



City of Buellton

October 28, 2016

BY EMAIL

Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Reacquisition of Suspended State Water
Your Agenda of November 1, 2016

To the Board of Supervisors:

I serve as Mayor of the City of Buellton, and that City's representative on the Board of Directors of the Central Coast Water Authority. The following comments represent my personal views.

Our City is experiencing the hardships created by our current drought, and has expressed an interest in joining with Santa Maria, Solvang and Guadalupe in the proposed water security program utilizing the 12,214 AFY of "relinquished allocation" that will be presented to you at your November 1 meeting.

I respectfully request that you vote Yes on the staff's "Recommended Actions."

We've had two severe droughts in the past 30 years, each lasting 5 years or more. These droughts created real problems for our community, both financial and personal. Our City, like many other water purveyors, was forced to increase rates to make up the revenue lost due to water conservation.

Buellton agreed to participate in this program because we see it as a cost-effective way to improve our water security. During droughts, the 144-mile pipeline and treatment plant we built in the 1990's is underutilized; there is excess capacity to treat and move water. Under this program, we would use that excess capacity, which would cost about \$150/AFY. That's a real bargain.

At the October 4 board meeting, a legitimate question was asked: Will this water security measure create any risk to the County treasury or the County taxpayers? I believe the answer is No, for all of the reasons expressed by my colleagues in their letters to you.

Buellton has carefully balanced the real risks of a future drought against the financial considerations and concluded that this is an investment worth making.

Thank you for considering these views.

Sincerely,
CITY OF BUELLTON

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Andrisek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "E" and "A".

Ed Andrisek
Mayor