



April 20, 2020

Ron Stefani, Chair  
Monterey One Water  
5 Harris Court, Bldg D  
Monterey, CA 93940

Re: Certification of Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (Final SEIR) for Proposed Modifications to the Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project

Dear Mr. Stefani:

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (the District) appreciates its partnership with Monterey One Water (M1W) in the development of Pure Water Monterey. At our April 20, 2020 meeting the District Board endorsed its support for M1W certification of the Final SEIR, adoption of CEQA findings and a Statement of Overriding Considerations, approval of mitigation measures and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and approval of the Proposed Modifications with Conditions. We encourage such action for three reasons:

- When your agency and ours entered into agreement in March 2019 to undertake the SEIR, there was still great uncertainty over the Supreme Court challenges to the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the desalination plant and other potential permit challenges. Securing environmental approval for a back-up project within a year's time was no small commitment, but was deemed worthy by both our boards. The District took on the majority of the financial risk, for which it would like to see the outcome completed.
- The Proposed Modifications are feasible and would represent a "shovel-ready" project on the shelf to potentially serve water supply to others. However, there is much more additional design and permitting to do, hence the mere act of certifying does not mean the project will be built.
- There are within the Final SEIR new Cal-Am potable water facilities consisting of four new extraction wells, related pipelines and appurtenances, treatment facilities, and potable water conveyance facilities. Such facilities are needed for optimal operation of the Cal-Am system with or without the Proposed Modifications.

We encourage and endorse your certification of the Final SEIR.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District