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Regional Desal Project Canceled, Almost

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By [Kera.Abraham](#)

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Several sources close to the [Regional Desalination Project](#) say the legal agreements between California American Water Company, Monterey Regional Water Resources Agency and Monterey Peninsula Water Management District are about to be scrapped.

In other words: The Regional Project is going through its agonals, and we expect it to be pronounced dead tomorrow morning. And that paves the way for a new water-supply solution to sprout in its place.

"Tomorrow has the potential to be the most positive day in many months in regards to the Regional Desalination Project," one confidential source says.

Marina Coast board member Jan Shriner says she was told during a special closed session this morning that a press release was forthcoming, but was instructed not to give details to the press.

Marina Coast attorney Lloyd Lowrey is also evasive. "I can tell you the same thing I told [Herald reporter] Jim Johnson," he says. "I don't have any authority to speak on anything."

Both referred the question to Marina Coast General Manager Jim Heitzman, who did not return multiple calls Monday afternoon.

Carmel-by-the-Sea Mayor Sue McCloud, who's involved in a [proposed joint powers authority](#) that would give the Monterey Peninsula mayors a leading role in addressing the water-supply conundrum, likewise deflected the question.

"If you ask me that in 24 hours, I might be able to address it," she says. "Depending on what you learn tomorrow, a JPA may or may not be necessary"

Cal Am spokeswoman Catherine Bowie says she can't confirm the Regional Project's death because of mediation between the project partners. But, she adds, an official announcement will be made Tuesday morning.

Check back tomorrow for updates.

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