



MARINA COAST WATER DISTRICT

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ORGANIZATIONS AND OFFICIALS IN MARINA, MONTEREY COUNTY, AND STATEWIDE STAND IN SUPPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER, AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Dozens were slated to voice opposition to desal at CA Coastal Commission meeting Sept. 17

MARINA, Calif.–October 1, 2020: Many community organizations and elected officials in Marina, Monterey County, and statewide have rallied behind the Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) and other community-led water organizations to voice opposition to a desalination project proposed by California American Water (Cal-Am).

Dozens of environmental groups and civic leaders were ready to speak out against the desalination project at a September 17 special hearing of the California Coastal Commission, but the day prior, Cal-Am withdrew its permit application. The opposition's concerns include the environmental injustice of the project, protection of Marina's fresh water supply, and preservation of coastal ecosystems and dune habitats.

The following organizations were slated to speak out against the desalination project at the September 17 hearing:

- Ag Land Trust of Monterey County
- California Native Plant Society, Monterey Bay Chapter
- Carmel Valley Association
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Citizens for Just Water
- Citizens for a Sustainable Marina
- Communities for Sustainable Monterey County
- CURE (unions)
- Democratic Women of Monterey County
- Desal Response Group

- Endangered Habitats League
- Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
- Food & Water Watch
- LA Waterkeeper
- LandWatch Monterey County
- League of Women Voters of Monterey County
- Monterey Audubon Society
- Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association
- Planning and Conservation League
- Public Trust Alliance
- Public Water Now
- Progressive Democrats of America Monterey Chapter
- Royal Revolution
- Save Our Shores
- SEE-LA (Socio Eco-Education-LA)
- Sierra Club Ventana Chapter
- Small Business Owners in Marina, CA
- Surfrider Foundation
- Sustainable Monterey
- Sustainable Seaside
- Sustainable Del Rey Oaks
- Teamsters Local 890
- Urban Wildlands Group
- Water Ratepayers Association of the Monterey Peninsula (Water Plus)
- Western Alliance for Nature

Many elected officials have also voiced opposition to the proposed desalination project and support environmental fairness and sustainable groundwater, including:

- Senator Bill Monning, California State Senate, District 17
- Assemblymember Mark Stone, California State Assembly, District 29
- Mary Adams, Monterey County Supervisor, District 5
- Jane Parker, Monterey County Supervisor, District 4
- Ian N. Oglesby, Mayor of Seaside
- Clyde Roberson, Mayor of Monterey
- Bruce Delgado, Mayor of Marina
- Alison Kerr, Mayor of Del Rey Oaks
- Jeff Baron, Carmel City Council
- Jenny McAdams, Pacific Grove City Council
- Jon Wizard, Seaside City Council
- Jason Campbell, Seaside City Council
- David Pacheco, Seaside City Council

- Alan Haffa, Monterey City Council
- Tyller Williamson, Monterey City Council
- Gail Morton, Marina City Council, Mayor Pro Tem
- Lisa A. Berkley, Marina City Council
- Alvin Edwards, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District Board
- George Riley, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District Board
- Molly Evans, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District Board
- Tom Moore, Marina Coast Water District Board, President
- Jan Shriner, Marina Coast Water District Board, Vice President
- Matthew Zefferman, Marina Coast Water District Board
- Herbert Cortez, Marina Coast Water District Board
- Regina Gage, VP, Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare District Board
- Rosalyn Green, Monterey Peninsula College, Board of Trustees
- Alana Myles, Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, Board of Education
- Wendy Root Askew, Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, Board of Education
- Veronica Miramontes, Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, Board of Education
- Dr. Amanda Whitmire, Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, Board of Education

A Commission staff report released August 25 recommended denial of the proposed desalination project, concluding that it would result in “adverse coastal resource effects within the community of Marina that is already disproportionately burdened by many other industrial uses and would receive none of the project benefits. There is a long history of government institutions allowing unwanted industrial development to be concentrated in underserved communities of color without their consent. Approving yet another would perpetuate this discriminatory land use practice in Marina.”

Like many of the organizations, elected officials, and water agencies that oppose the desalination project, the staff report advocated the expansion of the Pure Water Monterey groundwater replenishment project as a viable alternative.

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About Marina Coast Water District and MCWD Groundwater Sustainability Agency

The Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) was formed in 1960 as the Marina County 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. Today, MCWD is an exclusive groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) in both the Monterey sub-basin and the 180/400 sub-basin, responsible for developing groundwater sustainability plans. MCWD is governed by a five-member board of directors elected by the voters. For more information, please visit www.mcwd.org.