



MARINA COAST WATER DISTRICT

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TOP NATIONAL EXPERT CONFIRMS PURE WATER MONTEREY EXPANSION WOULD PROVIDE MONTEREY PENINSULA RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES WITH AMPLE WATER THRU 2040

Demand does not warrant California American Water Company's proposed desalination project that would result in skyrocketing water rates and destroy acres of Monterey Bay dunes

MARINA, Calif.–May 18, 2020: The Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) released a report this week by nationally renowned water supply and demand expert Peter Mayer, analyzing water supply and demand for California American Water Company's (Cal-Am) Monterey Main System. The new study concludes that the proposed expansion of Pure Water Monterey (PWM) would provide sufficient water for Cal-Am to comply with the State Water Resources Control Board's cease-and-desist order and end the moratorium on new water connections for businesses and households on the Monterey Peninsula. The study also confirms and supports the California Coastal Commission's October 2019 water supply and demand conclusions that Monterey Peninsula residents will have ample water for several decades to come, without Cal-Am's proposed desalination project if the PWM expansion is implemented.

MCWD asked Mayer, a professional engineer and founder of WaterDM, to study and evaluate whether the proposed PWM expansion—a joint project of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and Monterey One Water—is an available, feasible alternative to the Cal-Am-led desal proposal. PWM uses advanced water recycling technology, emphasizing replenishment of the groundwater supply and protection of the environment.

For the study, Mayer prepared two demand forecasts using Cal-Am's own production data, provided to the State Water Resources Control Board for the years 2017-2019 and the California Public Utilities Commission in its latest general rate case (filed in 2019), decades of historical water usage data from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, and population growth and water usage rates through 2040, as projected by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments. The first forecast assumes the current rate of gallons used per person per day will continue without any increase in efficiency or additional conservation reductions. The second forecast accounts for probable impacts of California conservation directives and Cal-Am's programs to further reduce water use. Under either forecast, the report concludes that Coastal Commission staff correctly determined PWM expansion would meet future water demands for the Monterey Peninsula.

The WaterDM report demonstrates that the PWM expansion, together with Cal-Am's existing sources of water, will meet anticipated water demand in Cal-Am's Monterey district by more than 1,200 acre-feet annually through at least 2040. Mayer reaches the same conclusion as the Commission—that expansion of PWM will provide a “feasible, reasonable, and reliable alternative” to the Cal-Am-led desalination project. The Coastal Commission is scheduled to decide in August whether to approve Cal-Am's desal proposal despite numerous inconsistencies with the California Coastal Act.

In his report, Mayer also points out that the level of water supply will be high enough to permit compliance with the State Water Resources Control Board's cease-and-desist order, ending the moratorium on new water connections for businesses and households, including new affordable housing.

“This is great news for the community of Marina and our neighbors,” said Keith Van Der Maaten, general manager of MCWD. “We can continue to work together with our fellow public agencies to replenish the water supply using existing sources, responsibly grow the community, and prioritize protection of the dunes ecosystem.”

Mayer is a recognized national urban water management expert. He has advised hundreds of water providers and organizations such as the U.S. EPA, the U.S. Department of Justice, California Department of Water Resources, and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. He recently testified as an expert witness on municipal and industrial water use at the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the State of Georgia.

To read the full 65-page report go to https://www.mcwd.org/docs/agenda_minutes/2020-05-18_board/05-18-2020_mcwd_board_packet.pdf.

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About Marina Coast Water District

The Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) was formed in 1960 as the Marina Country Water District by a group of local citizens. It was first a municipal-owned water system with boundaries to coincide with the existing Marina Fire District. In 1966, voters authorized the sale of water bonds to acquire a privately-owned water company serving the area. With the closure of the Fort Ord military base in 1997, the Army contracted MCWD to operate its water and wastewater systems and, in 2001, officially transferred the systems to MCWD. MCWD has since improved water distribution and storage efficiency while decreasing operating costs. Today, MCWD is governed by a five-member board of directors elected by the voters. For more information, please visit www.mcwd.org.

About Peter Mayer, P.E.

Peter Mayer, principal and founder of WaterDM, is a professional engineer and urban water expert who has dedicated his career to advancing the science of water management. For more than 25 years, Mr. Mayer's work has focused on urban water management, integrated resource planning, water use patterns, assessing the impact of water rate structures and metering systems, evaluating water conservation measures and programs, forecasting future demand with and without conservation, water loss control, preparing water conservation plans, and conducting water supply scenario analysis. Over his career, Mr. Mayer has worked with hundreds of water utilities and organizations across the U.S. and Canada. For more information about WaterDM, please visit www.waterdm.com.