SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER

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October 4, 2019

California Coastal Commission

Chair Bochco and Members of the Commission,

The Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster is tasked by the Court to administer the Seaside basin. Our board is comprised of elected officials and others who each have a role in the protection and management of the basin. The individual board members and the jurisdictions and stakeholders they represent are listed on the left.

Our Board has considered the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project that is before you. Attached, please find our Resolution in support of this project. As noted in the Resolution, we find that the proposed desalination plant and related facilities are important in solving the long standing water supply problems of the Monterey Peninsula.

Our support for this project is directly tied to our primary mission which is to protect the basin from overdraft and to ensure that it is not irreparably damaged by seawater intrusion. The Seaside Basin and the Carmel River are the two primary water supply sources for our community. Both are at risk until an alternative water supply comes on-line. Time is of the essence. This basin's needs must be addressed sooner not later.

It is the opinion of the Watermaster that the proposed desalination plant is the only project before us that will protect the Seaside basin. This critical project will replenish the basin and help ensure that protective water levels are maintained along the coast. These protective water levels are what keep seawater from intruding into the aquifers and irreparably harming the basin. California American Water has entered into a basin replenishment agreement with the Watermaster. This agreement sets forth annual basin replenishment requirements and includes a delivery timetable that is tied to the completion of the proposed project.

Recently, some have tried to question how much water our community needs. This topic has already been addressed. The Watermaster's mission can only be accomplished if the new water supply source - 1) Produces enough water to meet the community's current and future demand; and 2) Produces enough excess water to replenish to basin's overdraft. There is no debate that the desalinization project before you does both.

Please take our Resolution into consideration when making your decision.

Sincerely,

Paul B. Bruno, Chairman

SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-01

A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Expressing Support of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project Desalination Plant and Related Facilities

WHEREAS, the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (Project) desalination plant and related facilities is before the Board of Directors of the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster as a project that will replenish the Seaside Groundwater Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Project has been identified by the California Public Utilities Commission as a benefit to water users on the Monterey Peninsula and in Monterey County; and

WHEREAS, Phase 1 of the Project includes sub-surface slant intake wells, a desalination plant, and related facilities including source water pipelines, product water pipelines and brine disposal facilities; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Phase 1 of the Project is to enable California American Water to fully comply with the requirements of State Water Resources Control Board Order Nos. WR 95-10 and 2009-0060 and the Seaside Basin Adjudication Decision (California American Water v. City of Seaside, et al. Monterey County Superior Court Case No. M66343); and

WHEREAS, the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster administers and enforces the provisions of the Seaside Basin Adjudication Decision.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster that the Board supports the proposed Phase1 sub-surface slant intake wells, desalination plant, and related facilities including source water pipelines, product water pipelines and brine disposal facilities as important in solving the long standing water supply problems of the Monterey Peninsula.

On a motion by Director Gaglioti and seconded by Director Carbone, the foregoing resolution is duly adopted this 2nd day of October, 2019 by the following votes:

Ayes: Directors Gaglioti, Carbone, Cook, Thompson, Albert, and Bruno

Nays: Director Riley

Abstain: Director Adams (insufficient information to make a decision)

Absent: Director Oglesby

I, Laura Paxton, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster, hereby certify that the forgoing is a resolution duly adopted on the 2nd day of October 2019.

Laura J. Paxton

Laura Paxton, Secretary of the Board