

**Electronic correspondence dated November 21, 2007 from
Douglas Deitch, Executive Director of Monterey Bay
Conservancy, to Santa Cruz and Monterey County Boards of
Supervisors.**

Dear Supervisors,

Yesterday's meeting confirmed that PVWMA is not able to move forward with implementation of their basin management plan's solutions for addressing this region's massive, unconscionable, and yearly recurring resource loss due to saltwater intrusion caused by ag over pumping in the south Santa Cruz County and north Monterey County coastal areas on either a short or longer term basis. In the last ten years, the situation in PVWMA has steadily deteriorated hydrologically as well as politically.

<http://dougforsupervisor.com/oped.htm>
<http://dougforsupervisor.com/editorial.htm>

PVWMA yesterday admitted to you it does not even have adequate funding currently to pay for it's part of the reclamation project with Watsonville nor to pay for it's coastal distribution system in construction now (nor pay for or have access to water to put in this coastal pipeline).

And most importantly, PVWMA admitted it lacks any notion of a PVWMA community consensus and therefore, any ability to have any further funding approved which will require a 2/3 community vote and support. A community vote on this, which I didn't hear mentioned at yesterday's meeting with you, would confirm this for us all. The situation won't be any different in a few months. PVWMA yesterday admitted to you that they have failed in the agency's mission.

Bruce Leclergue and Dennis Osmer both proactively and frankly admitted that the agency is financially and figuratively "dead in the water" and the pipeline is, at present, no more than a "pipedream".

Additionally, over the late decade we have run up the water debt/water "line of credit" so much here that "water principal repayments" are now required immediately to repay our debt...Dr. Andy Fisher of UCSC informed us yesterday for the first time that the last ten years of nonaction on this issue by you (in addition to the previous decades of chronic ag over pumping abuse and our region's accumulated "water debt" run up by agribusiness here) now requires

that the equivalent of an additional season of "artificial rain" (i.e. by irrigation) must now be annually applied to the 8000 coastal acres (in addition to the average 24 inch yearly rainfall in this area) "to create a barrier" to "buy us the time" to reverse the inland flow of seawater into our groundwater, which, even under the best theoretical circumstances, will take many decades or longer to accomplish.

Fortunately, the coastal distribution system has been constructed in great part already to accomplish this new and now needed yearly water application....or is this "season of artificial rain" they say they now need really no more than a theoretical concoction by PVWMA's water engineers...already paid millions....to keep the game going just like it is now so tenant multinational agribusiness can keep production going at the coast at the same scale and continue to massively export and expropriate our groundwater resource in berries....since we have to irrigate anyway....and keep the pipeline project alive so they continue to be paid millions more for their services?

The 25 year experiment of the PVWMA Act and the resulting agency has been a complete and dismal failure to address this region's water over drafting problems or any others. The damage and loss to our region's water supplies during this agency's tenure is an environmental, economic, and social disaster which will never be fully repaid, if repaid at all.

This episode and failed experiment must be brought to a close as expeditiously as possible so a new and more regional intercounty and interjurisdictional community effort and consensus can be established. PVWMA is an obstacle to this process.

Please join Monterey Bay Conservancy in calling for the repeal of the PVWMA Act and agency and the establishment of a new state and locally created regional agency/joint powers agreement which will have the necessary social, economic, and environmental objectives to establish consensus and community support to provide the necessary funding to address our past accumulated abuses of our most valuable and necessary and vital resource.

Respectfully,

Douglas Deitch
Executive Director
Monterey Bay Conservancy



County of Santa Cruz

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December 10, 2007

Doug Deitch
Monterey Bay Conservancy
501 Mission Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060


Dear Mr. Deitch:

I am writing in response to your electronic correspondence dated November 21, 2007, regarding the groundwater overdraft in the Pajaro Basin.

As you are aware, on November 20, 2007, the Board directed the County's Water Resources Division Director to send a letter to the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency General Manager requesting that a proposed plan of action to secure necessary financing to fully address groundwater overdraft in the Pajaro Groundwater Basin be submitted by March 25, 2008. In addition, the Water Resources Division Director was directed to provide a report on April 15, 2008, regarding whether to initiate the process to declare a groundwater emergency and take other necessary actions to address the groundwater overdraft. While I understand that you believe that other measures should be taken, I feel that the Board's action was appropriate at this time.

I have referred a copy of your letter to the County's Water Resources Division Director for inclusion in the agenda materials when this matter returns to the Board.

Sincerely,


JANET K. BEAUTZ, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

JKB:ted

cc: Clerk of the Board
Water Resources Division Director

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