



## NWP NACIMIENTO WATER PROJECT

San Luis Obispo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

**San Luis Obispo County FC&WCD**  
John R. Hollenbeck, P.E.  
Nacimiento Project Manager

**Commissioners**  
John Peschong, SLO County FC&WCD  
John Hamon, City of Paso Robles  
Pamela Jardini, Templeton CSD  
Grigger Jones, Atascadero MWC  
Carlyn Christianson, City of San Luis Obispo

March 21, 2017

Chairman John Peschong  
SLO County FC & WCD  
County Government Center  
1055 Monterey Street, D430  
San Luis Obispo CA 93408

**SUBJECT: MCWRA Interlake Tunnel**

Dear Chairman Peschong:

The Nacimiento Water Project Commission continues to be concerned about the proposed Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) Interlake Tunnel project which is proposed to connect the Nacimiento Reservoir with the San Antonio Reservoir. Our previous letter of May 20, 2016 (copy attached) to then Chairperson Supervisor Debbie Arnold described our primary concerns of:

- protection of the reliability San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's contracted water
- the management plan for the reservoirs' water levels and water usage
- the anticipated actual operation of the tunnel and the transfer of water between the two lakes

We are aware that San Luis Obispo County staff has and continues to actively reach out to MCWRA staff regarding this project with special attention to our concerns. Also, San Luis Obispo County staff provides regular updates to our Technical Support Group and our Commission as information becomes available from MCWRA. However, our perspective is that MCWRA staff has not made our concerns a priority. With the passage of AB1585 (Alejo) last September providing \$10M dollars in funding and a recently approved \$4M engineering agreement with a consultant to design the project, it appears the project has developed substantial momentum. We request your Board take an active role in communicating and engaging your counterparts in Monterey County regarding this project, with special focus to our concerns. We hope that Monterey County elected officials will direct their staff to make coordination between our two Counties a priority. Addressing these issues at the onset rather than after the project is designed should avoid potential conflicts between our two Counties and could identify opportunities for mutual benefits to maximize project success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carlyn Christianson" followed by a horizontal line.

Carlyn Christianson  
Vice-Chairperson  
Nacimiento Project Commission

c: Wade Horton, County of San Luis Obispo Director of Public Works  
Simon Salinas, Monterey County Board of Supervisors District 3 Supervisor



**NWP NACIMIENTO WATER PROJECT**  
San Luis Obispo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

**San Luis Obispo County FC&WCD**  
Dean Benedix, P.E.  
Utilities Division Manager

**Commissioners**  
Frank Mecham, SLO County FC&WCD  
John Hamon, City of Paso Robles  
Judy Dietch, Templeton CSD  
Grigger Jones, Atascadero MWC  
Carlyn Christianson, City of San Luis Obispo

May 20, 2015

Chairperson Debbie Arnold  
Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
County Government Center  
1055 Monterey St., D430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

**Subject:** MCWRA Interlake Tunnel Project

Dear Chairperson Arnold:

The Nacimiento Project Commission is concerned the proposed Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) Interlake Tunnel project connecting the Nacimiento Reservoir with the San Antonio Reservoir could impact the reliability of San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) water entitlement. We hereby request and advise that a review of this project by the District regarding the impacts and opportunities it could have on the Nacimiento Water Project participants be undertaken.

The proposed Interlake Tunnel project consists of a 12,000 foot long, 10 foot diameter, gravity flow tunnel from the Nacimiento Reservoir to San Antonio Reservoir with spillway modifications at San Antonio to increase water storage. The Interlake Tunnel is reported to be designed to divert water from the Nacimiento Reservoir to San Antonio Reservoir that would have otherwise been spilled at Nacimiento Dam during high rainfall years. The Nacimiento River basin produces nearly three times the average annual flow compared to the San Antonio River basin, therefore, capturing high Nacimiento River flows and diverting those flows to San Antonio Reservoir increases the overall storage capacity of the reservoir system.

We believe the idea behind the Interlake Tunnel is good as it could save water that would spill over the Nacimiento Dam and flow to the ocean during high rain years and send it to San Antonio which historically has capacity for additional water because of its less productive watershed. However, the Interlake Tunnel will provide MCWRA a mechanism to transfer Nacimiento water potentially on an annual basis to San Antonio regardless of rainfall, thus reducing water storage in Nacimiento, due to the elevation of the inlet to the tunnel. Our primary concerns with the project is the actual operation of

the tunnel, how it will be used, how much water will actually be transferred from Nacimiento to San Antonio, and under what circumstances.

The Nacimiento Project Commission believes that the District should request that MCWRA provide a plan that details how the Interlake Tunnel project will be operated with assurance it will not reduce the reliability of the District's annual Nacimiento water rights. The plan should address issues including at what reservoir water elevation/inflow rates the tunnel will be operated and how flows from San Antonio will be managed to reduce the outflows from the Nacimiento Dam. In addition to requesting this operations plan, we advise the District to independently review the proposed project and analyze the potential impacts to the reliability of our water supply.

Additionally, the Nacimiento Project Commission believes that MCWRA's pursuit of the Interlake Tunnel project may provide an opportunity for the District to expand or improve its water rights which could benefit all of the Nacimiento Project participants (including potential new participants). Improvements that could be explored include the ability to have "carry-over" storage in the reservoir, or an increase in the annual allocation of 17,500 acre-feet. We urge the District to explore these options, and engage in discussion with MCWRA about these opportunities. We believe that any reduction in the reliability of water allocation due to this project should be offset. Furthermore, there may be willingness on the part of some of the Nacimiento Project participants (or future participants) to support or participate in the proposed Interlake Tunnel Project in some way if new benefits are made available.

Finally, the Nacimiento Project Commission requests that the District provide regular updates on the Interlake Tunnel project, including actions taken relative to the recommendations above and positions taken on the proposed project. These updates can be provided to our agencies through the Technical Support Group.

Sincerely,



Carlyn Christianson  
Chairperson  
Nacimiento Project Commission

cc: Wade Horton, San Luis Obispo County Public Works Director  
Simon Salinas, Monterey County Board of Supervisors District 3 Supervisor

# MONTEREY COUNTY

## WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

PO BOX 930  
SALINAS, CA 93902  
(831)755-4860  
FAX (831) 424-7935

DAVID E. CHARDAVOYNE  
GENERAL MANAGER



STREET ADDRESS  
893 BLANCO CIRCLE  
SALINAS, CA 93901-4455

April 27, 2017

Mayors Association  
c/o Deanna Sessums  
dsessums@cacities.org

Dear Ms Sessums:

The Agency currently has a vacancy on its Board of Directors due to the resignation of John Huerta. Initially, Mayor Joe Gunter of the City of Salinas and Mayor Mike LeBarre were the two nominations provided to the Board of Supervisors by the City Selection Committee. However, due to potential conflicts of interest, Mayor Gunter is no longer a nominee.

The Agency now requests that the City Selection Committee provide the Board of Supervisors an additional name to replace Mayor Gunter. The new appointee chosen to replace John Huerta would serve as a Director and would sit on one of three committees (either the Planning Committee, the Finance Committee or the Personnel/Administration Committee).

The Agency will defer requesting from the Mayors Association the appointment of individuals to the Basin Management Advisory Committee and the Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee until a Director has been appointed and is able to assist with the appointment.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

*David E. Chardavoynne*

# MONTEREY COUNTY



## CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**GAIL T. BORKOWSKI**

168 West Alisal Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
SALINAS, CA 93901  
P.O. Box 1728  
SALINAS, CA 93902  
(831) 755-5066, Fax: (831) 755-5888  
cob@co.monterey.ca.us

May 5, 2017

Chair David Hart  
General Manager David Chardavoyne  
Clerk Alice Henault  
893 Blanco Circle  
Salinas, CA 93901

Re: Appointment to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors

Dear Chair Hart, Mr. Chardavoyne and Ms. Henault,

On Friday, May 5, 2017, the Monterey County City Selection Committee submitted the names of nominees Mayor Fred Ledesma (Soledad) and Mayor Mike LeBarre (King City) for consideration of appointment, by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors of the Water Resources Agency, to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors for an unexpired term ending December 31, 2017

Contact information for Mayor Fred Ledesma is as follows:

City Council  
248 Main St.,  
P.O. Box 156  
Soledad, CA 93960  
Ph: (831) 223-5014  
Fx: (831) 223-5091  
ledesmains@yahoo.com

Contact information for Mayor Mike LeBarre is as follows:

City Manager/City Clerk Department  
212 So. Vanderhurst Avenue  
King City, California 93930  
(831) 385-3281 phone  
(831) 386-5935 fax  
mlebarre@kingcity.com

If you need further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me at (831) 755-5066.

Best regards,

Gail T. Borkowski  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Monterey

Cc: Mayor Ledesma  
Mayor LeBarre  
CSC File