that speaks to your background or you can highlight any relevant education/experience you may have. You may also attach a resume or C.V.

That way I can include it for the record, thank you!

- Joel G. Pablo with MPWMD

From: Joel Pablo
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 4:03 PM
To: self48@icloud.com
Cc: Sara Reyes <Sara@mpwmd.net>
Subject: MPWMD Redistricting Advisory Commission - Appointment by Director Malek

Good Afternoon, Nancy Selfridge:

Appointment Made by Director Safwat Malek

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you for being considered to continue in the process in becoming a Commissioner on the MPWMD Redistricting Advisory Commission (RAC). The MPWMD Board of Director's is expected to ratify and appoint individuals to the RAC at their Regularly Scheduled Meeting on Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 6 p.m.

Five (5) Proposed Dates, *Commission will meet at least three (3) times or when the Commission has reviewed/ approved tentative maps to be considered by the full MPWMD Board of Directors.*

From: Tama Olver
To: Joel Pablo
Subject: Redistricting Advisory Commission
Date: Friday, December 3, 2021 4:46:56 PM

To whom it may concern:

Statement of Interest to Serve on the Redistricting Advisory Commission
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

I am a resident of Pacific Grove in Voter Division 4, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District. I'm interested in serving on the Redistricting Advisory Commission as a way to both give back to the community and fulfill my commitment to making representative government the best it can be.

My qualifications for the role are:

1) Recent experience as a commissioner for redistricting of the Monterey County Office of Education trustee areas. Through that experience, I gained understanding of the process, requirements, and data analysis that a commissioner uses in developing a recommendation.

2) Service on the Museum Board, Economic Development Commission, and Library Board for the City of Pacific Grove. I am familiar with the Brown Act and other protocols governing operations of a public commission.

3) Reputation for objective analysis and collaboration. Basing decisions on the best available data, finding common ground in support of shared goals, and respect for colleagues are important to me and the basis for my reputation in the community.

3) Passion for opportunities to contribute to good governance. In our democratic society, we get the best government when we are all willing to roll up our sleeves and do our part.

I would be honored to have the opportunity to participate in developing a recommendation for redistricting of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District as a representative of Voter Division 4 or a member at large.

Sincerely,

Tama Olver
831-869-2748
220 Chestnut Street
Pacific Grove, CA 92950

Please consider the environment in all your actions

From: carmelcellogal@comcast.net
To: Joel Pablo
Cc: Amy Anderson(E)
Subject: interest in redistricting committee
Date: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 6:44:02 PM

HI Joel,

Here is a letter of interest from a person I know in the 5th Division.
Let me know if you need anything else in regards to this!

Thank you

Director Anderson

From: Myrleen Fisher <myrfisher@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 6:16 PM
To: Amy Anderson <carmelcellogal@comcast.net>
Subject: Interest in redistricting committee

"Dear Amy,

I am seeking a recommendation to the Redistricting Advisory Commission of the Water Management District. For the last 8 or 9 years I have been paying close attention to the water needs of our area. I moved to the Carmel Valley in 2000, living next to the river for 17 years. I still am close to the river, even after my last move. So our water situation has been on my mind year round for varying reasons, as you might imagine, including activities involving Measures O and J.
It would be my pleasure to participate in the reconsideration of the district's boundaries.

Thanks very much,

Myrleen Fisher
Hacienda Carmel,
Carmel, CA 93923
831-521-2904 (m)
myrfisher@comcast.net

Joel Pablo

From: Troy Ishikawa <ishikawatroy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 12:41 PM
To: Joel Pablo
Subject: MPWMD 2022 redistricting advisory committee application
Attachments: Monterey Peninsula Water Management District redistricting .docx

Dear Mr. Pablo,

I am attaching my application to volunteer for MPWMD 2022 redistricting advisory committee.

Thank You.
Troy Ishikawa

26505 Mission Fields Rd.
Carmel, CA 93923

(831) 869-9409
ishikawatroy@yahoo.com

December 13, 2021

Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
5 Harris Ct. Building G
Monterey, CA 93940
Joel G. Pablo, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board
joel@mpwmd.net

Dear Mr. Pablo,

I am applying for the MPWMD 2022 volunteer redistricting advisory committee. I reside in the MPWMD Division 5 at 26505 Mission Fields Rd, Carmel, California 93923. I'm also a registered voter.

Why am I a good match to serve on the water district redistricting advisory committee?

During the pandemic, I have attended MPWMD board meetings on Zoom. I have also both given written and public comments in support of MPWMD at the Monterey County Board of Supervisors , Monterey One Water board meetings, and LAFCO. I am already familiar with the present MPWMD voting divisions maps. In sum, I can work well with others and also be an asset to a group of volunteers, to make an impartial decision and balance between equal population per division and representing similar contiguous communities so future elections can ensure fair representation with continued integrity.

In 2018, I have volunteered for both Division 1, Chair Alvin Edwards' campaign and also for Division 2, Member George Riley's campaign. I walked in both Seaside and Del Rey Oaks door-to-door to hand out campaign flyers to voters. In 2020, I continued to volunteer for both Division 4, Vice Chair Karen Paull's campaign and also for Division 5, Member Amy Anderson's campaign. I contacted 15 friends living in Karen's division and 30 friends living in Amy's division and asked each to host a yard sign.

I was the Volunteer Coordinator for Public Water Now/Measure J. I was the conduit between our volunteers, city coordinators, and HQ. I also have tabulated the percentage of each precinct for Divisions 1, 2, 4, and 5 after the 2018 and 2020 respective elections, in terms of how many precincts and communities within MPWMD divisions voted for Measure J and said candidates.

Finally, I have continued to advocate for the public buyout and have written many letters and participated in numerous public comments to various state and local commissions and boards, since 2017. In addition to a letter to the editor to the Monterey Herald published on Dec. 12, 2021.

My background: I am a Culture Translator. I deconstruct logic sequences for cross-cultural transferability. I earned a Master's degree in Intercultural Relations from Antioch University Midwest and The Intercultural Communication Institute. I was awarded a Bachelor degree in Communication Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

I'm a lifelong resident of Carmel. I attended local schools and graduated from Carmel High School. Currently, I am volunteering for a variety of local organizations and causes from Citizens For Just Water, Citizens for Sustainable Marina, Monterey County Lyceum History Day Judge, Steinbeck Center Young Writers' mentor, Rice Plus Project, Carmel Valley Community Thanksgiving, Friends of Garrapata, Save Our Shores, and League of Women Voters Team Up for Democracy poll worker, to name a few.

Sincerely,
Troy Ishikawa
(831) 869-9409
ishikawatroy@yahoo.com

From: Steven Lilley
To: Joel Pablo
Subject: Lilley Bkgrd Qual Jan 22.docx
Date: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 2:56:18 PM
Attachments: Lilley Bkgrd Qual Jan 22.docx

January 5, 2022

Joel G. Pablo
Clerk to the MPWMD Redistricting Advisory Commission
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
5 Harris Court, Building G
Monterey, CA 93940

Joel:

Please find attached a statement of interest for appointment to the Redistricting Advisory Commission, as we discussed this afternoon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steven Lilley

January 5, 2022

Joel G. Pablo
Clerk to the MPWMD Redistricting Advisory Commission
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
5 Harris Court, Building G
Monterey, CA 93940

SENT EMAIL: joel@mpwmd.net

Dear Mr. Pablo:

Please accept this letter as a statement of interest for appointment to the Redistricting Advisory Commission (RAC) of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District.

I have attached a brief description of my background and qualifications for review. In summary, my wife and I, as newlyweds, first came to the Monterey Peninsula in 1975, but left after four years as I pursued career opportunities in health care administration. In 2010, thinking about retirement, we came back to the area.

During the years we were away, I worked for some of the largest hospital organizations in the country and developed knowledge in strategy, planning, project development, and regulatory affairs. This also included familiarity with population growth and demographic trends.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steven Lilley

Steven Lilley
184 Lighthouse Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

STEVEN R. LILLEY
184 LIGHTHOUSE AVENUE
PACIFIC GROVE, CA 93950

Current Community Involvement

Member of Planning Commission, City of Pacific Grove, 2017 – present.

- Serve on seven-member commission charged with recommending changes to city land use ordinances; reviewing proposals for zoning, use, and coastal development permits; and hearing appeals on projects from City Architectural Review Board and Historic Resources Committee.
- Elected Chair in February 2021.
- Elected Vice-Chair in February 2019.

Volunteer Guide, Monterey Bay Aquarium, 2013 – present.

Previous Community Involvement, Professional Accomplishments, and Education

Member of Planning Commission, City of Medford, Oregon, 1999-2001.

- Served as member of nine-person commission tasked with recommending changes to the general plan and reviewing proposals for zoning, conditional use permits, subdivision development, and lot splits.

Member of study group that developed proposal for successful relocation of south Interstate 5 interchange in Medford, Oregon, 2000.

- Served with six other community leaders to recommend location of a replacement interchange and re-routing of city traffic patterns.
- Study group developed and presented project financing proposal to the Medford City Council and the Governor of Oregon. The proposal was adopted and implemented.

Project leader responsible for development of multiple new hospital, medical clinic, and outpatient facility projects during career as health care executive.

- Extensive experience working in regulatory environment with state and local government authorities in order to achieve approval of proposed capital projects.
- Worked with architects, site engineers, equipment planners, and landscape architects to design and price building and site development proposals.
- Identified and retained consultants with expertise in land use law, traffic, off-site infrastructure, utilities, soils, endangered species, noise abatement, and economic feasibility.
- Examples of projects I have been associated with include the Sutter Health Stockton and Sutter Gould Modesto campuses, Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass, Oregon, San Ramon Regional Medical Center, and Garfield Medical Center in Monterey Park, California.

Recent Employment

- Senior Analyst, Sutter Health Valley Division, Sacramento, 2012, to retirement in 2017 (worked in home office).
- Vice President/Director, Strategy & Business Development, Sutter Health Central Valley Region, 2003 – 2012.

- Vice President, Strategy & Marketing, Catholic Healthcare West (now Dignity Health), Bakersfield, 2001 – 2003.
- Vice President, Strategy Services and Marketing, Asante Health System, Medford, Oregon, 1994 – 2000.
- Director Acquisition & Development (last position), National Medical Enterprises (now Tenet Healthcare), Los Angeles, 1980 – 1993.

Education

- University of California, Davis, Bachelor of Science, Biochemistry, 1970.
- University of Southern California, Master of Public Administration, 1982.

Military

- U.S. Army Reserve, 1971-1978, Ordinance Corps, Captain (ROTC Commission).

Joel Pablo

From: Kmur617 <kmur617@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:38 PM
To: Joel Pablo
Subject: Re: MPWMD Redistricting

More info - I have Masters of Library Science from Berkeley (1972). My work experience was in the SF Bay Area as Librarian for Safeway Stores when it was headquartered in Oakland and then as Assistant Libtarian at the main business library for Chevron, when it was located at 225 Bush St, in San Francisco. Chevron movedme into increasingly responsible positions in human resources. I moved to Carmel Valley over 30 years ago.

I am also currently on a Library Advisory Committee for CSUMB and served on the Carmel Valley Friends of the Library Board for the first five years I lived in the Valley. I am very involved in my Unitarian Universalist Church in Carmel as Stewardship Chair and was a member of the Board there several years ago. I keep busy.

Konny Murray

-----Original Message-----
From: Kmur617 <kmur617@aol.com>
To: joel@mpwmd.net <joel@mpwmd.net>
Sent: Tue, Jan 18, 2022 8:21 pm
Subject: Fwd: MPWMD Redistricting

I can be available Jan. 27 in the morning and possibly in the afternoon - need to change a standing appointment. I can be available in the morning only on the 28th.

Below is a description of my relevant experience regarding water in the WMD. I have a long history of being involved in community in Monterey County. Among other things, I have served on the Board of Magic Circle Theater (in Carmel Valley) for several years, including a couple years as Board President as we closed the Theater. I have long been involved on the SPCA for Monterey County, including serving two years at Board President. I am currently involved in a Capital Campaign fundraising effort and have raised one hundred thousand dollars for that project. I have been involved in local politics, although I have left involvement in either major party. I am currently on the Board of the League of Women Voters as an At-Large Board member, although I am currently serving on the Redistricting Committee for the League. My involvement on the MPWMD Redistricting Advisory Committee will be as a private citizen.

I live in Carmel Valley and own two properties there: My home in the Rancho del Sol development and a 4 acre horse property on Los Robles Road. Horses are my passion,.

I am married, have no children, three dogs (all adopted from the SPCA) and two horses imported from Holland.

Konny Murray
10 Oak Meadow Lane, Carmel Valely
831-595-7853 cell best way to reach me

-----Original Message-----
From: Constance Murray <kmur617@aol.com>
To: Dave Stoldt <dstoldt@mpwmd.net>
Sent: Tue, Jan 4, 2022 1:53 pm
Subject: Re: MPWMD Redistricting

Well, this was simple! The description is understandable.

I look forward to seeing the charge when it is ready. A couple people on your Board know me (Amy Anderson & George Riley). I would like to be of service if that pleases the Board.

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I have a long interest in the work of the District, having been the water system overseer/volunteer for Sleepy Hollow Homeowners Assn (long ago during the dam plans) when I first moved to Carmel Valley and then was deeply involved in water access in building my current house and adding water connections to my horse property in Carmel Valley. In all of these situations,
I found your staff incredibly helpful. Contrary to what others have said!

I like the idea of district elections and am intrigued about discovering communities of interest when it comes to water use.

Thank you for the nudge to apply.

Sincerely

Konny Murray
10 Oak Meadow Ln, Carmel Valley.
831-595-7853

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 2, 2021, at 11:01 AM, Dave Stoldt <dstoldt@mpwmd.net> wrote:

Hi Konny,

Attached is a description of the role of a MPWMD Redistricting Advisory Commission member. When ready, Joel will send you the Commission's charge.

Dave

David J. Stoldt
General Manager
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
5 Harris Court – Bldg G
Monterey, CA 93940

831.658.5651

Joel Pablo

From: Bob Siegfried <robtsiegfried@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2021 9:33 AM
To: Joel Pablo
Subject: redistricting advisory commission / interest statement

Joel,

A conditional statement of interest, conditioned upon the commission not receiving enough volunteers. I would be willing to serve if MPWMD finds itself short of volunteers. I am a director at CAWD and at CVA. I participated in the 2005 update of the State Water Plan, and I represented the water district for which I worked at the time to craft regulations implementing the SBX7-7 water bill. I live in Carmel.

I don't think my participation on the redistricting advisory commission would violate prohibitions about serving more than one agency in the same domain, but always wise to check with your staff attorney.

Regards,
Bob

From: marposs@att.net
To: Joel Pablo
Subject: Redistricting Advisory Commission interest
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 12:31:44 PM
Attachments: Mark Posson resume 2021.pdf

Joel,
I noted the formation of the Commission and I'm interested in serving. Attached is my resume for the Board's consideration.

You will note a balance in business, academic and public service experience. I am a firm believer that citizens need to participate in the public process. I think you can see that I have both the technical experience and experience with government to make a significant contribution to the redistricting effort.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Mark Posson
3094 Bird Rock Rd
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

marposs@att.net
925.989.4320

MARK POSSON

3094 Bird Rock Road
Pebble Beach, CA 93953
marposs@att.net
Mobile Phone (925) 989-4320

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions

Program Manager 2013-2020

Directed the business development function for the Western United States and Latin America.

- Facilitated Strategic Plan and annual Business Development Plans with executive management.
- Lead West US and Latin America business development team.
- Lead major business development reviews.
- Joint venture Executive Committee member for $4M JV.
- Developed and delivered Client Focus Training for 100+ professionals.

Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company

Director, Operations, Global Communications Systems 2009 – 2011

Directed the operations functions for a $2 billion satellite production line of business. Developed facility strategic plans and managed implementation. Developed and directed environment, safety and health programs, emphasizing risk reduction, zero injuries and sustainable practices. Developed capital budgets. Guided and directed the lean/six sigma improvement program.

- Developed Facility Strategic Plan.
- Collaboratively develop the injury prevention strategy and tactics.
- Managed the site selection and economic incentives for the Iridium Next satellite production facility.
- Managed the $11 million facility upgrades for a follow-on contract.
- Lead multifunctional teams to identify and estimate operations elements of proposals.
- Standardized business processes to increase efficiencies.

Director, LM21 Operating Excellence 2007 – 2009

Directed the continuous process improvement program for an $8 billion company. Collaboratively created company improvement strategy, established improvement targets and tactics, developed and certified lean/ six sigma change agents, measured enterprise change and implemented company level improvements.

- Created and implemented a continuous improvement strategy aligned with business strategy.
- Lead diverse teams to streamline the company's Strategic Plan development, Long Range Plan development and program planning processes.
- Teamed with government customers to achieve joint improvements.
- Implemented Apollo root cause analysis process across the company.
- Established lean/six sigma practitioners continuing development program.
- Streamlined enterprise improvement metrics.
- Teamed with San Jose State University to provide lectures and host student projects.
- Managed the San Diego Tow Basin environmental remediation and litigation.
- Operations Site Lead for Bay Area; responsible for operations when the vice president was not available.

Director, Environment, Safety and Health 1998 – 2007

Led the environment, safety and health programs for the Space Systems Company. Collaboratively developed injury elimination and sustainability strategies and implementing programs, with a focus on cultural change. Managed settlements and negotiations with government agencies and regulatory bodies. Directed safety and environmental engineering projects. Negotiated and managed contracts. Directed compliance audits, monitoring, permitting, facility closures, remedial investigations, soil and ground water remediation, employee training, real estate and business transaction due diligence. Advocated regulatory changes. Represented Lockheed Martin in public affairs and forums. Coached and developed an exceptional group of engineers, scientists and leaders. Responsibilities extended over 15 locations in nine states. Integrated the programs of 4 heritage businesses into a common program.

- Developed ESH Strategic Plans and led tactical execution.
- Integrated ESH practices into business processes to achieve cultural change.
- Developed annual ESH performance targets and managed enterprise performance
- Reduced Recordable Case Rate by 69%, Day Away Case Rate by 66%, and Severity Rate by 75%.
- Managed Air Force prime contract for a $10 million remediation.
- Converted training from instructor-led to web-based while improve content and reducing costs by 30%.

Director, Environment, Safety and Health [continued]

- Developed and implemented remediation strategies for a $100 million portfolio of remediation projects.
- Developed an automated Supervisor Incident Investigation process to improve preventive actions; adopted by the corporation for universal use.
- Identified ESH requirements for new business development and provide proposal elements.
- Operations Site Lead for Bay Area; responsible for operations when the vice president was not available.

Manager, Environmental Protection 1987 – 1998

Created and organized a new department supporting San Francisco Bay operations (over 150 buildings) and 15 remote locations in 7 states.

- Core environmental programs were upgraded within a two year period.
- Successfully maintained core program service levels during downsizing periods and strategically shifted programs from company implemented to contracted services.
- Settled major enforcement actions and litigation.
- Developed and implemented ISO 14001 compliant environmental management system.
- Established and achieved significant environmental footprint reductions in air, water, solid waste, hazardous waste and chemical usage.
- Established pollution prevention program as a foundation for sustainable practices.
- Developed and implemented environmental auditing program to improve performance.

UC Berkeley 2012 - 2018

Instructor Corporate Social Responsibility Reporting
Instructor Environmental Management Systems: ISO 14000

UC Davis 2012 - 2018

Instructor Environmental Management and Sustainability

UC Davis, 1983 – 1998, UC Berkeley 1986 – 2000

Instructor Various environmental management courses

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Monterey County Civil Grand Jury
Juror, 2020- 2021

Planning Commission, City of Pleasanton
Commissioner, 2013- 2014

Energy and Environment Committee, City of Pleasanton
Chair, 2009-2012 Member, 2009- 2013

Alameda County Transportation Commission Citizen's Advisory Committee
Member, 2012-2014

California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance

Board of Directors, 2000 – 2011

Lean Advancement Initiative @ MIT
Executive Board Member, 2007 –2009

San Jose State University
Guest lecturer, 2010

Las Positas College
Guest lecturer, 2011, 2012

California Environmental Dialogue
Member, 2003-2007

UC Davis and UC Berkeley
Advisory Board, Hazardous Materials Management Program

Institute of Professional Environmental Practice
Ethics Committee, Environmental Professional Intern Committee, Awards Committee

Pacific Industry and Business Association
Board of Directors, 1991 – 2001

Air and Waste Management Association, Golden West Section
Executive Board

Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Environmental Committee Chair

EDUCATION

M.A. Biology California State University, Fullerton
B.S. Biological Sciences University of California, Irvine

CERTIFICATIONS

Former Department of Defense security clearances
Qualified Environmental Professional
Community College Credential

PUBLICATIONS

"Small Companies Can Make a Big Difference in Tomorrow"
AltEnergy eMagazine, 2012
"The Risks and Benefits of Outsourcing Environmental Management."
Corporate Environmental Strategies, 1996
"Environmental Auditing and Continuous Improvement at Lockheed."
Total Quality Environmental Management, 1993
"Applying a Continuous Improvement Methodology to Lockheed's Environmental Programs."
Total Quality Environmental Management, 1992

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Softball, racquetball, hiking, fishing, biking, public service

Joel Pablo

From: nmonicalal@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 6:06 PM
To: Joel Pablo
Subject: Redistricting Application
Attachments: MPWMD Redistricting Application 2021.pdf

Dear Joel,
It was a pleasure speaking with you today. Attached please find my letter of intent regarding interest in the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District Redistricting Commission.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully,
Monica

December 14, 2021

N. Monica Lal
POB 51034
Pacific Grove, CA 93940
nmonicalal@aol.com

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Monica Lal and I am a native of Monterey County. I have recently had the opportunity to serve as a commissioner representing District 5 in the Monterey County Redistricting process.

I found the experience to be interesting and appreciated the collaboration and detailed information about the county that was provided by the demographers and my fellow commissioners. I have an inherent interest in community service and would be grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District Redistricting Commission.

I have strong ties to the community, and believe I would contribute a balanced, knowledgeable perspective. I attended local schools, and completed my Bachelor's Degree in history at Reed College.

I have lived and worked in a number of areas of the county, and am a current homeowner in Monterey. I understand that the commission will be comprised of nine commissioners, with each Director making an appointment and the Board selecting two at large members from the community.

My application is not associated with any one Director.

I can provide my curriculum vitae or any further information upon request.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

N. Monica Lal

From:	Marc Eisenhart
To:	Joel Pablo
Cc:	Marc Eisenhart
Subject:	Statement of Interest to Volunteer on the MPWMD Redistricting Advisory Commission.
Date:	Tuesday, January 11, 2022 11:43:36 AM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.gif

Dear Mr. Pablo,

Please accept this email as my Statement of Interest to volunteer for a position on the MPWMD Redistricting Advisory Commission.

I am a full time resident of the City of Monterey, and I also work full time in Monterey, at the Monterey address below.

Thank you very much.

Yours,

Marc A. Eisenhart
Partner

San Jose Office: 125 South Market Street, Suite 1200
San Jose, California 95113
Phone: 408.288.8100 • Fax: 408.288.9409

Monterey Office: 490 Calle Principal
Monterey, California 93940
Phone: 831.264.7802 • Fax: 831.324.4119

Web: www.gedlaw.com

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From the desk of
Marc A. Eisenhart

151 Mar Vista Drive
Monterey, California 93940

Email: mae@gedlaw.com
Mobile: (408) 499-4263

January 11, 2022

Via Email: Joel@mpwmd.net

Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
Att'n: Joel G. Pablo
5 Harris Court, Building G
Monterey, California 93940

RE: Letter of Interest and Statement of Qualifications for Appointment to Redistricting Advisory Commission

TO THE HONORABLE MR. ALVIN EDWARDS, BOARD CHAIR, AND TO THE MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Responding to the call of the MPWMD's December 1, 2021 public release, I respectfully apply for the Board's consideration to be placed on the Commission.

Just by way of brief background, my wife, Maria, and I have been residing in Monterey since January 2020. I am a founding partner of the law firm, Gates Eisenhart Dawson, a litigation firm, and I head up our Monterey office. I believe I am qualified to serve on the Commission based upon my over 25 years of experience as an attorney, as well as my very strong support of the work of the District, as well as the mandates of Proposition J. My statement of qualifications is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc A. Eisenhart

Statement of Qualifications

Residency and Voter Registration

I am both a full time resident of the City of Monterey, and I am registered to vote in Monterey.

Education

My educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts Degree (French literature) from the State University of New York at Stony Brook (1991) and a Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara University School of Law (1996).

Career

My work experience includes over 25 years as a litigation attorney and I am a founding partner of the firm of Gates Eisenhart Dawson.

As it pertains to water, and for the last 15 years, I have represented a privately held water company in Santa Clara County, successfully navigating its varied litigation needs. In working closely with the utility, I am quite versed with the practices - and politics - associated with the CPUC's GRC purposes and procedures.

More information on my qualifications can be found at www.gedlaw.com.

Community Involvement

In maintaining my ties with my alma mater, I have both created and taught law courses at Santa Clara University School of Law.

Over the years, I have served on a number of boards and in various organizations, including serving as a board member for a local chapter of the ACLU of Northern California, assisting the H.E.L.P. Division (Homelessness Prevention Eviction Law Project), serving as a Judge Pro Tem and Judicial Arbitrator for the Santa Clara County Superior Court, and providing free MCLE programs through the Monterey County Bar Association, of which I am a member.

I speak French, Italian, and a Sicilian dialect. References provided upon request.

From: Libby Downey
To: Joel Pablo
Subject: WATER DISTRICT VOTING AREAS
Date: Monday, January 10, 2022 4:54:15 PM

My name is Wayne Downey, resident of Monterey. Mr. Riley informed me of the committee being formed and I would like to submit my name for consideration. Thank you

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Check out my website for more information!

https://www.libbyformpctrustee.com/