From:	Gonzales, Eva
To:	Azhderian, Ara; Deidre Sullivan (DeidreSullivan5@gmail.com); Donlon, Kelly L.; Jason Smith (jason.smith@smithfamilywines.com); John Baillie (john@celeryhearts.com); Jon Conatser; Kenneth O. Ekelund (ken@carmelcaninesports.com); Mark Gonzalez (markgonzalez51@gmail.com); Matt Simis; Mike LeBarre (mlebarre@kingcity.com); Mike Scattini (scat461@aol.com); Murray, Shaunna L.
Cc:	Fenley, Jessell M.
Subject:	FW: Revised Perspective on the San Antonio Spillway Replacement — A Data-Driven Commitment to Safety
Date:	Tuesday, July 8, 2025 8:24:00 AM
Attachments:	20250703 - San Antonio Reservoir Spillway Failure Risk.pdf

Good morning, Directors,

I hope this email finds you well, attached for your review is public comment email (below)/attachment received.

Thank you & have a great rest of your week,

Eva Gonzales, Senior Secretary – Confidential
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
1441 Schilling Place, North Building, Salinas, CA 93901
Contact: 831.788.3309 or gonzalese1@countyofmonterey.gov
Website: www.mcwater.info

From: Bill Lipe <william.o.lipe@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 3, 2025 11:29 PM
To: MC Water <OfficeAssistantII@countyofmonterey.gov>
Cc: Azhderian, Ara <AzhderianA@countyofmonterey.gov>; Murray, Shaunna L. <MurraySL@countyofmonterey.gov>
Subject: Revised Perspective on the San Antonio Spillway Replacement — A Data-Driven Commitment to Safety

Dear Director Ekelund and Members of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board,

For years, I've opposed the San Antonio Reservoir spillway replacement — not casually, but from a position of concern about cost, precedent, and its perceived linkage to the Interlake Tunnel. My stance has always been rooted in a commitment to public trust, fiscal prudence, and integrity in infrastructure planning.

But I've also come to believe that courage and honesty demand a re-evaluation when the evidence changes — or when we're finally ready to look at the whole picture.

Technical Clarity Over Assumption

Recently, I used @grok to run a detailed analysis of the reservoir's capacity to pass the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) with the current, broken spillway. The results, paired with

your team's thoughtful guidance and open dialogue, have been humbling.

Here are the key findings from that work:

- **The PMF is projected to bring inflows between 120,000 and 240,000 acre-feet**, based on sustained flows of at least 20,000 cfs over 3–6 days.
- **Current outlet works (2,200 cfs)** can release only 13,000–26,000 acre-feet in that time frame.
- **Available storage (83,750 acre-feet)** under the winter rule curve leaves us short — dangerously so.
- **Combined capacity tops out at roughly 109,750 acre-feet**, well below even the low-end PMF estimate.
- **The original spillway was designed for 35,400 cfs**, and without it, DSOD compliance simply isn't achievable.

The risk of overtopping and dam failure isn't theoretical. It's mathematically inevitable under extreme conditions, and that risk, to me, is unacceptable.

On the Tunnel Concern

My opposition was never to dam safety — it was to the fear that a new spillway would quietly greenlight the Interlake Tunnel. That concern was valid in past contexts, when the two were more entwined.

However, after direct assurance from GM Azhderian and seeing the project clearly delineated in scope, I now accept — and support — the spillway replacement as a **standalone safety imperative**.

Integrity Means Admitting When the Math Wins

What changed my mind wasn't politics. It was the data. It was @grok's cold calculations. And it was the thoughtful, principled counsel from Director Ekelund and GM Azhderian that helped separate this decision from everything it used to be tied to.

That's what leadership looks like. And it's what I intend to model now by standing behind this project.

Path Forward

I respectfully support the following:

- **Immediate Repair of the Spillway:** To restore DSOD compliance and protect lives downstream.
- **Clear Documentation of Project Separation**: Maintain a transparent and permanent record that this replacement is unrelated to the Interlake Tunnel.

- **Continued Public Engagement**: Keep the community informed and involved so that consent is not implied — it's active.

Thank you for your patience, diligence, and commitment to safeguarding Monterey County. I stand ready to support this project, not as a concession, but as a recalibrated act of service rooted in responsibility, courage, and the humility to change course when the facts require it.

Sincerely,
Bill Lipe

Salinas, 93908