



# Carpinteria Valley Water District

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October 27, 2016

GENERAL MANAGER

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Honorable Chair Peter Adam and Members of the Board of Supervisors  
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,

On behalf of the Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD) Board of Directors please consider our request for your support and approval to reacquire 12,214 AF of Suspended Table A State Water. We believe the reacquisition of this water is important to the entire County and Carpinteria Valley Water District for the following reasons:

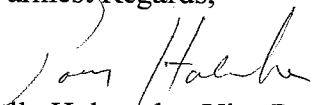
1. As we have experienced five extremely dry winters causing Lake Cachuma to plummet, we have become very reliant on State Water Project deliveries to meet our water demands. The importance of Santa Barbara Counties' connection (the Coastal Branch) to the State Water Project has never been more clear than during the last 5 years. However, the plumbing is only half of the picture. Project water supply availability is subject to limited reliability. In fact, during 2014 a delivery of 5% of allotted water supply was determined by the State causing many agencies to have to go out to the "water market" and purchase supplemental water. This is an expensive and risky proposition. If CVWD had owned 1000 AF of Suspended Table A water during this drought, it would not have had to purchase 1000 AF of supplemental water and it would have had 1850 AF of additional water supply allowing for an additional one year of water security.
2. For water purveyors, water supply reliability is one of the highest priorities we have. Making certain that water supply is reasonably available to our users is a matter of economic stability, health and safety and public order. Our approach to making sure we have reliable supplies is to develop a portfolio of water supplies that will hopefully back each other up as conditions change for each. CVWD has three supplies, local

groundwater, Cachuma Project water and State Water Project. That said, there are factors out of our control such as drought and regulatory constraints that erode the reliability of each project. There are two such factors that may reduce reliability of two of our water supplies in the coming years. First, the Cachuma Project which, on average, supplies 60% of CVWDs water demand will likely be required to reduce its annual yield by up to 30% due to additional proposed water dedicated to downstream fish resources. The second potential change in reliability is the Sustainable Ground Water Management Act's (SGMA) impact on local groundwater supplies. The new law will require Carpinteria Groundwater Basin users including CVWD to analyze whether or not extraction should be reduced to meet long term sustainability goals. If reduction of extraction is required, it will have impacts on the reliability of CVWDs water supply. These threats to our existing water supplies compel us to seek other supplies such as the Suspended Table A water in order to make certain that we can reliable supply water to our users.

3. Carpinteria Valley Water District is currently looking at several water supply opportunities to improve its long term reliability including Recycled Water & Sea Water Desalination. With water supply projects, the unit cost of water is a major consideration. For Recycled water we estimate the fully loaded cost to be about \$1650/acre foot and for Desalination water about \$2400/acre foot. For the Suspended Table A Water we expect the fully loaded cost to be about \$900/acre foot. In order for CVWD to most efficiently meet its water supply reliability goals it is imperative that Suspended Table A water be a part of it water supply portfolio.

For the reasons above the CVWD Board of Directors respectfully requests that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approve the reacquisition of Suspended Table A, State Water for the benefit of the entire County and in particular the benefit of the Carpinteria Valley.

Warmest Regards,



Polly Holcombe, Vice President  
Carpinteria Valley Water District Board of Directors