

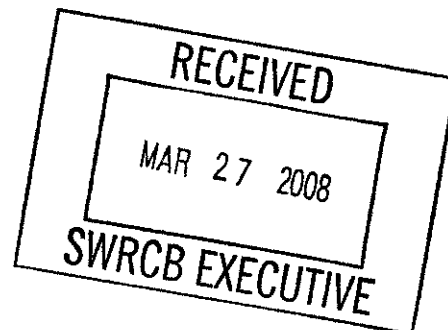
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Tam M. Doduc
Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: Order 95-10 and Proposed CDO

March 24, 2008

Dear Ms. Doduc,

In 1995 the SWRB issued order 95-10 and the Carmel River flooded taking out two bridges including the bridge on Highway 1. A coincidence but interesting and perhaps instructive.

I have loath to get too involved with the water issues on the Monterey Peninsula because too many of the parties that have involved themselves have no interest in an intelligent over-reaching solution and are more interested in their own narrow interests and agendas that have little or nothing to do with water resources. However, I am reaching out to you to add some intelligence and leadership to a process that can only, at best, be called dysfunctional.

I have some knowledge of water issues from my time, a quarter century ago, as Chairman of the City of Denton, Texas, Public Utility Board and coordinator of Denton's long range water plan. Thus I have watched in dismay, for over a decade, nothing truly constructive get done while tens of millions of dollars are wasted. At least Texan's publicly recognised their dysfunctional water rights system; "Whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting over."

~~There is no over-reaching leadership, only a series of bureaucrats seeking to protect and/or enlarge their domains. Hopefully you can change this.~~

Currently local and State Agencies are not working to a common goal. Some examples:

- 1) Several years ago CalTrans re-did the center island of Highway 1 and installed new plantings and an irrigation system at what CalTrans said was the insistence of the City of Monterey. At the time CalTrans told me the irrigation would only be used until the plantings were established. Some are now 8 foot tall. During the current rainy season the irrigation system is still on wasting an unknown number of acre feet of water.
- 2) The Public Utility Board rewards CalAm with profits for mis-managing its' systems, including water "losses", allowing the silting of its' reservoirs and planning for projects that do not get implemented.
- 3) Conventional power plants use both potable and non-potable water while solar and wind power generation do not require any water. Both the State and Federal governments financially encourage installation of these alternate power systems with rebates and tax

credits. Meanwhile Monterey County permit fees for solar power are amongst the highest in the nation providing a dis-incentive.

- 4) The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District charges permit fees to homeowners who want to convert a bathtub into a shower that requires less water.
- 5) Local governments continue to authorize, some in fact encourage, new golf courses.
- 6) The Monterey County Health Department prohibits 'grey water' and rainwater systems for homeowners. (I know dogs are known to occasionally drink from a toilet but I don't see this as a valid reason to 'outlaw' these systems and waste potable water.)

When you enter the Monterey Peninsula from north or east you will be met by farms being irrigated using sprinklers. Your website proclaims: *"The State Board's mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations."* Drip irrigation is known to reduce water use by as much as 50% while improving crop yields. Why do you continue to allow this waste? Why isn't there an open discussion of buying water from farms at a fair price such that they can afford drip irrigation and help mitigate our water supply shortfall?

Eucalyptus trees and other non- native species of shrubs and trees are quite prevalent in Carmel Valley and seemingly protected by government agencies and citizens alike. In Australia they plant these trees to lower the water table! Studies and programs implemented in southern Africa have shown that removing foreign species of trees and brush can revive "dead" streams and rivers.

On the SWRB website there is a link to a project headed by the Carmel River Watershed Council. The project form states: *The goal of the Carmel River Watershed Council is to conduct a Watershed Assessment and develop a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan leading to implementation and adoption of appropriate management practices in the Watershed.* The project was begun in 1999 and the current project status is *"Too Soon to Tell"*. (Only French Broom and German Ivy are targeted.)

As you know the dams on the Carmel River are almost useless because of silt. The reduced flow of silt has several negative impacts on the environment, including both the river and our beaches that have been eroding. Going back to my opening paragraph; the dams no longer provide any flood protection. I have seen dams in Europe that have been in operation for over 100 years without becoming silt filled. Engineering and operating methods can prevent the problem.

With the bridge on Hwy 1 over the Carmel River destroyed by the 1995 flood the State declared an emergency so the re-building process could be accomplished quickly. We had a new bridge in less than 30 days. A bridge that even CalTrans admitted cost less and was probably better than that which would have resulted from their 'normal' process.

Is it time to short circuit the current process and declare an emergency to get something done??

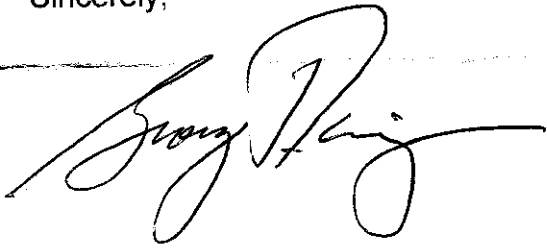
The Monterey Peninsula needs leadership with an understanding that a total system needs to be developed and implemented with coordination across all government agencies and involved utilities.

Can you provide that leadership?

Threats of fines is not the answer. Yes, it is possible that water 'takings' from the Carmel River might be reduced to the level called for in 95-10 by implementing the CDO but more likely all that will happen is our water prices will reach the highest level in the developed world. CalAm and the MPWMD will advertise about what a great job is being done and how we need to save more and if we don't fines of \$1000 per day may be imposed and these could be passed on to the rate payers. They will spend more than \$365,000 this year arm waving and taking full page ads and sending multiple mailings saying the same thing. Economically the best thing to do is nothing but pay the fine.

Unless leadership arrives soon we citizens are in a lose-lose situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gray King". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter Drucker, the noted management guru, said: "A plan is not a plan until it degenerates into action."