

Please note that the Monterey Peninsula is not out of water. The order promulgated in the 1990's was a mistake.

The record will show that: (1) the Carmel River has historically run dry in the summer months--this has nothing to do with the aquifer underground which is our water supply, (2) the aquifer that supplies most of our water has NEVER dropped below 75%, and that was for one year in the 1970's when severe drought conditions did lead to rationing, (3) despite the drought years of the 1970's and later, the steelhead trout always returned when the river again flowed--claiming that the pumping of water when the river is already no longer flowing is simply a no-growth ploy, and (4) the addition of the Seaside well augmented the peninsula water supply and continues to supply water in excess of that supplying the peninsula in the 1990's.

The bottom line is that there is simply no bona fide reason to curtail water usage. A valid study, one conducted with a focus on modern conservation and data would show that the previous order was erroneous. To impose even greater conservation requirements at this time would be punishment where no crime has been committed. The quality of life of people should always trump saving a non-endangered fish, but there is simply no reason to choose in this case. The river runs intermittently as it always historically has. The fish come and go as the river flows. Please don't impose harsh punishments where no valid reason to do so exists. Thank you. Bill Connors

