



MONTEREY COUNTY
HOSPITALITY
ASSOCIATION

Mr. Tom Luster
California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94101

October 13, 2022

RE: Support for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project

Dear Mr. Luster:

I am the Chairman of the Monterey County Hospitality Association and writing you today to express our support for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. Our organization represents hospitality, the number two industry in Monterey County. We currently employ over 25,000 of our local residents. The majority of the hospitality businesses are located on the Monterey Peninsula, in Cal American Waters' district, where they both live and work.

Many of our employees are minorities and for years have been unfairly targeted due to the lack water. For decades, there has been the inability for our community to build new affordable housing directly tied to no water being available to build. As a result, it has left us with virtually no workforce housing. Some employees have been forced to move and endure a long costly commute. Others have been forced to put multiple families in housing that is not adequate.

Solving the water shortage in Monterey County is a complex issue that requires more than one solution. As you know, other viable solutions are in the process of helping to solve our water issues; however, none of the other solutions are drought resistant.

It is critical that our employees have the ability to live and work in our community.

Approving the desalinization project will solve our issues and allow us to meet existing community needs, state-housing requirements, and ensure reliable water supplies are available for new housing to be built.

We urge you to support the desalinization project and end our decades' long battle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Watson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Watson
Chair, Monterey County Hospitality Association