



May 5, 2020
Mr. Ron Stefani, Chair,
Board of Directors
Monterey One Water
5 Harris Court, Building D
Monterey, CA. 93940

Re: April 27, 2020 Board Meeting Votes

Dear Chair Stefani and Directors:

The League of Women Voters of Monterey County addresses two issues for reconsideration by your Board of Directors.

First, it is clear that the vote of your Board to deny increasing Marina Coast Water District's weighted vote from 2 to 3 denies that agency its appropriate representation. According to the Joint Powers Agreement forming Monterey One Water, the request from Marina Coast Water District is completely valid. The directors are in violation of their own bylaws, as stated in the Joint Powers Agreement.

The LWVMC is extremely concerned about representation and voting rights at all levels of government. Disenfranchisement of the population, represented by Marina Coast Water District, goes against the democratic norms that govern us at the local, state and national levels.

The only reasons that were given by Board opponents were that other agencies in Monterey One Water might deserve changes in their number of votes. The guidelines for changes are prescribed in your own Joint Powers Agreement. This process exists for them to apply to the Board for such changes. This process has been followed by Marina Coast Water District. The only other request from the Board was that the staff make a recommendation on MCWD's request prior to bringing this to a vote. Clearly the staff must recommend in favor of MCWD or violate the JPA.

Second, in addition to violating its own previous policies on the Expansion, the Board vote against the SEIR violated the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the 180/400 Aquifer. The plan identifies priority projects (p. 9-26, 9-33,9-41). Number three on the list is Modify M1W Recycled Water Plant. "Under the M1W Recycled Water Plant Modification Project, the SVRP will be improved to allow delivery of tertiary treated wastewater to the CSIP system when recycled water demand is less than 5 mgd. Monterey One Water (M1W) is currently designing and permitting this project. SVBGSA will work closely with M1W to support and implement this project."

Mr. Stefani, as Chair of the SVBGSA, voted against his agency's Plan in order to prevent the Monterey One Expansion from moving forward.

The LWVMC urges your Board to reconsider its recent decisions, review its commitment to follow its own bylaws, and clarify any environmental issues that have not been sufficiently addressed in your own SEIR.

Respectfully,

Howard Fosler

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