

## Lundquist, Erik x5154

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**From:** mcopperma@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 6, 2022 1:47 AM  
**To:** Lundquist, Erik x5154; sandovalcl@co.monterey.ca; us@aol.com  
**Subject:** Proposed Amendment to Monterey County Code Chapter 10.72.030(B) and Request for Preparation of a Full EIR

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To: Monterey County Board of Supervisors  
From: Margaret-Anne Coppernoll

The purpose of this message is to express my opposition to the proposed amendment to the Monterey County Code Chapter 10.72.030(B) and to request preparation of a full and comprehensive Environmental Impact Report (EIR) rather than the proposed negative declaration that would circumvent legal provisions.

In this regard, I fully support the position of the Ag Land Trust. CEQA requires a full, comprehensive EIR prior to conducting a public hearing on this issue due to the seriousness of the projected impact on the environment and affected communities, farmers, residents, and businesses. The ordinance, in place since 1989, was instituted precisely to protect and preserve the environment, communities, and the critically over drafted Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. The State of California executed the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in order to mandate plans be implemented to protect, restore, preserve and sustain these precious potable water aquifers that would be irreparably damaged and contaminated with further seawater intrusion should private enterprises be allowed to construct desalination plants anywhere in the vicinity of this protected vital resource or along the coastal areas. The subject ordinance requires that only public ownership be allowed to own any desalination plants due to the serious nature of the local coastal plans and the threat of permanent harm that would occur should the ordinance be amended to allow what multiple local coastal plans are designed to prevent.

The Ag Land Trust has provided you with a thorough analysis and discussion on the history, background and future implications and consequences should the proposed amendment proceed without regard to the legal constraints and CEQA requirements put in place for a full, comprehensive Environmental Impact Report, which must be accomplished prior to conducting a public hearing on this issue. It is imperative that CEQA be adhered to and that all the concerns presented in the Ag Land Trust letter be considered with the utmost attention. Wisdom and sound leadership support undertaking the preparation of this recommended EIR to ensure all parameters are taken into account. Prevention is worth all the effort and is far less costly than undoing a serious error in judgment.

All of us should be grateful to Ag Land Trust for taking the initiative to craft such a thorough, well expressed and detailed discussion of what is involved in the proposed amendment to an ordinance that has served Monterey County so well since 1989 in protecting our irreplaceable, invaluable environmental assets.

Very respectfully,

Margaret-Anne Coppernoll, Ph.D.  
Marina