

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Allen, Michael (COB)
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 9:06 AM
To: Williams, Das; Wolf, Janet; Hartmann, Joan; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve
Cc: Elliott, Darcel; O'Gorman, Mary; Litten, Jefferson; Nelson, Bob; Bantilan, Cory; Pontes, Matthew; McGolpin, Scott; Fayram, Tom; Lenzi, Chelsea; Barker, Russ; Hamilton, Charles
Subject: FW: Cachuma Contract Renewal, Board Of Supervisors, May 2, 2017

Honorable Members, Board of Supervisors,

Please see the comment letter below submitted by Russell Ruiz regarding Item D-4 (Cachuma Project - Water Service Contract Renewal) on your agenda tomorrow. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Mike Allen
568-2245

Subject: Cachuma Contract Renewal, Board Of Supervisors, May 2, 2017

Honorable Members of the Board:

I saw this on your Agenda and read about it in the local media and with my unique experience on the subject, I thought I would chime in. I am now retired after a 30 year career that was largely focused on local water. As we approached the first Contract Renewal in the early 90's, I was General Counsel for the Goleta Water District and the Summerland Water District, until it was merged with Montecito. I was on the Steering Committee for the first Contract Renewal where we had responsibility to negotiate the Contract on behalf of the Member Units, and manage (and pay for) all the required environmental documents. We also played a role in the drafting of all the operative Contract documents. Over the years I was also on the Santa Ynez River Fish Management Steering Committee where the original Steelhead Biological Opinion was developed. I fully participated in the State Water Resources Control Board Cachuma hearings over the years that have resulted in the current Draft Order.

I also served on the City of Santa Barbara Water Commission for almost 10 years, several of those years as Chair. My time in that office concluded when our family moved to Carpinteria a couple years ago. Over the past 3 years I have heard the scuttlebutt on Contract Renewal and some of the conspiracy theories that only us old local water buffaloes hear about. I have great confidence in Mr. Fayram and I strongly support having him lead our Contract Renewal effort, and the County to take the lead in that effort, and remain the Contracting Party.

I have read your Agenda Letter and I assume the Steering Committee will operate as those groups have for us in the past. I fully support that approach so long as none of the Member Units have an individual opportunity to direct matters contrary to Mr. Fayram's leadership, the consensus of all 5 Member Units who should have an equal opportunity for input, and your Board's authority. As those of you who are informed on the subject know, Member Unit Santa Ynez River ID#1 has withdrawn from the Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board amid terrible dysfunction among the Member Units during the drought. We had one Member Unit in 2014 believe they were smarter than everyone else and proposed violating the understanding on Cachuma cutbacks, that had been developed in the EIR/EIS for the 1995 Contract Renewal, that all 5 Member Units approved and certified as part of the Contract process. As clearly demonstrated in this drought since 2014, that was a terrible miscalculation and I share Mr. Fayram's view that it is your responsibility to help us avoid that kind of self dealing by individual Member Units, in the future. We need a collective mutually beneficial approach to Cachuma management and, as has been demonstrated recently, that cannot come from the individual Member Units who have parochial goals, and varying degrees of hydrologic expertise on their staffs,

if any. For any of you who may be approached otherwise by Goleta and/or Santa Barbara complaining about Santa Ynez ID#, I can tell you from 30 years local experience, and full knowledge of the issues, Santa Ynez has done nothing wrong. I am an 8th generation Santa Barbaran with professional experience representing South Coast water agencies, and I am telling you as our current leaders, it has not been Santa Ynez that has been unreasonable in these recent matters. We must avoid any protocol that would allow Goleta and Santa Barbara to join together to direct matters, contrary to the best interests of Santa Ynez, and the other 2 Member Units, Carpinteria and Montecito, or of other interested parties on the Santa Ynez River in general. In every instance that has ever occurred where the South Coast tried to start a water war on the Santa Ynez River with In Valley Interests, we have lost. That is California water law and history. We have new actors on the stage today who have not yet learned that lesson. Also please keep in mind what is occurring at the City of Santa Barbara. The Mayor and the Council Member with the most background on water, termed out. A new and unknown Council coming next year. We are dealing with a 25 year Cachuma Contract and our community's most important water supply. Longterm water supply management requires a much more stable direction than current City politics allow. We have one Mayoral candidate campaigning on, "No water for Steelhead." Another is a Steelhead advocate. We have no idea what to expect from the City on long term water supply policy. That is why it is imperative that the County take the lead.

If any of you are interested, I am always willing and available to communicate about local water.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell R. Ruiz