



**League of Women Voters
Monterey County**

Chair and Members, and Staff

Monterey One Water

5 Harris Court, Building D

Monterey CA 93940

RE: Comment deadline for the Pure Water Monterey Expansion DSEIR

December 16, 2019

The League of Women Voters of Monterey County (LWVMC) urges the Monterey One Water Board (MOWB) to deny the four requests for an extension of the comment period on the Pure Water Monterey Expansion DSEIR. The draft SEIR is based on one already approved by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency for Pure Water Monterey Phase 1. There are no conflicts or problems with any section of the DSEIR cited in the extension requests.

The LWVMC has studied local water issues numerous times over the past few decades. Among many positions, the League supports maximizing conservation and reclamation for all water uses. In 2009, we led the effort to increase the use of recycled water through the Groundwater Replenishment Program (GWR) and to downsize the desalination plant. Since that time, replenishing the Seaside Aquifer with reclaimed water has been refined and is now a viable alternative to the costly and environmentally damaging desalination plant.

The intent of the requests for extending the comment period is to delay further progress. Monterey One Water is a public agency which is supposed to operate with transparency and in the public interest. The California Coastal Commission expects to have the SEIR when it considers the Pure Water Monterey Expansion as a potential option at its next meeting. Delaying the DSEIR serves the interests of Cal-Am, the private, for-profit corporation and its supporters. The California Public Utilities Commission also expects to receive the information on the Expansion.

The LWVMC supports desalination as a long range water planning option, but it must be pursued only after all efforts for a low impact project are exhausted. Time is of the essence in meeting the CDO and the Pure Water Monterey Expansion will produce water sooner and with much lower cost than the proposed desal. Please do not extend the deadline for public comments on the DSEIR.

Respectfully,

Howard Fosler, President
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