



October 11, 2016

Chair Peter Adam and Members of the Board of Directors
Santa Barbara County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
County of Santa Barbara
123 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: Reacquisition of Suspended Table A State Water

Dear Chair Adam and Members of the Board of Directors:

This letter is sent as follow up to my letter of February 1, 2016. The City of Solvang again respectfully requests that the Santa Barbara County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (SBCFC&WCD) Board of Directors reacquire the suspended Table A State water. We request your support and approval of the reacquisition for the following reasons:


1. The additional water supply will significantly improve water supply reliability for Solvang. As you are aware, the City relies heavily upon State water as one of our primary sources of water supply. During 2013 through 2015 State water allocations reached record lows of 5% and 20%. As a result, during this period the City was forced to purchase high cost supplemental water to meet between 45% and 60% of our annual water demand.
2. The long term cost per acre-foot of the suspended Table A water will be approximately half of what Solvang had to pay to acquire supplemental water during the past several drought years. This will significantly reduce the City's future water supply costs.
3. Solvang's use of State water replaces demand that would otherwise be placed on our regional groundwater basin, thus helping maintain higher groundwater levels within the basin.
4. State water is of higher quality than our local groundwater. Thus Solvang's use of State water results in less water softener brine discharge to our Wastewater Treatment Plant, and thus reduced salts loading in the return flows.

Therefore, the City respectfully requests that the SBCFC&WCD Board of Directors reacquire the suspended Table A State water, and take all necessary actions to expedite securing this water. The Solvang City Council has considered the topic of reacquiring suspended Table A State water at multiple Council meetings, and on September 14, 2015 voted to pursue 300 AF of this water. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration.

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If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me at (805) 688-5575.

Sincerely,



Jim Richardson
Solyang Mayor

Copy: Brad Vidro, City Manager

Attachment



February 1, 2016

Chair Peter Adam and Members of the Board of Directors
Santa Barbara County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
County of Santa Barbara
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: Reacquisition of Suspended Table A State Water

Dear Chair Adam and Members of the Board of Directors:

The City of Solvang respectfully requests that the Santa Barbara County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (SBCFC&WCD) Board of Directors reacquire the suspended Table A State water. As you may be aware, the City of Solvang relies heavily upon State water as one of our primary sources of water supply. During the past four years of record drought in California, State water annual allocations have reached record lows of 5% and 20%. This major cutback in State water supply creates extreme hardship on the City of Solvang in providing adequate water to our residents and businesses, and results in a significant financial burden due to reduced revenue from reduced water sales. This has emphasized to us the need for more reliable water supply. In response, the City is taking multiple actions including drilling new wells and pursuing some of the suspended Table A State water as a drought buffer to increase the amount of State water that can be delivered to Solvang during times of significant State Water cutbacks.

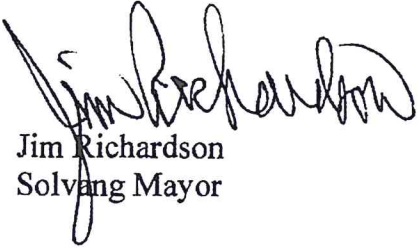
In addition to helping Solvang meet our water demands, State water has other regional benefits. Solvang's use of State water replaces demand that would otherwise be placed on our regional groundwater basin, thus helping maintain higher groundwater levels within the basin. Furthermore, the State water is of higher quality than our local groundwater and results in reduced salts loading to our Wastewater Treatment Plant and improved quality of return flows.

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The Solvang City Council has considered the topic of reacquiring suspended Table A State water at multiple Council meetings, and on September 14, 2015 voted to pursue 300 AF of this water. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Jim Richardson
Solvang Mayor

Copy: Solvang City Council
Brad Vidro, City Manager