

## Terrie Gillen

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**From:** Shih-Wei Peng <pengsw@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 6, 2021 1:56 PM  
**To:** Board Comment  
**Cc:** Jack Gibson  
**Subject:** Question and Comment Concerning Backflow Preventer Test

Dear Board Members (with open copy to Jack Gibson, President),

Since the installation of our new water meter, we are now required to conduct a Backflow Preventer Test annually.

I believe an annual test imposes an unnecessary cost burden to Marin families who have backflow preventers. In the meantime, families that have not upgraded their water meters to include backflow preventers are grandfathered an exempt from any form of compliance.

These backflow preventers are not complicated systems. They are also reliable.

Therefore, I would appreciate if the board would consider changing the test frequency from the current annual test to one test every three years or every four years. This would be similar to a SMOG test for cars. There is simply no need to test the backflow preventer annually, just like there is no reason to test a catalytic converter annually.

An adjustment to a test every three or four years will accomplish the same objective with insignificant negative consequences. On the other hand, this will result in a significant cost savings for your constituents.

Maybe you can do an analysis to determine how many backflow preventers fail annually based on test results and determine the cost for such a failure. Of course, this analysis should not include problems caused by households that do not have backflow preventers in the first place. My guess is that the number of failures is very low, and the cost to society is minimal.

There are currently 106,000 households in Marin County. Assuming an average cost of \$100 per test, that is a \$10,600,000 annual cost savings for Marin households. If only 75% of Marin households have these preventers, that would be a \$7,950,000 annual savings, and so on. And please understand that I am not saying that testing should be cancelled. All I am saying is that they do not need to be tested as frequently as is currently required.

The question is whether an annual test is truly necessary for a backflow preventer. These are fixtures that will last upwards of 50+ years. They are not high technology products that require lots of ongoing maintenance. My guess is that once you have done the analysis, you will see that the benefits to your Marin county constituents by requiring less frequent testing will far outweigh the current annual test requirement.

Given the financial challenges that everyone is facing these days, I hope that you will agree that it would be a socially responsible consideration at least to explore the cost / benefits of requiring annual tests for backflow preventers here in Marin County.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
Shih-Wei Peng  
pengsw@yahoo.com  
(415) 902-9902  
Marin County resident, constituent and registered voter

## **Terrie Gillen**

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**From:** David Noble <davidwnoble1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 10, 2021 9:16 AM  
**To:** Board Comment; Ebikes  
**Subject:** E bikes should not be permitted

Dear MMWD,

As a 50 year Marin resident and frequent visitor to the Mountain I am very discouraged to see any possibility of allowing motorized transport allowed off road on MMWD land. These are not bicycles at all, they are motorcycles with significant power and acceleration, the throttle has just been moved to the cranks. If you observe the way these vehicles are used, the vast majority of users are attracted by the power of the vehicle not the experience of being in nature. You now are creating situations where biked are traveling uphill at over 15 mph. This doubles the danger now in blind turns for all users and further deteriorates the experience for other non motorized users.

With E bikes you now lower the skill level required to visit the most peaceful and sacred places in the mountain, bringing in the trampling hordes who have little respect for her.

The mountain is already suffering from the COVID impact. Allowing these vehicles is going to forever deteriorate peace and tranquillity people seek on Tam.

Please consider maintaining current policy of not allowing motors of any kind off road and please begin enforcing this policy.

Sincerely,

David Noble  
Fairfax

## Terrie Gillen

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**From:** Brian Foster/USA <Brian.Foster@cushwake.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 7:49 PM  
**To:** Mt. Tam Watershed; Public Information; Board Comment  
**Cc:** Jack Gibson; Monty Schmitt; Larry Bragman; Cynthia Koehler; Larry Russell  
**Subject:** West Point Inn Lease Expiration and process for bids

Dear Marin Municipal Water District board of directors,

Good evening. I read about the West Point Inn's upcoming lease expiration in 2022. I would be interested in submitting a proposal for the District's consideration for operating the Inn. Please let me know when the bid process is set to become open to the public and what the process will entail.

Thank you very much and I look forward to learning more.

I have inquired previously and did not receive a response. Your insight into the public bid process would be much appreciated. I believe this is an exciting opportunity for the MMWD for the future of the West Point Inn.

Thank you in advance.

### Brian Foster

Managing Director  
CA License #01393059

Direct: 415-451-2437  
Mobile: 415-297-6817  
[brian.foster@cushwake.com](mailto:brian.foster@cushwake.com)

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**From:** Brian Foster/USA  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 11:14 AM  
**To:** Watershed@MarinWater.org; Info@MarinWater.org; BoardComment@MarinWater.org  
**Subject:** West Point Inn Lease Expiration and process for bids

Dear Marin Municipal Water District,

Good morning. I read about the West Point Inn's upcoming lease expiration in 2022. I would be interested in submitting a proposal for the District's consideration for operating the Inn. Please let me know when the process is set to become open to the public and what the process will entail.

Thank you very much and I look forward to learning more.

Sincerely,

### Brian Foster

Managing Director  
CA License #01393059

Direct: 415-451-2437  
Mobile: 415-297-6817  
[brian.foster@cushwake.com](mailto:brian.foster@cushwake.com)

900 Larkspur Landing Cir. Suite 295  
Larkspur, CA 94939 | USA

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/0aefbd08/7huF92UqCEu4nZ2enGQe9Q?u=http://www.cushmanwakefield.com/>

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