

**Lenzi, Chelsea**

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**From:** Cori <corihayman@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 9:40 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Board of Supervisors Hearing, July 18, 2017, Agenda Item #2, File No. 17-00351

Dear Clerk of Board,

Please distribute these comments to the Board of Supervisors in connection with the above-referenced hearing.

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Cori Hayman. I am a resident of Montecito and a Board member of the Montecito Association, where I chair its Land Use Committee. I am submitting these comments in my individual capacity.

In the interest of brevity, I concur with many of the positions submitted by the County Agricultural Advisory Committee. Echoing its message, I urge the Board to address location-specific concerns through “local and creative solutions”, particularly as the County considers expensive and intrusive monitoring devices such as flow meters, at least with respect to existing wells. In Montecito, moreover - a very low priority basin - many of the domestic well users are considered “de minimis”. Under SGMA, a GSA is not permitted to force the de minimis users to put meters on their wells. The County cannot, and should not, try to circumvent SGMA through this policy direction process and try to force meters on the de minimis users, at least with respect to existing wells (it is questionable whether state law would allow metering of new wells of de minimis users). Not only would such a policy contradict state law affording protections to the de minimis well users, but would also further punish and penalize the residents of Montecito who have already faced severe water penalties and surcharges from the Montecito Water District. Those same de minimis well users were encouraged to conserve use from the municipal resource and use other water resources, namely their groundwater.

The Montecito Water District is in the process of voluntarily forming a GSA. As indicated by the AAC, many items before you would be covered by local GSAs. Since Montecito is a very low priority basin, the GSA will have flexibility in forming a groundwater sustainability plan that is unique to the Montecito basins, population, and strategic direction of the Montecito Water District, and may include less draconian flow reporting measures. I, therefore, encourage the Board of Supervisors to defer any material action affecting the groundwater basins in Montecito pending the formation of its GSA and GSP. To the extent there is evidence that the number of pending well permits is potentially causing harm to the groundwater basins in Montecito, I would encourage the Board of Supervisors to either: (1) issue a twelve month moratorium on new well permits within the basin boundaries; or, (2) implement a finite number of new permits within the basin boundaries to be issued on an annual basis.

With respect to the coastal zone, potential seawater intrusion must not be taken lightly. I would encourage the Board of Supervisors to direct that comprehensive studies be undertaken, including a peer review of the report by Dr. Hugo Loaiciga, cited in the California Coastal Commission’s letter of September 7, 2016, and take whatever action is necessary and appropriate to prevent seawater intrusion and to protect the groundwater basin.

Finally, since the Board of Supervisors appears to have a menu of options to pursue, it is possible that a potential Board action could implicate CEQA.

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration.

Very truly yours,

Cori Hayman.