



October 28, 2016

Santa Barbara County
Board of Supervisors

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors:

I am the President of the Montecito Water District and Vice Chair of the Central Coast Water Authority. I urge you to support CCWA's request for approval to reacquire the suspended 12,214 AF of Table A water. I believe this will be on you docket on Nov. 1. I have been the MWD's representative to the CCWA for 10 years. This is necessary to help four water agencies protect themselves during this terrible drought.

All of the CCWA participants work together. When there is little rain and little water, we help each other. Santa Maria, the largest CCWA participant over the years, even though they have lots of ground water, has had difficulties using it. Their groundwater needs to be blended with other potable supplies before it can be used. This has been discussed at CCWA meetings off and on for years. They need extra State Water Project Water to help purify their groundwater. At times they don't need all of the State water. When that occurs, they are very generous, and share it with other Districts in need.

Montecito has little groundwater, and we are frequently in need of extra water. Recently Santa Maria sold us 2000 AF of their table A water at a very reasonable price, and with no return component. They are the largest water user in Santa Barbara County, and a regional leader. Last year the water agencies in Santa Barbara County only received 20% of Table A water. This year the allocation is 60%. None of us have ever received 100%.

This is not about obtaining water for new hookups. Four water districts need the extra table A. In drought times it will lessen the burden on all of us; in good times there may be some extra water available to share.

Each water agency guarantees to protect the county if one of the other agencies fails to meet its financial obligations. From what I have seen, Santa Maria is the strongest of all the water agencies. All of us are carrying bond debt except Santa Maria. This acquisition will help the entire County water situation.

I urge you to support the acquisition of this 12,214 AF of table A water.

Sincerely,

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President

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