

From: [MC Water](#)
To: [Donlon, Kelly L.](#); [Azhderian, Ara](#); [Murray, Shaunna L.](#)
Cc: [Fenley, Jessell M.](#)
Subject: FW: Supplemental Submission – FPPC Complaint No. COM-04222025-01091
Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 7:41:16 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning, Kelly, Ara, and Shaunna,

Please see email below. Let me know if anything else is needed on admin's end.

Thank you,



From: Bill Lipe [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 4:15 PM
To: complaint@fppc.ca.gov
Cc: vgreer@fppc.ca.gov; MC Water <OfficeAssistantII@countyofmonterey.gov>; ClerkoftheBoard <cob@countyofmonterey.gov>
Subject: Supplemental Submission – FPPC Complaint No. COM-04222025-01091

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Dear Enforcement Division,

I respectfully submit this supplemental reflection in connection with the above-referenced complaint.

On June 2, 2021, I sat as a member of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency's Basin Management Advisory Committee, while also serving concurrently as a Director on the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA). That morning, under Agenda Item 2, the Committee was set to recommend that the Agency enter into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey and the SVBGSA—the very board on which I served.

Before the item was called, a respected Agency staff member, Mr. Howard Franklin, quietly approached. He suggested that while there may not be a technical conflict, the appearance could be questioned—and appearances, as we know, matter deeply in public life. I took his advice to heart. I announced my recusal, stepped back from the dais, and took no part in the deliberation or the vote.

It wasn't a grand gesture. No headlines. No controversy. Just a small, ordinary moment guided by respect—for the process, the public, and those seated beside me.

I think often of that moment when I reflect on the present matter involving the Zone 2B rate-setting votes. At the April 15, 2024 meeting, Director Michael Scattini shared openly, in his own words:

“...It just so happens I lease property from a trust my family runs. So yes, obviously, that makes it... real for me. I don’t want to tell my family members, ‘Hey, we’re raising your rates’ right after we renew leases.”

It was a moment of candor, and I appreciate candor. But it’s also the kind of moment that gives pause.

This is not to judge or accuse. I share my own story not as contrast, but as reminder: recusal is not a punishment. It is not a statement of guilt. It is a signal of reverence—for the role, for the institution, and for the public watching.

The June 2, 2021 meeting is not available on Legistar. The video and minutes are not currently public-facing. But the record likely exists. I offer this account under oath, and am confident it will be found exactly as I’ve described, should you wish to look.

Thank you again for considering this additional context.

With respect and humility,
William O. Lipe
Salinas, California