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# Assembly California Legislature



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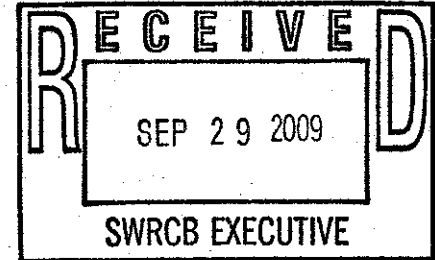
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September 28, 2009

Members of the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: DRAFT CEASE AND DESIST ORDER TO CAL-AM REGARDING THE CARMEL RIVER

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing to respectfully request that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) take a deliberate and forward-looking approach in acting on the draft cease and desist order regarding California American Water (Cal-Am) and the Carmel River.

I understand that the SWRCB would like to see the overdrafting of the Carmel River by Cal-Am brought to a close. However, I am concerned the onerous approach that was laid out in the draft order of the cease and desist order and in the newly released third version of the proposed cease and desist order could negatively impact the economic future and viability of the Monterey County region and its ratepayers.

The environmental impact from taking more water out of the Carmel River than what is currently allowed by the SWRCB is indeed affecting the ecosystem of the river and should in no way be minimalized. Protecting a vital environmental resource for Monterey County is important.

However, at the same time, many parties are continuing to work vigorously and effectively toward a solution for the region's water problems. To date, the Regional Water Project is a process that is moving forward and will be reviewed by the Public Utilities Commission. That Project is designed to ensure adequate, safe, and reliable sustainable water supplies for the region. Other regional solutions are being worked on and advanced as a way to help solve the Carmel River issue.

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In the meantime, I ask the SWRCB that when determining the final cease and desist order, the SWRCB ensure that the Cal-Am ratepayers are not adversely harmed. The average use of water per customer per day is 70 gallons, which is extremely low. If the draft order were to be adopted and Cal-Am customers were required to reduce consumption to between 30-50 gallons per day, it would have a catastrophic effect on the ratepayers and especially the Monterey regional economy. That kind of effect needs to be considered by the SWRCB when adopting the final order.

We need to support Monterey County's concrete efforts to achieve sustainable solutions to the problems addressed by Order 95-10.

I strongly urge the SWRCB to recognize the regional efforts that have achieved broad stakeholder support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM W. MONNING  
Assemblymember, 27<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

WWM:bw