

To Whom It May Concern;

By Monterey standards, my wife and I own a large piece of property located at 1127 Alta Mesa Rd., Monterey. Our 1/2 acre lot is zoned RE (residential estate) and we have approximately 52 trees on it. Over the past 11 years we have invested tens of thousands of dollars in natural landscaping and a state of the art irrigation system. Over that same period of time we've lost three oak trees and two pine trees to old age or insect infestation. In accordance with city policies my wife and I planted two new trees for every tree that died.

Despite the size of our property and our extensive plantings, our water consumption is much less than our neighbor's and that's by design. My wife and I capture and reclaim rain water, we have a system of rain gutter downspouts that feed into underground pipes that dip into cisterns or ponds where that water is collected and used for hand watering. Our irrigation system is so well designed and refined that minimal usage is required and very little water is wasted.

There are only two adults living at our home and we are very careful about internal water usage. Showers are short and dishwashing is done sparingly. My wife and I still remember the late 1970s when we were forced to use save bathwater for toilet flushing. We've been conscientious water savers for more than three decades but the water shortage on the Peninsula never ends.

California American Water, in conjunction with the Monterey Bay Master Gardeners Association, formally recognized my wife and I as having the best "Water Smart Gardening" home on the Peninsula. This year they contacted us and asked if we would be willing to host another Master Gardener tour of our home.

<http://www.montereybaymastergardeners.org/tour2009/braddock.htm>

If water rationing is imposed and arbitrary reductions established, those of us who have been extremely careful all along will be punished for our ongoing prudence and responsibility. In my case, our garden may not survive and that would destroy eleven years of love, investment, hard work and compliance with the letter and spirit of City of Monterey and Cal. American Water Company goals.

Arbitrary limits will hurt those of us who have voluntarily done the responsible things all along. I urge that you carefully consider this initiative.

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