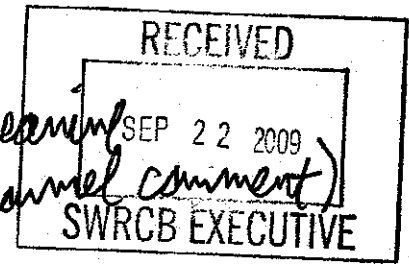


September 11, 2009  
5484 Quail Meadows Dr.  
Carmel, CA 93923

PWR

cy: Learning  
(Carmel comment)



✓ State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Attention: State Water Resources Control Board

I am shocked by the callous response and utter disregard for the citizens of the Monterey Peninsula that has been demonstrated by the Water Resources Control Board regarding the decision to restrict pumping on the Carmel River. The citizens of the Monterey Peninsula have been the ping-pong ball in the battle to find a sustainable water source that has gone on over the last 20 plus years. Agencies bicker, lawyers file suits and environmentalists dream up hurdles. Now, at the hands of the environmentalist's lawyers, we citizens are going to be strangled by this arbitrary and capricious ruling to have Cal Am Water reduce pumping from the Carmel River, which is particularly onerous during a time of drought.

The Carmel River has been and continues to be the only source of water for Peninsula residents, although we have tried to obtain solutions, the very parties who are asking for this stoppage have been obstacles to finding or implementing any solutions. Moreover, the current crisis is not of the people's making. We have had three years of drought. We are also in a downward market in terms of the economy and housing. Not watering the local landscape, commercial and residential, will further cost jobs and reduce the tourism industry in our area, which is already seriously depressed, and reduce home values. Indeed, who will buy a house in an area where the stability of the water is in question? Our region is teetering on the brink of a terrible calamity that will lead to a long and systemic decline if we do not have access to water.

Why punish Monterey Peninsula residents? Shouldn't all these agencies and environmentalists get together and come up with a solution – something that is not punitive but rather, forward thinking? Furthermore, the steelhead trout, that seem to have created much of the debate about the pumping of the River, is not in fact, an endangered species in other U.S. locales, and so their U.S. extinction is not an issue. While the trout may not thrive in the Carmel River now particularly because of the drought, they do in other places in the United States. How can these fish have more rights than those of us living here? By this order, our economy and citizens are penalized unduly. Why wouldn't the Water Resources Control Board order the relevant parties to cease and desist their petty and unproductive arguing about alternative solutions for water sustainability for Monterey Peninsula residents rather than restrict our water so significantly? Our region has done much already to conserve. Furthermore, why would our community be subject to more extreme restrictions on a natural resource than any other community in California? This solution imposes a disparate impact on the citizens of Monterey Peninsula and takes undue control of our most important resource for life and well being on the Peninsula.

Please reconsider your position and direct the various parties to enter productive discussions for solutions. Please do not enact the cease and desist order on the Carmel River.

Gail Sheridan  
Peninsula Resident

**Copies to:**

**Congressman Sam Farr  
100 West Alisal Street  
Salinas, CA 93901**

**Senator Dianne Feinstein  
One Post Street, Suite 2450  
San Francisco, CA 94104**

**California Public Utilities Commission  
Public Advisor's Office  
505 Van Ness Avenue Room 2103  
San Francisco, CA 94102**

**770 "L" Street, Ste. 1050  
Sacramento, CA 95814**