



## Monterey Bay Aquarium

886 CANNERY ROW  
MONTEREY, CA 93940  
831.648.4800

July 6, 2016

Mr. Matthew Quint  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Rights  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, California 95812-2000

Dear Mr. Quint,

I am writing regarding draft language proposed by Board staff to modify Cease and Desist Order WR 2009-0060 affecting California-American Water Company and the Carmel River. I am deeply concerned that if adopted, the proposed language will be a major setback to the nonprofit Monterey Bay Aquarium's ability to expand our services to California's students and teachers, in turn impeding our shared goal to build a statewide constituency for watershed protection.

The mission of the Monterey Bay Aquarium is to inspire conservation of the ocean. Toward this end, one of our most critical long-term goals has been to build the next generation of science-literate environmental leaders for our state. In the past three decades, more than 2.3 million students and tens of thousands of teachers have gained skills and knowledge through our science-based ocean and watershed education programs.

Demand for our services outgrew our limited classroom space at the Aquarium many years ago and we at last have been able to locate a suitable site for a new learning facility on Cannery Row. A Use Permit for the Center for Ocean Education and Leadership is now in hand, we are close to raising the necessary funds, and we are eager to move ahead with the remaining regulatory approvals. This new space will enable us to double the number of teachers and students we serve with instructional programs. We'll house all of these programs in a new, LEED-certified building with a green roof, other storm water retention features and both active and passive solar energy systems. It will replace a structure that housed a restaurant, and 250-seat nightclub and bar.

Our ability to create a new Center will be jeopardized if the Board changes the community's rules under which water use associated with existing properties can be carried forward by new projects on the same properties. We've proceeded with our Education Center in reliance on the rules developed by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District – through a long and involved public process – that protect the Carmel River and allow a reasonable level of economic activity while a permanent water supply solution is completed. In particular, paragraph three of the Board's preliminary staff recommendation could be interpreted to prevent the Aquarium from relying on the District's water allocation for the Education Center's site because water use there has been lower in recent years.

The Monterey Bay Aquarium is but one of the many investments made possible through private philanthropy that have, collectively and with public support, made the Monterey Bay region a



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model for coastal and watershed protection. I am pleased and proud that our family foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, has helped make many of these model initiatives possible, from funding restoration of the San Clemente Dam to supporting Big Sur Land Trust and Trust for Public Land's coastal watershed acquisitions, to bringing Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute's innovative nitrogen monitoring technology to solve runoff problems in the Salinas River.

The community has worked long and hard to reach an agreement to meet the needs for returning water to the Carmel River to enable steelhead recovery. It would be unfortunate to lose this momentum with more delays that would surely result from continued debate. Let's focus on our most important goal: To continue to move forward with the exciting ecosystem restoration and protection initiatives that are underway, continuing California's leadership in demonstrating that a healthy economy and healthy natural systems can thrive together.

We appreciate your agency's dedication to our statewide resources and our team stands ready to answer any questions you may have. My staff will provide a follow-up letter with more specific comments before the July 13 deadline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Packard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Julie Packard  
Executive Director

Cc: Felicia Marcus  
Thomas Howard  
Marianna Aue  
Paul Bartkiewicz  
Ryan Bezerra