

## **Coalition of Peninsula Businesses**

### Highlights of 2014 and 2015 Focus

- ❖ The Coalition worked hard to secure approval of a test slant well by the Coastal Commission; the approved test well will provide important data on technological reliability and technical and hydrogeological data necessary to determine how much fresh water will be created and the long term viability of project based on the location.
- ❖ The Coalition made sure that Andy Clarke was appointed to fill the MPWMD Board vacancy created when a prior director resigned.
- ❖ The Coalition worked with a broad community group to assure the ill-timed Cal-Am buyout initiative Measure O was defeated.
- ❖ The Coalition worked with Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to help craft its first-ever exterior seating policy and through proof submitted showed that exterior seating did not necessitate more water use. We urged MPWMD to not develop a policy, but due to potential future rationing we agreed to the policy adopted. Exterior restaurant seating allowed up to 50% of existing interior seats with no requirement for a water permit.
- ❖ The Coalition participated as a party in Cal-Am's Public Utilities Commission rate case and opposed several rate increase requests. We have been instrumental in addressing commercial rates and surcharges directly with Cal-Am.
- ❖ The Coalition worked diligently with the Monterey City Council and community organizations to increase awareness of how Cal-Am rates are set and increase awareness that commercial ratepayers continue to subsidize residential rates. Our focus is to maintain fair rate structures for both commercial and residential.
- ❖ The Coalition is working closely with MPWMD to assure that as it modernizes its water conservation and rationing policies that the incredible water saving already accomplished by the commercial sector is acknowledged. To date, the work is favorable to the commercial sector and residential first tier uses.
- ❖ During 2015 the Coalition will analyze and distribute key points about the draft Environmental Impact Reports of the joint MPWMD-MRWPCA Groundwater Recharge project and Cal-Am's Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. Currently pressuring the Water Authority to perform a complete technical review of the dEIR for the Water Supply Project.
- ❖ The Coalition will file to be a party in Cal-Am's next rate case, due to be filed in 2015, in order to continue to protect area businesses and residents against unnecessary rate increases.
- ❖ Worked closely with the Authority, MPWMD and Cal-Am on specific concerns regarding the proposed amended cease and desist order. Critical that the SWRCB accepts the amended version based on a revised project schedule. With specific objectives to be met by Cal-Am and the community. The Water Supply Project will not hit the 12/31/16 deadline, nor will the Pure Water Project.
- ❖ We continue to monitor and question the long term viability and potential cost of the Pure Water Project, i.e. GWR. Current estimated completion date 12/31/17 to mid-year 2018.
- ❖ Coalition will remain an active member on the Authority's Technical Advisory Committee.