

[WRA LETTERHEAD]

Dr. Juliet Christian-Smith  
Deputy Director Water Rights  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street,  
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support for Modifications to the Cease-and-Desist Order WR 2016-0016

Dear Dr. Christian-Smith:

On behalf of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency), I write to express our support for the October 24, 2025, application by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (District) to modify Cease-and-Desist Order WR 2016-0016 (CDO), and more specifically, "Condition 2", which has limited the setting of new water meters and restricted increases in water use at existing connections within the service area of the California American Water Company on the Monterey Peninsula.

The CDO was established over 15 years ago to address conditions that no longer exist, namely excessive pumping from the Carmel River. While the range of future water supply and demand forecasts vary, the evidence is irrefutable that existing supplies exceed demand and that the Carmel River is no longer in jeopardy. In its application, the District proposes improvements to reporting that will provide the State Water Resources Control Board the data it needs to ensure that the legally allowable amount of water available from the Carmel River is not exceeded and offers triggers to reinstate enforcement if it is.

While the harm to the Carmel River has been abated, the harm to the residents of the Monterey Peninsula continues. Condition 2 inhibits the ability of local jurisdictions to meet the needs of Peninsula residents and to meet the State mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) in order to provide more affordable housing options for local workforce employees. Working to align business and housing interests while protecting the Carmel River is a win for the residents of the County of Monterey. For these reasons, we support the District's application and the State Board's timely modification of Cease-and-Desist Order WR 2016-0016.

Respectfully,

[SIGNATORY? WRA GM OR BOS CHAIR?]