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March 12, 2015

Janet Wolf, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
103 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Montecito Water District Request for County Suspension of New Well Drilling Permits and Conditions on Well Permits, Board of Supervisors Agenda of March 17, 2015, Item #4

Dear Chair Wolf and Supervisors:

The Montecito Association has reviewed the requests included in the Montecito Water District (MWD) letter of November 21, 2014 and the Board letter prepared for your consideration.

We offer these comments:

1. We support the District's request that future well permits include a requirement for installation of flow metering devices and the transmittal of annual groundwater extraction information to the County and MWD. We believe that the data provided is necessary to improve the County and District understanding of the demands on our local groundwater supplies. We do not support the use of collected data for the purposes of establishing rate structures.
2. We would like to see a voluntary program implemented that would encourage owners of the many existing wells in the community to install meters and report water extractions. Your help in implementing such a program would be appreciated.
3. The Association's Board of Directors elected to not take a position on the well drilling moratorium.
4. If the County proceeds with changes to ordinance requirements for well drilling permits, we would encourage inclusion of standards/conditions to minimize nuisance impacts from well drilling operations in residential zones.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Cindy Feinberg, President