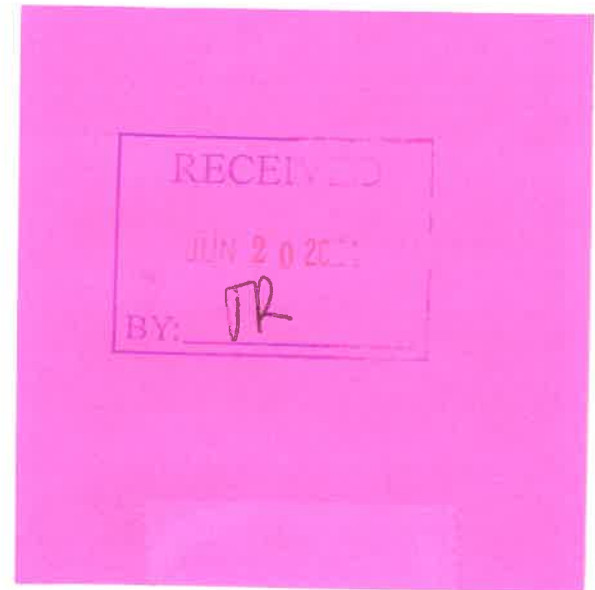




June 15, 2024

Glenn Church, Chair
Monterey County Board of Supervisors
168 West Alisal Street
Salinas, CA 93901
Subject: Deep Aquifer Study



Dear Chair Church and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The League of Women Voters of Monterey County has studied water issues in Monterey County since 1982. We reviewed the Deep Aquifer Study. We offer the following comments for your consideration:

1. The Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) has recommended staff begin discussions with other affected agencies to develop a plan to implement the study's recommendations. It is our understanding that their staff's position is a) there are several ways to assure that there is no net increase in groundwater extractions from the Deep Aquifer, and b) that the authority to limit well permits falls within the jurisdiction of Monterey County Water Resources Agency, not the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
2. The SVBGSA and the County both have authority to place a moratorium on new wells in the Deep Aquifer, and both declined to do so based on a previous recommendation by Monterey County Water Resources Agency. Given the severity of the overpumping, has grown more severe during the study period, we urge the SBGSA and/or the Board of Supervisors to implement a moratorium on new and replacement wells as an interim measure until the affected agencies recommend a different and more effective approach.
3. While working collaboratively to develop ways to implement the study's recommendation is important, there is no time frame for the undertaking. Further delay does not address the urgency of addressing the overdraft and may lead to more wells being permitted to extract groundwater from the Deep Aquifer, which occurred during the study period.

The League of Women Voters of Monterey County requests that the Board of Supervisors act to reinstate a moratorium on new and replacement wells with a sense of urgency.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent situation.

Respectfully,



Tama Olver
President, League of Women Voters of Monterey County
P.O. Box 1995
Monterey, Ca. 93942

Cc: Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Cc: **Monterey County Water Resources Agency**