

Darlene Chirman  
39 San Marcos Trout Club  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

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Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara  
[sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)

**Agenda Item 1, December 15, 2015  
Water Supply Alternatives Study**

Dear Supervisors:

I have reviewed the Long Term Supplemental Water Supply Alternatives Report prepared by RMC at the request of the Board. I very much appreciate your request for the preparation of this study, and found it very informative.

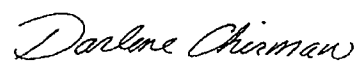
I would like to encourage the Board and regional water agencies to focus the primary efforts on the recycled water resources. Some expansion of non-potable use seems warranted, but for significant, reliable potable water supplies, indirect use of recycled water seems the most promising and environmentally most sustainable. Perhaps with a combination of spreading basins and injection wells (which requires a higher level of treatment before injection). Eventual direct use when state regulations are developed may be a viable direction.

The report seems to lean toward desalinization as a primary water source for the county's future. However, desalination is very energy intensive, and thus less desirable. Please refer to the white paper prepared by "Potable Reuse: A New Water Resource for California", prepared by James Hawkins, Policy Analyst for Heal the Ocean, July 2015;  
[http://healtheocean.org/research/detail/potable\\_reuse\\_a\\_new\\_water\\_resource\\_for\\_california](http://healtheocean.org/research/detail/potable_reuse_a_new_water_resource_for_california)  
While the process for removing salt/solids from treated wastewater and sea water through semi-permeable membranes is similar, the seawater has approximately 50 times the total dissolved solids (TDS) and thus requires four times more energy to meet drinking water standards.

Regional cooperation among water agencies is demonstrated in the Water Supply Report to benefit water users, agencies and the environment.

Thank you for initiating this study; the community will benefit from long range planning for our future water supplies. The current drought will not be the last we need to address.

Sincerely,



Darlene Chirman