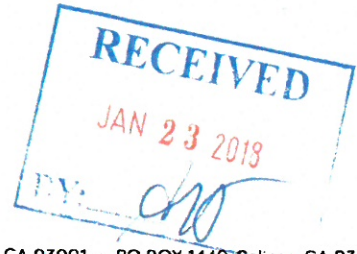




**FARM BUREAU  
MONTEREY**



1140 Abbott Street, Suite C, Salinas, CA 93901 • PO BOX 1449, Salinas, CA 93902

office (831) 751-3100 • [www.montereycfb.com](http://www.montereycfb.com)

January 22, 2018

Monterey County Board of Supervisors  
Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors  
Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors  
Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors

**RE: Seawater Intrusion in Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin**

Dear Supervisors and Directors:

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 advocated for developing and preserving reliable water supplies for nearly our entire 100 year history.

Seawater intrusion into the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin (SVGB) was first detected in the late 1930's and 1940's, nearly 80 years ago. Throughout the ensuing decades, landowners and others have responded to this water supply threat by building numerous water development projects aimed at preserving our groundwater supplies. These include the two reservoirs in the south, the Salinas Valley Water Project, the Salinas River Diversion Project, and the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project. Collectively, we were on the cusp of showing progress in greatly reducing further intrusion until the drought hit in 2012 and water recharge flows were impinged. Up to that point in time, the seawater intrusion maps, produced by Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA), showed that intrusion lines were slowing or even halting in the monitored areas and layers of the aquifers, indicating that these water development projects were having the expected impacts as envisioned many decades ago.

Recent MCWRA maps indicate that intrusion has continued to advance; debate over circumstances seems to indicate the largest area of concern is the vertical transfers into lower aquifer layers due to possible well leakage. Other areas showing greater intrusion are newly included data collection points that were previously unavailable to MCWRA in their data analysis and map preparation.

Monterey County has a strong well permitting process that evaluates a number of circumstances, including impacts to local wells in existence, as well as interconnections between surface and groundwater flows, especially for high-capacity wells. Over the past decade, while new wells have been approved, the review process for permitting drilling of new wells has successfully determined impacts to the groundwater basins. For high-capacity wells, this

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permitting process involved both MCWRA and the County Health agency, so two sets of review are undertaken nearly independently. There seems to be no direct correlation to the number of wells approved throughout this time frame and the expansion of seawater intrusion lines.

In October 2017, MCWRA presented a set of recommendations for consideration by the MCWRA Board of Directors, including the MCWRA Board of Supervisors, and ultimately the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. Included in this set of recommendations was a moratorium on new well permits for various levels of the aquifer layers within defined regional boundaries. We appreciate that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors agreed to a 90-day period of collaboration on these recommendations by all four of the entities listed on this letter; the chance to collaborate on these important decisions provides an opportunity for stakeholder input and consideration, including from the agricultural community that is reliant on water for its economic vitality, and indeed, the entire County's economic sustainability.

On behalf of the Board of Directors for Monterey County Farm Bureau, we assert that a decision to impose a moratorium on new wells, in any aquifer or geographic area, is *unnecessary* as a hasty reaction to a problem that has been long known and substantially documented for many decades during which landowners have assessed themselves to fund and develop water resource projects built to contend with this problem. Our reasoning is as follows:

- The present well permitting process addresses adverse impacts to groundwater sub-basins, including influences on neighboring wells, with enough parameters that allow conclusions to be drawn in the instance of the seawater intruded areas. We support this process as determining ultimately if a new well should be permitted, no matter the location or the aquifer level intended to be accessed for groundwater extractions.
- Optimization and expansion of the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project should be a priority of both MCWRA, Monterey One Water, and the County. Optimization would address current pressure issues in the system, requiring less reliance on supplemental wells to supply water for pressurization; expansion would provide the opportunity to include more acres in the distribution area that would then reduce reliance on groundwater extractions. We see this as an essential, long-term element of managing seawater intrusion in the coastal zone.
- MCWRA should begin discussions with the County to investigate management of the Salinas River stream maintenance program; vegetation management, including removal of exotics, will allow more water to percolate to the groundwater basin that is currently consumed by this vegetation. The 2013 study on vegetation water consumption indicated that 30,000+ acre feet of water could be percolated to groundwater by consistent vegetation management and removal of *Aurundo donax* (for example). Since this amount of water approximates the estimated shortfall for sustainability of the groundwater basin, we see this as an important component of not only addressing seawater intrusion but also a provision of the SGMA sustainability plan. Permits are in place for the entire reach of the Salinas River for this maintenance program; the County could address this

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workload consistently rather than relying on landowners to voluntarily undertake the workload, creating a patchwork that fails to achieve proper channel maintenance.

Farmers and landowners are fully aware of the implications that expanded intrusion brings to our groundwater basin, and have paid for projects that are helping to address this threat to our water supply. We request that thoughtful consideration be given prior to making any decision relating to the recommendations of MCWRA is made, including any moratorium that may be imposed unnecessarily.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Norman C. Groot  
Executive Director

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**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

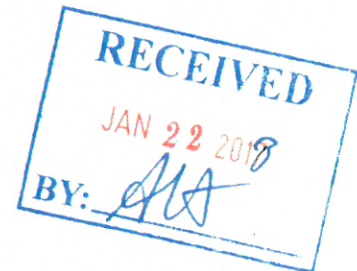
1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001  
(916) 653-5791



JAN 17 2018

Mr. David Chardavoyne, General Manager  
Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
Post Office Box 930  
Salinas, California 93902-0930

San Antonio Dam, No. 1008.002  
Monterey County



Dear Mr. Chardavoyne:

This is in reply to your letter dated December 22, 2017, enclosing the inundation maps for San Antonio Dam. This submittal was made in response to the requirements of Division 3, Part 1, Chapter 4, Section 6161(a) of the California Water Code.

The Division is reviewing inundation maps based on the priorities specified in Section 6161(d) of the Water Code. We will notify you as to our progress in reviewing your submitted information or if additional information is required.

In addition, upon our approval, your inundation maps will be made publicly available as required by Section 6161(c) of the Water Code.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Design Engineer Jesse Dillon at (916) 227-4639 or Project Engineer Wallace Lam at (916) 227-4626.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Erik J. Malvick'.

Erik J. Malvick, Acting Chief  
Design Engineering Branch  
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: Mr. Jose Lara, Chief  
Dam Emergency Action Planning  
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services  
3650 Schriever Avenue  
Mather, California 95655

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Office of Energy Projects  
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections – San Francisco Regional Office  
100 First Street, Suite 2300  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3084  
(415) 369-3300 Office – (415) 369-3322 Facsimile

January 10, 2018

In reply refer to:  
Project No. 6378-CA  
NATDAM No. CA00812

Mr. Brent Buche  
Chief of Operations and Maintenance Division  
Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
P.O. Box 930  
Salinas, CA 93902-0930

Re: Sixth Independent Consultant's Safety Inspection Report for Nacimiento Dam

Dear Mr. Buche:

We have completed our review of the Sixth Independent Consultant's Safety Inspection Report (CSIR) and updates (dated July 2014) to the Supporting Technical Information Document (STID) for Nacimiento Dam, which is part of the Nacimiento Project, FERC No. 6378. The CSIR was submitted with your July 30, 2014 cover letter.

Our review concludes that the scope and contents of the Sixth CSIR generally fulfill the requirements of Part 12, Subpart D, of Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Our comments on your plan and schedule for addressing the report recommendations are included in the Enclosure. No further action is necessary regarding the Sixth Part 12 report. The Seventh CSIR is due by December 31, 2018.

Within 30 days of the date of this letter, please provide a response to our comments or a plan and schedule to address our comments. We appreciate your cooperation in this aspect of the Commission's dam safety program. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Michael Vail at (415) 369-3346.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Frank L. Blackett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F" and "B".

Frank L. Blackett, P.E.  
Regional Engineer

Enclosure

# MONTEREY COUNTY

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## WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

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

DAVID E. CHARDAVOYNE  
GENERAL MANAGER



STREET ADDRESS  
1441 Schilling Place North Building  
SALINAS, CA 93901

January 24, 2018

John Paasch, Branch Chief  
Department of Water Resources  
Hydrology and Flood Operations Office  
Flood Operations Branch  
3310 El Camino Ave, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95821-9000

Re: Grant Application for Statewide Flood Emergency Response Program

Dear Mr. Paasch:

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) herewith submits two hard copies and an electronic version of an application for a competitive grant in the amount of **\$170,535** to apply for, plan, design, and implement a Flood Emergency Response Project for the **Completion of the migration of the Monterey County Flood Warning System from ALERT to ALERT2.**

This application is pursuant to an authorizing resolution of the Board of Directors of the MCWRA dated November 20, 2017. The application includes the following forms and supporting materials:

- A1. Application Cover Letter
- A2. Application Cover Sheet
- A3. Applicant Information
- A4. Lead Authorizing Resolution
- A5. Partner Agency Letter of Commitment
- A6. Applicant's Authority and Capability
- A7. Environmental Information Form
- A8. Project Scope of Work
- A9. Project Schedule
- A10. Project Budget
- A11. Statement of Financial Capability
- A12. Maintenance Plan Outline

A13. Local Flood Safety Plan Content and Format

The work plan, budget, and schedule for this application are being prepared by the MCWRA in consultation with staff from the Division of Flood Management, Hydrology and Flood Operation Office, Flood Operations Branch. We appreciate the help provided by the Department of Water Resources and your staff.

Please call Germán Criollo at (831) 755-4941 or email him at [criollog@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:criollog@co.monterey.ca.us) if you have any questions during your review.

Sincerely,

*David P. Chardavoyne*

Enclosure(s)

## **Attachment A2. Application Cover Letter**

### **Part A - Organizational, Financial, and Legal Information**

**State of California, The Natural Resources Agency, Department of Water Resources**  
Application for a Competitive Grant under Proposition 84, The Safe Drinking Water,  
Water Quality & Supply, Flood Control, River & Coastal Bond Act of 2006 (Section  
75032 of Chapter 3 of Division 43 of the Public Resources Code).

**The Monterey County Water Resources Agency**  
**1441 Schilling Place- North Building**  
**Salinas, CA 93901**

of the County of Monterey State of California, does hereby apply to the California  
Department of Water Resources for a grant in the amount of **\$170,535** for the  
planning and implementation of the following program under the:

**Completion of the Migration of  
the Monterey County Flood  
Warning System from ALERT to ALERT2**

By David E. Chardavoyne  
David E. Chardavoyne  
General Manager

Date 25 January 2018

Telephone (831) 755-4860

Fax (831) 424-7935

E-mail ChardavoyneDE@co.monterey.ca.us