

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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COMMENT FORM

California American Water Company (CalAm) Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project Draft Environmental Impact Report

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Check here if you do NOT want to be added to the CEQA mailing list.

Privacy Notice: All information provided on this form will become part of the public record. Unless indicated by you otherwise, you will automatically be added to the CEQA mailing list.

Your input on the proposed project is greatly appreciated. If you have comments on the accuracy and adequacy of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (MPWSP) you can submit your comments by turning in this completed comment form tonight in the comment box located at the sign-in table; faxing your comments to (415) 896-0332; emailing your comments to MPWSP-EIR@esassoc.com, or mailing them to the following address:

Attn: Andrew Barnsdale  
California Public Utilities Commission  
c/o Environmental Science Associates  
550 Kearny Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94108

Comments should pertain to the accuracy and adequacy of the Draft EIR prepared for the MPWSP. All comments must be received by the CPUC no later than July 1, 2015. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY.

Comment:

IT IS MY INTENT TO ~~REPRESENT~~ MULTIPLE EIR  
COMMENTS, ON VARIOUS DEFICIENCIES, AND WILL PROVIDE A  
NEW LEAD SHEET FOR EACH COMMENT.

THIS COMMENT IS REGARDING THE SLAUT TEST WELL  
PORTION OF THE DEIR, PER SECTION ES-3, SPECIFICALLY  
PAGE ES-5 (SEE ATTACHED) CAL AM WILL OPERATE THE  
TEST WELL FOR UP TO 18 MONTHS, AT WHICH TIME, IF  
THE TEST IS SUCCESSFUL, WILL CONVERT THE WELL

Comment Form for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project Environmental Review Process

Comment continued:

TO A PRODUCTION WELL. ATTACHED ALSO FOR YOUR REVIEW IS A CAL AM SLIDE FROM A RECENT PUBLIC PRESENTATION SHOWING THE TEST WELL CONVERSION.

IN A RECENT COURT FILING IN SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA, WHERE CAL AM IS BEING LEGALLY CHALLENGED ON THEIR TEST WELL PROGRAM, CAL AM ATTORNEYS TELL A VERY DIFFERENT STORY. SEE PAGE 2 - OPPOSITION BRIEF.

" THE TEST WELL PROJECT.. WILL BE DECOMMISSIONED.. THERE ARE NO WELLS WITHIN 5000 FEET... THE PROJECT IS BEST DESCRIBED AS A TEMPORARY SCIENTIFIC TEST..."

CERCLA IS VERY CLEAR THAT CONFLICTING TESTIMONIES ON PUBLIC DOCUMENTS IS A FATAL FLAW AND A VIOLATION OF LAW. QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED ON THIS TOPIC:

- 1) HOW DOES CAL AM RECONCILE THE NATURE OF THE TEST WELL IN THE DEIR, WITH THEIR PUBLIC COURT DEFENSE DOCUMENTS?
- 2) HOW DOES THE DEIR CONTAIN A TEST PERIOD OF UP TO 18 MONTHS WHEN THE COASTAL COMMISSION REQUIREMENT WAS NO LESS THAN 24 MONTHS? (SEE ES-5, NOTE 1.)
- 3) THE DEIR STIPUCATES THAT NO WELLS ARE IN EXISTENCE WITHIN 5,000 FEET (SLIGHTLY LESS THAN ONE MILE) AND YET THE FULLY OPERATIONAL AGLAND TRUST WELL IS VISIBLE FROM THE TEST SITE AND ONLY HUNDREDS OF FEET AWAY. HOW DOES CAL AM RECONCILE THIS OBVIOUS, POTENTIALLY FATAL, CERCLA AND SWRCB ERROR?

## ES.3 Description of Proposed Project

The project area extends approximately 14 miles, from the proposed MPWSP Desalination Plant site located in unincorporated Monterey County in the north to the western terminus of the proposed Monterey Pipeline in the city of Pacific Grove, and east approximately 8 miles to the unincorporated community of Hidden Hills along Highway 68 (see **Figure ES-2**). The MPWSP would include construction of up to ten subsurface slant wells and a desalination plant to produce approximately 10,627 afy of desalinated water, including 9,752 afy to meet service area demand and approximately 875 afy to return to the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. Under the proposed project, the MPWSP Desalination Plant would have a rated capacity of 9.6-mgd. The proposed project would also include improvements to the existing Seaside Groundwater Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) system facilities, which would enable CalAm to inject desalinated product water into the groundwater basin for subsequent extraction and distribution to customers. The proposed improvements to the ASR system would also increase the efficiency and long-term reliability of the ASR system for injecting Carmel River water into the groundwater basin. The proposed project also includes over 30 miles of pipelines, two pump stations, and water storage tanks.

To inform the final design of the subsurface slant wells and MPWSP Desalination Plant treatment systems, CalAm has constructed a test slant well at the CEMEX active mining area and will operate the test slant well for up to 18 months as part of a pilot program. The pilot program will confirm (or deny) the viability of the proposed subsurface slant wells at the CEMEX active mining area for source water production. Construction and operation of the test slant well was covered under separate environmental review<sup>1</sup> and is not part of the proposed project being evaluated in this EIR. However, if the subsurface slant wells are proven to be viable, CalAm proposes to convert the test slant well into a permanent well and operate it as part of the Seawater Intake System; the conversion and long-term operation of the well has not been covered by previous approvals and is, therefore, evaluated in this EIR as part of the proposed project. The test well is also considered in the cumulative analysis.

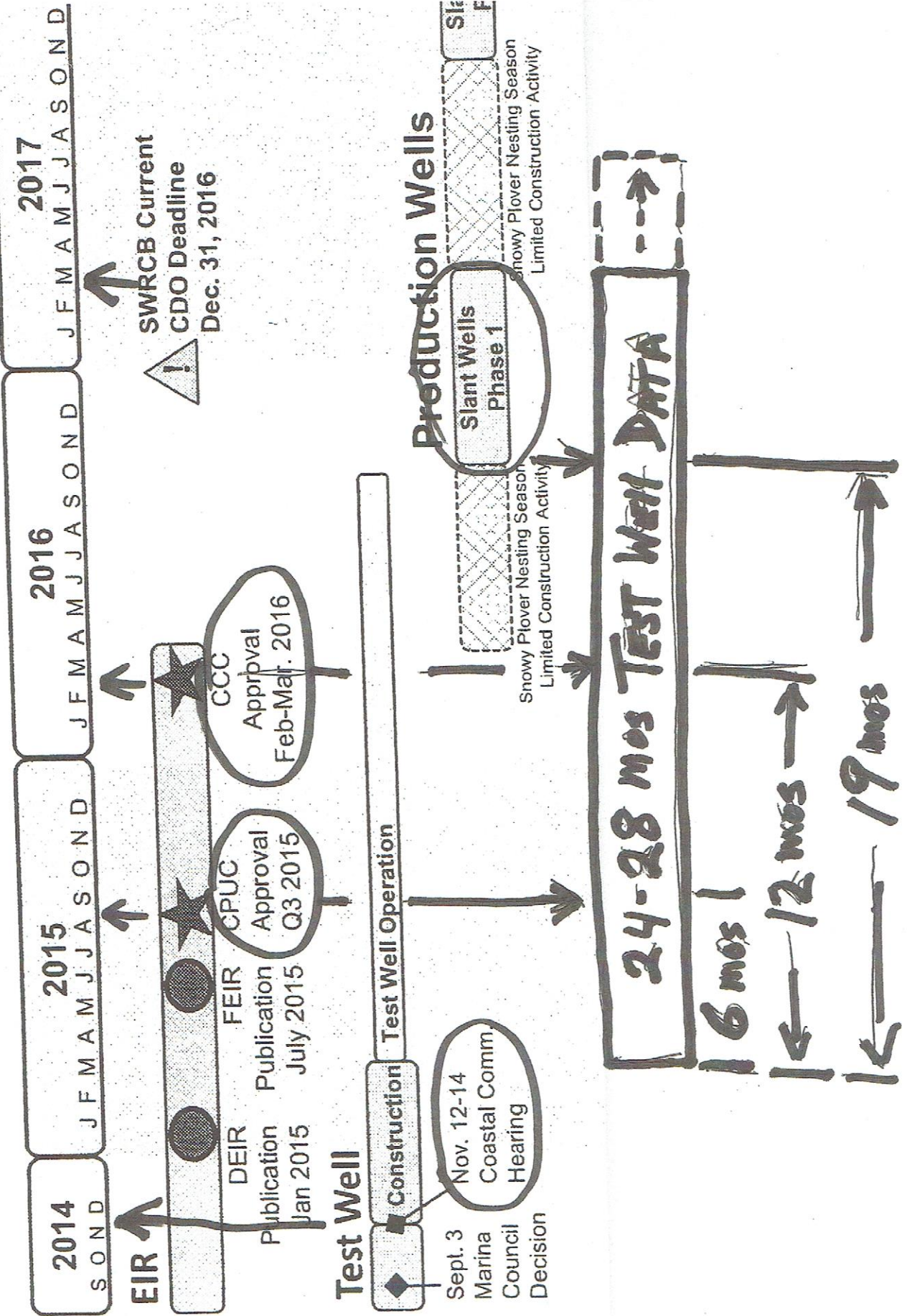
The MPWSP would be comprised of the following facilities:

- The Seawater Intake System, which would consist of 10 subsurface slant wells<sup>2</sup> (eight active and two on standby) extending offshore into Monterey Bay, and a Source Water Pipeline to convey the water to the desalination plant
- A 9.6-mgd desalination plant and appurtenant facilities, including pretreatment, reverse osmosis (RO), and post-treatment systems; backwash supply and filtered water equalization

<sup>1</sup> Environmental review covering the construction of the test slant well and operation of the pilot program was completed by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in accordance with NEPA requirements in October 2014 and by the California Coastal Commission (CCC) in accordance with CEQA requirements in November 2014. Coastal Development Permit 9-14-1735, adopted by the CCC in November 2014, permits all work above mean high tide elevation.

<sup>2</sup> The test slant well would be operated as part of the pilot program and later converted into a permanent well. The test well would be one of the ten wells.

# MPWSP Anticipated Schedule



1 **II. FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

2 **A. Background**

3 The water supply situation on the Monterey Peninsula is dire. AR3090-3091, 3107,  
4 4160. Cal-Am, which provides potable water supply to approximately 100,000 customers on the  
5 Monterey Peninsula, has been vigorously working for many years to obtain alternative water  
6 sources to decrease its reliance on the Carmel River for the Monterey region's water supply.  
7 AR3888, 4143. Orders issued by the State Water Resources Control Board ("State Board")  
8 require Cal-Am to significantly reduce its Carmel River withdrawals by the end of 2016, making  
9 development of a new water supply project in the region an urgent matter. AR732-795, 3547,  
10 2709-2710, 4160-4161. As such, Cal-Am has proposed and the California Public Utilities  
11 Commission ("CPUC") is evaluating the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project ("MPWSP"),  
12 a project that includes a full-scale desalination facility and other water supply system  
13 improvements. AR3540, 4241.

14 **B. The Test Well Project**

15 At issue in this case is Cal-Am's *temporary* test slant well at the disturbed CEMEX sand  
16 mining facility in the City of Marina (the "City"). AR2706, 4156. The Project will be  
17 constructed, operated, and decommissioned over approximately 24 to 28 months. AR2706-2707,  
18 4156-4157. The Project will remove primarily seawater from a sub-seafloor extension of the  
19 Dune Sand and 180-Foot Aquifers within the SVGB, which have been contaminated by seawater  
20 intrusion for decades due to past groundwater pumping. AR2708, 4158, 2740, 4191, 2098,  
21 2166-2170. Primary components of the Project include (1) the slant test wellhead, where the  
22 water is pumped, which is located about 650 feet from the shoreline and extends downward at  
23 close to a 20 degree angle from the surface to a point over 200 feet below sea level beneath  
24 Monterey Bay; (2) a minimum of four monitoring wells in the Project vicinity used to measure  
25 groundwater levels and water quality during the pump tests; (3) a disposal pipeline connecting to  
26 the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency's existing ocean outfall; and (4) other  
27 associated infrastructure. *Id.*

28

1 Due in part to the aquifers being seawater-intruded near the site, the closest active off-site  
2 wells in the vicinity are about 5,000 feet inland from the Project site. AR2740, 4191. The Project  
3 will not perforate any aquifers used or suitable for irrigation or human consumption. AR3531;  
4 3592; 2167 (“Water samples taken from the exploratory borings at the CEMEX site indicate that  
5 both the Dune Sand Aquifer and the 180-FTE Aquifer contain saline (salt) water and are  
6 substantially influenced by the sea. . .”).

7 The Project is best described as a temporary scientific test project. The Project will allow  
8 Cal-Am, with support from the Department of Water Resources, to gather data about the  
9 hydrogeological and water quality effects of using similar wells at or near the Project site to  
10 provide source water for potential future desalination facilities. AR2706, 4156, 1855. The data  
11 will assist resource agencies in assessing the future viability of slant wells here and around the  
12 State and inform the CPUC’s consideration of the MPWSP. AR2709, 4159, 2711, 4161, 1855.  
13 The data is also required to satisfy Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (“MBNMS”)  
14 guidelines requiring Cal-Am to investigate the feasibility of subsurface slant wells before  
15 moving forward with the MPWSP. AR1840.

16 The Project is located in part within the City’s Local Coastal Program (“LCP”)  
17 jurisdiction under the California Coastal Act (Pub. Res. Code § 30000, et seq.) and in part within  
18 the Commission’s retained Coastal Act jurisdiction. AR2711-2712, 4162. Development in the  
19 City’s jurisdiction includes the Project’s land-based activities, and development in the  
20 Commission’s jurisdiction includes the portion of the well beneath the seafloor. *Id.*  
21 Accordingly, the Project requires a coastal development permit (“CDP”) from the City for  
22 development in the City’s jurisdiction, and a CDP from the Commission for development in the  
23 Commission’s jurisdiction.

24 **C. The Coastal Commission Properly Reviewed and Approved the Project**

25 In March 2013, Cal-Am applied to the City and the Commission, respectively, for the  
26 Project’s two CDPs. AR4249-4250. On September 4, 2014, the City denied Cal-Am’s  
27 application for the Local CDP. AR315-317. On September 12, the Commission received the  
28 City’s Final Local Action Notice (“FLAN”), *which explicitly stated that the City had denied the*