



Monterey One Water

Providing Cooperative Water Solutions

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June 28, 2021

City of Salinas
Community Development Department
Attn: Mr. Thomas Wiles
65 West Alisal Street
Salinas, CA 93901

RE: City of Salinas – Big Sur Land Trust – 618 Sherwood Drive – CEQA findings

Dear Mr. Wiles,

I am writing to document our concerns for the City's proposed *General Plan Land Use Amendment for the 73 Acres at 618 Sherwood Drive*.

Monterey One Water (M1W) has been a committed partner with the City of Salinas on several stormwater and Industrial Wastewater Facility projects. The Agency is a proponent of multi-beneficial projects which leverage local and state resources for aiding local communities. The Carr Lake Park and Recreational facility project is a local, community-supported concept, which M1W cannot support at this time.

M1W has worked tirelessly to support long-term solutions for sustainable water supplies for the Salinas Valley. One such effort was to apply for and obtain Water Rights on the Reclamation Ditch and the Blanco Drain. These water sources are being used to help provide valuable water supplies in addressing the critically over-drafted and seawater-intruded Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin thru the Salinas Valley Reclamation (SVRP) and the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Projects (CSIP). During times of drought, these new water sources become even more critical as additional supplies for SVRP.

M1W does not support the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Big Sur Land Trust Carr Lake. The Balance Hydrologics Report (Exhibit 52) did not provide enough information as to whether the dry weather flows from Hospital and Gabilan Creeks will be diverted from entering the Reclamation Ditch. The Report did recognize the Water Rights the Monterey County Water Resource Agency and M1W have on Reclamation Ditch flows (page 53). The statement that the project should not impact this downstream water right is not convincing as it lacks verification. Any loss of water from the Carr Lake project during the dry season would have downstream impacts on the Water Rights on the Reclamation Ditch.

We look forward to working with the City's team to develop a solution that does not impede dry weather flows from reaching the Reclamation Ditch to reduce any flows from reaching the newly, constructed diversion structure.

Sincerely,



Mike McCullough
Director of External Affairs

cc: Mr. David Jacobs, Director of Public Works
Mr. Brian Frus, Water, Waste & Energy
Mr. Steve Carrigan, City Manager
Ms. Christie Cromeenes, City Council Member
Ms. Kimbley Craig, Mayor
Mr. Paul Sciuto
Ms. Tamsen McNarie