



THE CITY OF MONTEREY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONTEREY TO EXPLORE HOUSING WATER SUPPLY OPPORTUNITIES WITH MARINA COAST WATER DISTRICT Topic on the August 1, 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting Agenda


Monterey, CA. – Monterey City Council will hear an item at the Tuesday, August 1 City Council 7:00 p.m. session that aims to tackle the gridlock between the lack of water supply for housing, and the City's commitment to plan for increased affordable housing. The City of Monterey must plan for 3,654 additional housing units to comply with the California Department of Housing and Community Development's required Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). The City estimates needing between 367 to 406 acre-feet of water to meet the regionally and State-required RHNA.

Preliminary conversations with the Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) indicate that there are opportunities to acquire water from MCWD's existing and future water supply to support affordable housing goals, as well as modest economic development.

City Manager Hans Uslar said, "The lack of water remains the main stumbling block to build additional affordable housing. Delivering water from the Marina Coast Water District into our City is a creative option to provide a realistic and immediately available supplement to current and future water solutions. We appreciate MCWD for the opportunity to collaborate."

The following options define a range of opportunities for future collaboration:

- Water Purchase from MCWD
 - This would require a MCWD wheeling agreement with Cal Am to transfer MCWD water to MCWD meters at the point of delivery.

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- Water purchase for former Fort Ord properties to increase existing water allocations on the City's parcels located at the former Fort Ord.
 - Using MCWD's abilities to acquire water from other sources (e.g., excess water from other water districts and or Land Use Jurisdictions)
 - Reactivation of an Existing MCWD-Owned Desalination Facility
 - There is a current opportunity to acquire up to 150 acre-feet of water from the Reservation Road Desalination Facility for the City of Monterey

The City of Monterey, like other communities within the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's boundaries, has been hamstrung by a lack of water supply due to a system of water credits, and decades-old restrictions on water. In 2009, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)'s Division of Water Rights issued a Cease-and-Desist Order (COO) requiring the region's private water system operator, California American Water (Cal Am), to reduce water diversions by 69 percent. These efforts were intended to reduce diversions of water from the Carmel River and the Seaside Groundwater Basin.

Two of the City of Monterey's Value Drivers focus on increasing water supply and supporting efforts to increase affordable housing. The City of Monterey continues to seek opportunities to increase water supply for affordable housing in creative ways, such as the opportunity to work with the Marina Coast Water District.

Visit isearchmonterey.org for the agenda report. Attend the meeting, participate online via Zoom, or watch on the City's YouTube Channel or the Monterey Channel 25 on Comcast.

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