



November 17, 2007

Delores Brown, Chief  
Office of Environmental Compliance  
California Department of Water Resource  
Post Office Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: Extension of Public Review Period for the Environmental Impact Report prepared for the Monterey Amendments to the State Water Project

Dear Ms. Brown:

On behalf of seven organizations that work together through a county-wide coalition called the Green Vision Project, we request the Department of Water Resource (DWR) extend the public review period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Monterey Amendments to the State Water Project (SWP) in order to provide agencies and the public with sufficient time to review and comment on the DEIR. Our detailed reasons for the extension are set forth below.

CEQA requires a review period that is sufficient to achieve the Act's objective for public review, which is to assist the lead agency in identifying potentially significant effects of a project, alternatives, and mitigation measures.

The Monterey Amendments to the State Water Project DEIR has implications of statewide significance including but not limited to the following, which must be carefully evaluated by those commenting on this Environmental Impact Report:

- The elimination of contract provisions that provide drought safeguards for urban areas. DWR's own analysis shows that in dry years like 2001, water supplies for homes and businesses in urban areas will be reduced by over 400,000 acre-feet (a reduction of 26% of total urban water deliveries from the SWP), if the Monterey Amendments are adopted;
- A give away of the state-owned Kern Water Bank, the largest water storage facility in California;
- The elimination of the common-sense provision in the original contract which required DWR to determine the realistic yield of the SWP. Without knowing the actual capacity of the SWP, DWR will continue to promise to deliver "paper water," water which actually does not exist in the real world. Already, the promise of paper water has led to over-reliance on the water from the fragile Bay-Delta, over-pumping, inevitable cutbacks in water supplies, and ultimately decreased water supply reliability;
- The transfer of millions of dollars in costs to California taxpayers, while rebating millions of dollars to individual water agencies; and

**FHBP Board of Directors**

Jean Watt, President  
Alice Sorenson, Vice President  
Don Thomas, Treasurer  
Carolyn Wood, Secretary

Stephanie Barger  
Denny Bean  
Jim Carr  
Debra Clarke  
Grace Dove  
Jack Eidt  
Evan Henry  
Helen Higgins  
Bob Joseph  
Lori Kiesser  
Manny Kiesser  
Theresa Sears  
Tina Thompson Richards  
Daryl Walezak  
Mike Wellborn

**Supporting Organizations**

Amigos de Bolsa Chica  
Audubon, Sea & Sage Chapter  
Caspers Wilderness Park Volunteers  
Earth Resource Foundation  
Equestrian Coalition of O.C.  
Environmental Nature Center  
Great Park Environmental Coalition  
Huntington Beach Wetlands  
Conservancy & Wildlife Care Center  
Laguna Canyon Conservancy  
Laguna Canyon Foundation  
Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.  
The Newport Conservancy  
Sierra Club, Orange County  
Surfrider Foundation, Newport Beach Chapter  
Stop Polluting Our Newport  
Upper Newport Bay Naturalists & Friends  
St. Mark Presbyterian Church  
Ecophillians

**Advisory Board**

Marian Bergeson  
Connie Boardman  
Marilyn Brewer  
Roy & Ilse Byrnes  
Laura Cohen  
Joe Dunn  
Roger Faubel  
Sandy Genis  
Louise Greeley  
Shirley Grindle  
Tom Harman  
Evelyn Hart  
Jack Keating  
Vic Leipzig  
Matt Rayl  
Claire Schlotterbeck  
Dan Silver, M.D.  
Jack Skinner, M.D.  
Nancy Skinner  
Jan Vandersloot, M.D.  
Dick Zembal

Post Office Box 9256  
Newport Beach, CA 92653-9256  
949-399-3669

[www.fhbp.org](http://www.fhbp.org)

- The encouragement of over-pumping of Delta water in the winter and spring months, which has already, under the provisional use of the Monterey Amendments, contributed to the massive decline of the Delta smelt and other Bay-Delta fish populations.

The document is massive in size and the issues addressed are extremely complex. Accordingly, we respectfully request that you extend the comment period on this DEIR for at least an additional 45 days, to enable to the public to have sufficient time to review and provide comments on this extensive project.

Your timely response to this request is necessary in order to ensure that members of the public can effectively plan their review of the DEIR. Thank you for your consideration of this request and your prompt attention to this matter.

Very Truly Yours,



Melanie Schlotterbeck  
Outreach Coordinator

The following organizations signed on to this letter as well:

Ed Amador, Canyon Land Conservation Fund  
Sherril Loveland, Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment  
Fern Pirkle, Friends of Newport Coast  
Lee Reeder, Inland Empire Waterkeeper  
Claire Schlotterbeck, Hills For Everyone  
Dan Silver, M.D., Endangered Habitats League