

## Paula Riso

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**From:** jeanmdonnelly@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2011 4:13 PM  
**To:** Paula Riso  
**Subject:** Request for televising board meetings

Dear Board,

Because water is such a precious commodity and because it is such an important peninsula issue, would it be possible to televise your board meetings for the sake of transparency and public participation? It would be very helpful to view the proceedings on AMP. I would appreciate your feedback.

Sincerely,

Jean Donnelly

Barry Omerick

Publisher • 648-1192

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Executive Editor • 646-4306

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## Opin

THE HERALD'S VIEW

# Opaque water board wants to stay that way

**I**t would be unrealistic to expect the Marina Coast Water District to pay to broadcast its meetings for public consumption. Unrealistic because the district isn't like most other public entities.

Its board of directors is the kind that likes to keep people guessing. It's the kind of district where a longtime director like Ken Nishi can quit without explanation and then join again weeks later without explanation.

Though it doesn't always act like it, it is, in fact, a public entity. That's how it came to be a front for Cal Am as a partner in the Regional Desalination Project. A county ordinance required participation by a public entity, and what better to step in than Marina Coast?

But if you want to know who is on the board or how to contact them, don't bother with the district's website. Names and faces are hard, if not impossible to find. These folks aren't politicians in the usual "how can I serve you?" sense.

When Bill Lee, the board chairman, was running for re-election last year, another candidate was his half brother, George Eads. When Lee introduced Eads to others in the district, then-director Tom Moore asked how they knew each other. Uh, er, we served in the military together, Lee offered, not very brotherly.

It's the kind of district where Nishi ally Howard Gustafson describes new board member Jan Shriner as "not worth discussing" and calls Marina Mayor Bruce Delgado "that little freak."

So no one should be shocked to learn that Marina Coasters aren't eager to follow the lead of most other public

agencies hereabouts and provide for their meetings to be televised.

For a time, their meetings were being aired courtesy of the Green Party and more recently by LandWatch Monterey County. But Shriner got nowhere with her recent request to have the district look into doing the work itself by installing a videotaping system.

It matters beyond Marina because the little district is a key component of the \$400 million-plus desalination project, easily the largest, most controversial and most important area public works effort of the past several decades. While Marina-area district customers will receive the benefit of a new water supply at little cost, rates for water users on the Peninsula are expected to double, triple or quadruple. No one knows for sure.

Chairman Lee, though, told The Herald last week that it would be premature to spend money now on videotaping.

"When it gets down to Marina Coast Water actually making some decisions, then people might have a pretty good argument," said Lee, who seemed unaffected by the fact that the district reached that state many months ago.

The directors will attribute their bashfulness to frugality, but it is easy to suspect they're also afraid that if the larger community got a better look at how they conduct themselves, they'd be embarrassed.

The way we see it, if Nishi, Gustafson, Lee and the others are to receive the attention they genuinely deserve, someone else in the community is going to have to make it work.

Dear Board member,  
Making statement  
as Howard Gustafson  
made in Elementary.  
Statements do not  
make your groups  
look intelligent.  
A line in Marina  
Shame on Mr. Gustafson

Sincerely  
Dale Laddy  
384 1503

304 Carmel Dr  
Marina Ca 93935





UCP | Acquisitions, Investments, and Development

**Union Community Partners**

6489 Camden Avenue, Suite 204

San Jose, California 95120

Tel 408-448-0967

Fax 408-448-0968

January 21, 2011

Mr. Brian True  
Marina Coast Water District  
2840 4th Avenue  
Marina, CA 93933

**RE: EAST GARRISON – OCCUPANCY DATE**

Dear Brian:

Please accept this letter as notification that per MidPen Housing's development schedule, the first occupancy in the East Garrison community is currently anticipated for April 2012. Accordingly, UCP East Garrison, LLC respectfully requests that MCWD complete the required sanitary sewer pump station upgrade and have all infrastructure operational by this date to service the community.

Please call me at (408) 323-1113 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael B. C. Fletcher". The signature is stylized and includes the word "FOR" at the end.

James W. Fletcher  
UCP East Garrison, LLC

cc: Nick Nichols, Monterey County RDA  
John Huntley, Monterey County Building Services  
Andy Hunter, Whitson Engineers  
Jessica deWit, MidPen Housing