

# Exhibit 1

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# County of Monterey

## Board of Supervisors

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Clerk of the Board  
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September 12, 2024

Jonathan Weininger, District Engineer  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Drinking Water, District 5  
1 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Building 1, Suite 120  
Monterey, CA 93940

**Re: San Lucas Drinking Water Solutions**

Dear Mr. Weininger:

On behalf of the County of Monterey, we appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the “Draft Engineering Report, San Lucas Water System Improvements” and the “Technical Memo, San Lucas Feasibility Study Peer Review” released in July 2024.

San Lucas is a small, disadvantaged farming community located in unincorporated Monterey County approximately eight miles south of King City. The community water system (approximately 100 connections) is owned and operated by the San Lucas County Water District (District). The community has faced persistent water quality problems since 2006. In 2011, a “do not drink” order was issued, and despite establishing an alternative well to serve the community, a second “do not drink” order was issued in 2016. The lack of safe, affordable drinking water for the community has also caused a nearly 20-year delay of a severely needed affordable housing project in San Lucas.

The County and the District have been working with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to identify potential solutions to address the water quality issues. The 2024 Technical Memo outlines project alternatives, including:

- Alternative 1: Intertie with King City
- Alternative 2: Wellhead Treatment – Manganese Dioxide Filtration and Ion Exchange
- Alternative 3: Wellhead Treatment – Manganese Dioxide Filtration and Brackish

The County of Monterey **strongly recommends** the SWRCB proceed with **Alternative 1: Intertie with King City**.

The County has been pursuing the construction of a new pipeline to tie into the Cal Water system on the east side of King City and deliver water directly to the District water distribution tank. The pipeline is anticipated to be approximately 8.2 miles long and run along the eastern side of Highway 101 and the railroad line.

Alternative 1: Intertie with King City is preferred over the alternative projects identified in the Technical Memo, as the alternatives will impose a much higher long-term cost to the residents of San Lucas.

The focus of the solution should begin by having a robust conversation with possible funders, including but not limited to the County of Monterey, the EPA, the CPUC, Cal Water, State Water Board, State



Legislators, our Congressional Delegation, and others. The issues raised with the intertie can be easily addressed if these partners are put at a table for a meaningful conversation. Please prioritize this conversation after the general election to allow for a robust dialogue about funding the only real, long-term solution on the table. San Lucas simply cannot afford the other options being put on the table and the inevitable financial insolvency it will create will financially destroy low income families, limit much needed development and put us back in the vicious cycle we have been trapped in once again.

For these reasons, the County of Monterey urges the SWRCB to proceed with Alternative 1: Intertie with King City and help solve the drinking water crisis in the community of San Lucas. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the County of Monterey's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Church", written in a cursive style.

**Glenn Church, Chair**  
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Anna Caballero, 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable John Laird, 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta, 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
State Water Resources Control Board Members