



September 14, 2012

Monterey County Board of Supervisors
Dave Potter, Chair
P.O. Box 1728
Salinas, CA 93902-1728

VIA: E-mail

RE: Draft Well Ordinance

Dear Chair Potter and Supervisors:

Monterey County Farm Bureau represents family farmers and ranchers in the interest of protecting and promoting agriculture throughout our County. We strive to improve the ability of those engaged in production agriculture to provide a reliable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of our local resources.

We have previously expressed our concern with the process of developing a revised well ordinance at prior meetings and workshops; we remain concerned that the process has not included critical elements important to the Agricultural community of the Salinas Valley, mainly because input has not been sought directly from the farmers and ranchers of the Valley.

Last month the Agricultural Advisory Committee requested that that a hold be placed on the draft ordinance and the language development process, along with the interim guidelines, so that local stakeholders could provide input into the language. We fully support the use of sound science and practical application when developing any language for new requirements; otherwise there will be unintended consequences for well drillers and farmers.

The process of developing such an important ordinance to our County should be open, all inclusive, and not based on broad assumptions or a one-size-fits-all characterization. All coastal and inland well requirements should be articulated separately in distinct, unique ordinances.

We agree with the Agricultural Advisory Committee that an ad-hoc group should be convened to review all new requirements, clarify the current draft language, and follow the full intent of the water policies of the General Plan. Without this broad sense of collaboration the process will be bogged down with dissention and uncertainty.

Our request is that you place a hold on any further development of the well ordinance until such time that a broader base of input is achieved. This will ensure that we have an ordinance that is supported throughout the County and helps to solve problems, not inflame them.

Sincerely,



Norman C. Groot
Executive Director

September 20, 2012

Monterey County Board of Supervisors
Dave Potter, Chair
P.O. Box 1728
Salinas, CA 93902-1728

RECEIVED
MONTEREY COUNTY
2012 SEP 21 PM 4:31
CLERK OF THE BOARD

RE: Draft Well Ordinance

DEPUTY

Dear Chair Potter and Supervisors:

As a farmer in the Salinas Valley, I remain concerned with the process of developing a revised well ordinance for our county, based on policies of the revised General Plan update passed October, 2010. The process has not included critical elements important to the Agricultural community, mainly because our community's input has not been properly sought.

Last month the Agricultural Advisory committee requested that the draft ordinance and the interim guidelines be placed on hold. This was due to the lack of sound science in vetting the new requirements that will result in unintended consequences if implemented.

I fully support an open and fair process where the Agricultural community is allowed to provide input, and one that relies on sound and not broad assumptions. As currently drafted, the well ordinance falls short of the intentions of the water policies in the General Plan, and may be inconsistent because of vague language.

The Agricultural Advisory committee has requested that an ad-hoc committee be convened to review the current draft and offer suggestions to clarify language that follows the intent of the policies in the General Plan. I don't believe this process can move forward without the inclusion of local farmers who know best how their wells operate, what is required for efficient farm operation, and how new and replacement wells should be developed in our diverse environment. Furthermore, I support a separation of the coastal and inland well ordinances to address specific issues unique to both areas.

Please instruct County departments involved in the development of the well ordinance to work with stakeholders more closely to develop a solid ordinance that helps solve problems, not creates more. Until this happens, I request that a hold be placed on any further development of the revised well ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Pisoni
Pisoni Farms
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