

Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority Agenda Report

Date: August 14, 2014

Item No: 7.

FROM: Executive Director Cullem

SUBJECT: Receive report, discuss, and vote on staff proposal to add the General Manager, or District Engineer, of the Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) as a member of the Authority Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and to add a MCWD hydrologist to the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (MPWSP) Hydrogeologic Working Group.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Water Authority invite Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) participation on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and *consider if it should make a recommendation to the settling parties to add a MCWD hydrologist to the test slant well Hydrogeologic Working Group (HWG).*

DISCUSSION:

During January and July 2014, the City of Marina has been heavily involved in the permitting of the bore hole construction and in consideration of a mitigated negative declaration (MND) and coastal development permit (DP) for Cal Am's test slant well at the CEMEX site.

During public hearings, the Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) raised a number of concerns that suggest a lack of communication between MCWD and Cal Am, and with the Water Authority as well. This situation has not only delayed progress on the desal plant approval and construction, but has raised serious concerns on the part of the MCWD and City of Marina that its water needs may be placed at risk as a result of the desal plant slant wells.

To initiate a dialog on these issues, several informal MCWD/MPRWA management level meetings were held during the week of August 4. Amongst other things, it was concluded that participation by MCWD representatives *on* the TAC, and *possibly on* the HWG, would provide early MCWD input on technical issues related to the Desal facility and the slant wells, facilitate MCWD environmental review of the MPWSP EIR, insure the concerns of Marina residents get timely consideration, and improve communication between and amongst MCWD, Cal Am, and the Water Authority.

It should be noted that the TAC already has a member from the agricultural community to articulate ag interests prior to Water Authority decisions and deliberations. Thus, the Executive Director recommends the Authority extend an invitation to the MCWD District Engineer (Interim General Manager) to join the TAC for the same purpose.