

From: [Susan Kirsch](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: 6.15.Meeting Comment. 2020 Water Contingency Plan
Date: Monday, June 14, 2021 9:13:10 PM

Dear MMWD Water Board,
Thank you for your work creating the 2020 Water Contingency Plan. Your projections show us in **Stage 4: Severe Drought**, which includes mandates for ratepayers to restrict water use.

The Stage Four: Severe Drought Plan calls for "considering a moratorium on new water service applications." Don't wait for the Emergency Stage 6 to take action. I urge you to move from the passive to the active. Prepare now to prohibit new water hook-ups when/if we enter Stage 5.

Additionally, I ask that you not promote the "spy-on-you-neighbor" methodology to reach compliance. Impose higher rates for those who insist on using more than their fair share of water. As our public service water district, do not assume a "Big Brother" attitude of surveillance. That's creepy and I trust you have better tools in your toolbox to reach the goal.

Finally, I urge you to review the MMWD budget to find ways to reduce personnel and operational expenses before imposing higher rates on customers.

Thanks again for your diligence to keep us supplied with adequate, safe water during the drought.

Best wishes,
Susan Kirsch
MMWD Customer Since 1979
415-686-4375

From: [Garril Page](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: June 15, 2021 Item 7. Water Planning
Date: Monday, June 14, 2021 2:58:37 PM

to:

MMWD Board of Directors:

re: Item 7. Water Planning

Before approval of the Draft 2020 UWMP on June 15, 2021, is MMWD looking at worst case scenarios in making longterm projections?

There will be other UWMP updates, but reliances placed on each current Plan's assumptions should be identified and thoroughly considered rather than deferred to the next five year review, especially if the assumptions are contingent on conditions that may be reasonably foreseen as likely.

For example, MMWD has contracts for purchasing up to 14,300 AF, but has infrastructure limitations restricting the district imports to lesser amounts. Through capitol improvements, MMWD is attempting to increase purchased water to over 10,000 AF by 2030.

Question 1: I assume the contract is for only water actually purchased and conveyed into MMWD systems? MMWD does not pay for the privilege of safe-guarding unused water?

Question 2: What if the sellers breach or renegotiate the contract, and MMWD is unable to obtain that anticipated 10,000+ AF of water by 2030? Is the capital improvement money wasted?

Question 3: Are UWMP assumptions, projections, and MMWD's consequent planning based on receiving those additional AF of water subsequent to the (2030) completion of the capital improvements?***

Question 4: If "yes" to #3 above, are assumed water grants or loans potentially unavailable to MMWD due to inability to comply with water conservation requirements because of continued drought years, not "*normal hydrologic years*", or, other unspecified demands on MMWD-supplied water?

While it is impossible to see the future, apparent changes in rainfall and a water storage are ignored at our peril as is RHNA Madness in the Sacramento Legislature and NPS projected developments at Pt. Reyes National Seashore. There always will be demand for more water. We customers depend on wise decisions by MMWD to protect us and to supply safe water at reasonable prices.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Garril Page
San Anselmo

** I am assuming the afore-mentioned capital improvements are solely to increase conveyance, and are separate from water savings achieved through replacement of leaking pipe lines or any repairs to the system from flooding and earthquake.

From: rickharris44@comcast.net
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Comments for this evening's Marin Water Board meeting
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:28:42 PM
Attachments: [June Moratorium Meeting Statement.docx](#)

Richard L. Harris, Jr.
Cell: 415.730.4072
Email: rickharris44@comcast.net

Statement of Richard Harris to Marin Water – June 15, 2020

My name is Richard Harris. I am a former board member and president of the Marin Municipal Water District.

I would like to address the current water supply situation as it impacts your consideration of the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and the Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

CWP

The Marin Countywide Plan has for some time recognized that *“water supplies would be insufficient to serve some of the unincorporated and incorporated areas in **normal rainfall years**”*. It further states that the land use and development anticipated in the CWP will have a significant and unavoidable impact and will require additional water resources. These findings were first identified in 2007. Very little, if anything, has been done to augment our water supply.

Factors Exacerbating Supply Shortage

If the current environment weren't sufficiently dire, two other factors will exacerbate an already inadequate water supply – climate change and development.

- As mentioned in the 2007 CWP (Section 2.7) *“climate change will amplify existing environmental problems, such as erosion, storm-surge floods, and landslide risk, and changes to the water cycle will further stress domestic water supply”*. Indeed, recently released NOAA data shows that since 2000 Marin County has experienced:
 - 14 yrs. of moderate drought
 - 10 yrs. of severe drought
 - 7 yrs. of extreme drought
 - parts of 6 yrs. of exceptional drought
- And, in Sacramento, housing legislation currently under consideration could easily have the effect of doubling Marin's population.

The Big Bet

By not imposing a moratorium on new connections now, Marin Water is implicitly betting that 2021/2022 will be at least a normal rainfall year. You may be correct but that's not a bet I think you should be taking on behalf of your 195,000 existing customers.

Planning

Marin Water has been lax in planning for projected development and the impacts of climate change. Rather than thinking outside the box, Marin Water has consistently demonstrated a think inside the box mentality. It wasn't until we reached what is clearly an emergency situation that the Board began to consider what to do about supply. The answers were the traditional -- desal and the Richmond Bridge pipeline. We already know desal doesn't work -- we proved it with our pilot desal project. And, the pipeline assumes EBMUD will always be willing to sell Marin water -- even in critically dry years.

It's time to begin thinking outside the box. Marin Water should:

- further expand the capacity of existing storage facilities
- pipe recycled water to the far end of Nicasio reservoir -- a technique pioneered by Occoquan Service Authority and in use by many other water authorities. A complete reuse analysis is available in the 2017 EPS Potable Reuse Compendium
- hire geological experts to identify potential underground water storage structures
- host a conference of water experts from around the country (and perhaps internationally) to discuss innovative solutions
- research purchasing water rights and swapping those rights with agencies able to connect with the Richmond Bridge pipeline

Time is of the essence. Please immediately impose a moratorium on connections and explore innovative water supply solutions. If your bet on a wetter 2021/2022 is correct, the moratorium can be rescinded and all that will be lost is a little developer time. If you're wrong you risk the health and welfare of our 195,000 customers. And, the effort you put into finding enhanced water supplies will be needed no matter what happens in 2021/2022.

Thank you for your time.

From: [Kevin Haroff](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Cc: [Terrie Gillen](#)
Subject: Draft MWMD 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:14:02 AM
Attachments: [20210615_By Electronic Mail Board of Directors of the Marin Muni.pdf](#)

Attached please find comments submitted in connection with the above-referenced matter.

Kevin Haroff

Kevin Haroff | iOSX Mail
1.415.860.3356 | kharoff@mac.com

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HL

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June 14, 2021

By Electronic Mail

Board of Directors of the
Marin Municipal Water District
220 Nellen Ave
Corte Madera, CA 94925

**Draft MWMD 2020 Urban Water Management
Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan**

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to provide comments on the May 21, 2021 draft Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Draft Plans), which I understand are being considered for approval by the District Board on June 15, 2021.

I am a resident of the City of Larkspur and the City's current Mayor. Larkspur is a city of over 12,000 people, virtually all of whom depend on water provided by MMWD and will be directly affected by any actions to implement the recommendations of the Draft Plans.

Reports in the local press have suggested that MWMD may decide to limit or exclude new service connections as a result of ongoing drought conditions. Given the severity of the drought, an *immediate* prohibition on new connections is clearly warranted. The Draft Plans do not, however, make that recommendation. They instead would delay imposition of a prohibition until the drought gets even worse.

That would be irresponsible. MMWD's water reserves are already at a historic low, and allowing new connections would only exacerbate the problem. Such an action would also place an undue burden on MMWD's existing customers, who may soon be asked to pay higher rates to compensate MMWD for lower revenues caused by reduced demand as the drought continues. At a minimum, no drought-related rate increase should be imposed unless and until MMWD commits to an immediate prohibition on new connections.

Thank you for consideration of these comments. Any opinions expressed herein are strictly my own and do not necessarily represent the views of the City of Larkspur or the Larkspur City Council.

Respectfully yours,



Kevin T. Haroff

From: [Mimi Willard](#)
To: [Board Comment](#); [Ben Horenstein](#)
Subject: Letter from CO\$T re Agenda Item 7 and Summer Rate Hike (Public Comment)
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:40:22 PM
Attachments: [MMWD Drought Emergency Letter 061521.pdf](#)

Please find attached a letter from the Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers re Water Shortage Contingency Plan (item 7 at tonight's board meeting) and summer water rates (public comment on items not on the agenda)

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Mimi Willard
President
Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers
COSTMarin.org

Board of Directors

Carsten Andersen	Kingston Cole	Lucy Dilworth	Laura Effel	Doug Kelly	Paul Premo	Mimi Willard
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To: MMWD Directors and General Manager
From: The Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers
Date: June 15, 2021
RE: Water Shortage Contingency Plan; Summer Rate Hike

MMWD is appropriately considering drought emergency measures needed to protect water sufficiency. The Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers supports such measures but registers these reservations and exhortations:

- A water sufficiency plan must be top priority. MMWD should move urgently to ensure water sufficiency, tap any external funding sources (e.g., Federal and state infrastructure money), and expedite regulatory review. We applaud that the district operations committee is expeditiously exploring emergency options to boost interim supply. We also urge that the district's contemplated 10-year capital improvement plan options be reworked to include detailed cost and timing estimates for various potential projects that permanently enhance water sufficiency. This MUST be the 10 year CIP centerpiece, prioritized above all else. Many non-urgent projects should accordingly be deleted from the wish list.
- Individual metering for all new multi-unit housing. MMWD must require all new multi-unit residential hookups to have individual water metering. This ensures new residents are subject to the same water conservation incentives implicit in MMWD's rates. Today's technology makes this possible without meter readers needing to enter individual apartments (and indeed, without meters being installed in individual apartments).
- Prop 218 compliance. MMWD reportedly is considering what effectively would be an increase in the summer season rate relative to last year (and relative to limits contained within its already approved 4-year rate cycle). MMWD must properly complete a new prop 218 process before adopting higher rates.
- Summer rate hike: little impact on usage. Given the above, new rates cannot be imposed before August 2021. For customers on the July billing cycle, a portion of the summer season rate hike will be first seen in their bills due mid-October. As such, the rate increase will have negligible impact on usage this summer and is a blunt tool for increasing conservation.
- Prop 218 requires a Cost of Services Analysis. Before pursuing a summer rate hike, the district should make clear what documentation is required to validate that the proposed new summer rates tie to the district's cost of service.

From: [Barbara Freitas](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: New Hook-Up Moratorium
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:54:35 AM

MMWD Board of Directors:

Please provide for your EXISTING CUSTOMERS as outlined in the MMWD District Goal as quoted below from your website:

- Assure that water produced is of high quality and protects public health from source to the customer's tap
- Provide a long-term reliable water supply for MMWD customers
- Maintain the District's infrastructure in a cost-effective manner to assure reliable operation
- Provide a water rate structure that is fair and reasonable, and that adequately funds the long-term maintenance and capital needs of the District's supply and delivery systems
- Promote conservation and water recycling programs and other practices which encourage the efficient use of water
- Provide responsible stewardship of land under district management, balancing existing mandates to safeguard ecological integrity, protect against wildfire, and maintain water quality

Requesting that you postpone your vote on the "DRAFT 2020 Urban Water Management Plan."

1. **Make the following revisions to the "DRAFT UWMP Water Shortage Contingency Plan":**

- a. **Revise the Water Shortage Contingency Plan so that a moratorium on new water applications and hookups will be issued in Severe Stage 4, rather than in Emergency Stage 6;**
- b. **Abandon plans to encourage neighbors to report on neighbors; and**
- c. **Reduce Staff expenses before increasing customers' rates.**

Please consider the current needs in this severe drought and don't allow developers the ability to buy in because they are paying for future conservation. Water shouldn't be a commodity that is available if access to water hookups are for sale. No pay-to-play gaming with this precious, essential resource.

Planning for future water storage needs to be done. If we had some of the abundant rain run-off that occurred in recent years, we might not be in this disastrous water storage.

Residential customers' water conservation alone won't fix this water shortage. Don't make the shortage worse by allowing more hookups.

Barbara Freitas
Larkspur

From: [Scott Peoples](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Sustainable TamAlmonte UWMP
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 12:11:28 PM

We are in full support of Sustainable TamAlmonte's, June 14, letter to MMWD Board regarding UWMP Contingency Plan.

Your consideration and diligence regarding our water crisis is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Scott and Suzanne Peoples and family

23 Maple Avenue

Kentfield.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sharon Rushton](#)
To: [Terrie Gillen](#); [Board Comment](#); [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#)
Subject: Sustainable TamAlmonte's letter to the MMWD Board of Directors re: the DRAFT 2020 UWMP and the DRAFT WSCP
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:42:01 AM
Attachments: [Letter to MMWD Board re- DRAFT 2020 UWMP & Water Shortage Contingency Plan 6-14-21.pdf](#)

Please confirm receipt of this letter. Thank you kindly.

Dear MMWD Board of Directors,

Attached is a letter from Sustainable TamAlmonte to you regarding the DRAFT 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and the DRAFT Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

Thank you in advance for your conscientious consideration.

Very truly yours,

Sharon Rushton

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[Banner](#)



Sharon Rushton

President | **Sustainable TamAlmonte**

sharonr@tamalmonite.org

tamalmonite.org



215 Julia Ave
Mill Valley, CA 94941

June 14, 2021

Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors
220 Nellen Ave.
Corte Madera, CA 94925
tgillen@marinwater.org
boardcomment@marinwater.org

Re: DRAFT 2020 Urban Water Management Plan & Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Dear Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors,

The Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) is experiencing historic drought conditions. MMWD received only 20 inches of rain fall this past winter, the second lowest on record and less than half of normal rainfall. The last 16 months have been the driest ever in the district's 143 years of rainfall records. In light of these conditions, we wish to make the following comments regarding the DRAFT 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and the Water Shortage Contingency Plan in preparation for your June 15th public hearing.

I. Comments Regarding the DRAFT 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP)

We urge you to postpone your vote on the "DRAFT 2020 Urban Water Management Plan" in order to give the public more time to review the plan and make comments.

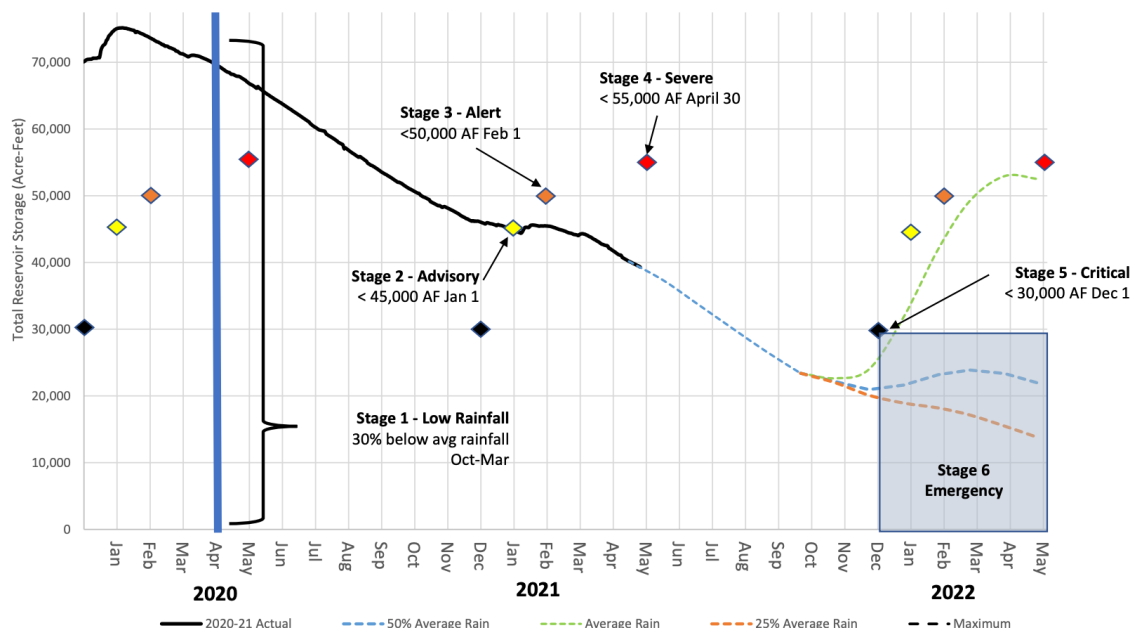
II. Comments Regarding the DRAFT UWMP Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP)

We urge you to make the following revisions to the "DRAFT UWMP Water Shortage Contingency Plan":

A. Revise the Water Shortage Contingency Plan so that a moratorium on new water applications and hookups will be issued in Severe Stage 4, rather than Emergency Stage 6:

MMWD has entered into **Severe Stage 4**, per the below MMWD diagram:

Revised Triggers and Future Water Supply Projections



According to the Water Shortage Contingency Plan, Severe Stage 4 requires consideration of implementation of drought rates and water surcharges. Stage 4 also mandates severe water restrictions for MMWD customers, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Irrigation is limited to one day a week, except for minimal irrigation to maintain tree health;
- No installation of new landscapes including no expansion of existing;
- No irrigation of ornamental turf or grass on street or public medians;
- No washing sidewalks and hard surfaces with direct hosing;
- Covers are required for pools and spas;
- No washing of vehicles at home;
- No refilling or topping off decorative fountains;
- No power washing homes or businesses.

Such restrictions will cause tremendous hardship to MMWD customers. Limiting irrigation to one day a week will soon turn lush gardens into dry and dead debris. Not only will customers experience a tremendous financial loss of expensive landscaping, but they will also incur greater risk of fire.

However, the Plan only requires MMWD to “begin discussion on limiting or excluding new service connections during drought” during Severe Stage 4. Not until reaching Emergency Stage 6 does the plan mandate “new water service applications will not be granted.” Waiting until Emergency Stage 6 for a moratorium on new water applications and hookups is too late.

If customers must endure such hardship to preserve water, then MMWD must also do everything possible to preserve water. A moratorium on the issuance of new water service applications and hookups during Severe Stage 4 is essential.

The moratorium should include denial of issuance of new water service applications and hookups, other than those related to public safety and fire protection, per Water Code Sec. 350. We also urge you to forgo a hybrid approach and not allow any developers to bypass the ban by paying a conservation fee.

In addition, we wish to bring to your attention the fact that proposed Assembly Bill 345 requires, rather than authorizes, a local agency to allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) to be sold separately from the primary residence if the ADU meets specified conditions. Moreover, legislation, enacted in 2019, requires jurisdictions to allow ADUs to be up to 1200 sq. ft. over and above the Floor Area Ratio (FAR). The second units, which exceed the FAR, are no longer repurposing existing space but, rather, exceeding previous buildout limits. This will increase water demand and greatly tax our very limited water supply. Please consider requiring water permits for ADUs that exceed the FAR and prohibit such permits while a moratorium is in place.

B. Abandon plans to encourage neighbors to report on neighbors:

According to the PowerPoint Presentation of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan ¹, the “**Compliance and Enforcement**” portion of the plan encourages neighbors to report on neighbors and includes a reporting hotline at [MarinWater.org/Forms/Water-Waste-Report](https://www.marinwater.org/Forms/Water-Waste-Report)

Encouraging neighbors to spy on neighbors is undesirable and should be excluded from the plan altogether. The related hotline should be eliminated.

C. Reduce Staff expenses before increasing customers’ rates:

The drought is increasing MMWD’s expenses, while lower water consumption is reducing the agency’s revenue. In order to pay for expense increases and revenue reductions, the Water Shortage Contingency Plan calls for “Temporary Drought Rates” and “Water Use Surcharges”. However, there is no mention of a temporary reduction in Staff Expenses or other MMWD costs.

Before raising customer rates, MMWD should lower Staff expenses and find other ways to temporarily lower costs during the drought. The financial burden should be shared by all.

¹ <https://www.marinwater.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/05-21-2021%20UWMP-Water%20Shortage%20Contingency%20Plan.pdf>

D. Conclusion:

In summary, we urge you to do the following:

1. Postpone your vote on the “DRAFT 2020 Urban Water Management Plan”.
2. Make the following revisions to the “DRAFT UWMP Water Shortage Contingency Plan”:
 - a. Revise the Water Shortage Contingency Plan so that a moratorium on new water applications and hookups will be issued in Severe Stage 4, rather than in Emergency Stage 6;
 - b. Abandon plans to encourage neighbors to report on neighbors; and
 - c. Reduce Staff expenses before increasing customers’ rates.

Thank you in advance for your conscientious consideration.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Sharon Rushton, President

Sustainable TamAlmonte

From: [Liz Specht](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: June 15.Meeting Comment. 2020 Water Contingency Plan
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 7:04:25 PM

Dear members of the MMWD Water Board,

Thank you for all you are doing to make a contingency plan for drought. We certainly have had almost NO rain so far this year - and predictions for precipitation are bleak.

I appreciated the “Drive Up” give-away last Saturday at Mill Valley Community Center with the bucket, shower head adjuster, etc. The small size of the bucket seemed to us a message in itself. Don’t worry, our personal use of water at home is already carefully guided by the habits we formed years ago when we had drought conditions.

However, the lack of rain in 2021 is even worse.

We suggest you consider making the water pipe over the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge a permanent fixture. Both the growing population of Marin County and the drying of our climate underline increasing needs for water here. We doubt we’ll emerge into a climate that doesn’t require more potable water than Marin can produce. ***Meantime, a moratorium on new water service applications seems urgent. Please act on this now.

Sincerely,
Liz and Ed Specht
Mill Valley, CA

From: [bsilvestri](#)
To: [Terrie Gillen](#); [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: Comments on your recent discussions and proposals about serving your Marin customers
Date: Saturday, June 5, 2021 12:07:50 PM
Attachments: [06-05-21 LTR. MMWD Board - Water Crisis.pdf](#)

Dear Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors,

Attached please find my comment letter on your latest discussions and decisions about fulfilling your duty to provide water to your Marin County residential customers. Please enter this comment letter into the public record for your next meeting.

Thank you.

Bob Silvestri
73 Surrey Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941
415.342.7877 Cell

Bob Silvestri
73 Surrey Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941
rjsmv@comcast.net

June 5, 2021

Board of Directors
Marin Municipal Water District
Marin Water Main Office
220 Nellen Avenue
Corte Madera, CA 94925

Re: Comments on your failure to adequately serve your residential customers in Marin

Dear MMWD board members,

Marin County residents face the increasingly dire prospect of MMWD's lack of ability to provide water. After decades of warnings about drought, it is beyond outrageous for MMWD to get to the point that it may run out of water, within a year. Meanwhile, MMWD's idea of planning appears to be praying for rain and threatening the customers they are highly paid to serve.

Scientists have been telling us that the West and California, in particular, have entered into a long-term, climate change-induced drought cycle. Has MMWD been listening? A water agency is not like other utilities. Water is life, not a luxury. As managers of our water agency, you must plan far into the future: not just for next year. Your glaring failure to do so over the past decade is now leading to potentially catastrophic consequences.

MMWD has failed to fulfill its primary responsibility

I've been a Marin resident and MMWD customer since 1993. Lack of water has always been a fact of life in Marin since I've been here and actually for more than a half a century. So, what has MMWD been doing about it for all these years?

This answer is pretty much nothing.

Unlike many other places in the state, like [Los Angeles](#), which has even less local water than we do but doesn't need any restrictions this summer, what has MMWD done about:

- Finding and securing new, permanent water sources for emergency back-up and to increase our water supply, so as not to be caught completely flat-footed like deer in the headlights?
- Reducing the dramatic evaporation from our open water reservoirs?
- Increasing our long-term water storage capacity?

- Investing in new metering technology to accurately assess water usage?
- Repairing leakage in aging water pipes before they breakdown?

You've been "talking" about rebuilding/reopening the Richmond Bridge pipeline to get us emergency access to water, for years now. "Talking" about it? That should have been put in place and operational, years ago, when everyone realized that this prolonged 100-year drought cycle was upon us. A guaranteed ability to provide water and have a backup plan in place is not optional.

Why wasn't that done?

But now, when it's all down to the wire, instead of apologizing for its ineptitude and putting all hands on deck to get us more water, you turn on your customers and threaten them with fines and even their ability to have water.

Shifting the blame for MMWD's water management failure

I live in a four-bedroom, two-bath house on a 50 by 100 lot. I have invested heavily in state-of-the-art appliances, fixtures, equipment, and piping (e.g., instant hot at the tap so no water is "run" until it gets warm), and installation of timed and monitored outdoor watering for my yards, garden, and trees.

My water bill over the past two years has averaged \$30 per month. Please tell me, how much less water am I supposed to use until my home becomes uninhabitable and my plants and trees all die?

MMWD is now threatening to fine residents as much as \$1,000 per violation, if they use "too much" water, even though the agency has no way to accurately assess what that is in real-time or to properly evaluate if that water use was necessary or not.

According to recent [Marin IJ reporting](#), MMWD is now even threatening to "cut off" residential water service, entirely, to violators. But, how will MMWD define "too much?" And worse, how is a customer supposed to know, *in real-time*, when they are using too much?

We can't because MMWD has failed to offer any technology to allow us to do that. The technology to have wireless meters and real-time readouts of water use presented on the Internet has been available for more than a decade. Yet, MMWD is willing to intentionally make their customer's homes uninhabitable as a solution to a drought that residents did not cause and a lack of water capacity that MMWD has failed to properly anticipate and plan for.

Do you really think that is a responsible way to conduct a public agency?

MMWD's failure to consider COVID reopening impacts.

MMWD is whining about the fact that Marin water usage has not dropped fast enough in the past few weeks since it announced its new water restrictions. But, MMWD fails to consider a national phenomenon that we are currently experiencing in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic.

The whole financial world is currently panicking about recent bursts of inflation sweeping the world due to supply chain shortages and economic bottlenecks resulting from the huge reopening of our global economy. This phenomenon also relates directly to water use.

As a case and point, contractors just began a necessary repair/restoration project on my house that was scheduled over 2 years ago! That's how long it took to get on the contractor's schedule and wait it out during the pandemic until all his workers were vaccinated (his professional policy). My water bill will be above its average just this month. Think about how many other people and businesses are also now suddenly having this happen as an explosion of pent-up activity and deferred maintenance startup.

The bottom line

The buck stops at MMWD's door. As its board, you have failed to properly manage the resources you are stewards of, failed to make the kind of investments in technology and infrastructure required to deal with inevitable long-term drought conditions, and let the situation get so far out of control that you now see no options other than to threaten your customers.

MMWD's job is to provide water to its ratepayers and to be able to do so at all times. Your recent actions and threats stand as evidence of your immense failure to carry out your fiduciary duties.

While MMWD obsesses about having enough water for "next year," science is telling us that drought is probably a permanent fact of our future. That is what you need to be focusing on. MMWD needs to get in gear and find Marin customers more water, right now!

Bob Silvestri

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bob Silvestri', with a stylized, flowing script.

From: [Catherine Rosekrans](#)
To: [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Monty Schmitt](#)
Subject: Rainwater (roof water) harvesting for swimming pools - Fact sheets
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 6:08:49 PM
Attachments: [WebPage.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Dear Ms. Koehler and Mr. Schmitt:

A friend suggested that I contact the two of you since she thought you'd be interested, and perhaps follow up.

I previously owned a house with a pool. In the process of getting the pool resurfaced and obtaining new pool equipment, I tried to find a pool contractor interested in taking the rain that collected on a pool cover (or on the roof or really anywhere) into a catchment system that could

- be caught and stored seasonally (winter rains) rather than diverted to the sewer;
- returned to the pool in the summer rather than using fresh water to fill

I could not get anyone interested at that time, even though I was willing to pay substantially more to have this explored and incorporated into the plan.

That was about 5 years ago and water issues have become more critical. The below article is from Australia. It would be great if this could be introduced in Marin, perhaps via a contest or something. In addition to the below article, a person living in Vermont has a series of videos on YouTube demonstrating his rustic approach (Green Mountain DIY Guy). The main issues would be sanitation and aesthetics (I was wanting to put mine underground but could have put it under deck). It may or may not be viable, but I'm happy to see Australia giving it some attention.

I hope you find this idea worth looking into. Perhaps a pool company or companies would develop this if they thought MMWD was interested.

Thanks for reading and for your consideration.

Cathy Rosekrans, Mill Valley

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/swimming-pool-rain-harvest.aspx>

Rainwater (roof water) harvesting for swimming pools

The use of filtered clean rainwater collected from the roof (not general stormwater runoff) to fill spa pools and swimming pools is supported provided controls are in place to protect public health. Rainwater collected in tanks can be safely used for pools provided it is introduced into the pool through either the balance tank or into the pool at night to allow sufficient time for treatment before bathers enter the pool.

Overview

The use of filtered clean rainwater collected from the roof (not general stormwater runoff) to fill spa pools and swimming pools is supported provided controls are in place to protect public health. Rainwater collected in tanks can be safely used for pools provided it is introduced into the pool through either the balance tank or into the pool at night to allow sufficient time for treatment before bathers enter the pool.

Safe rainwater use for swimming pools is achievable in most situations, unless rainwater is collected from roofs either constructed of hazardous materials (such as lead or preservative-treated timber) or located in heavily polluted areas where particulate pollution from vehicles, aircraft and industrial activities may contaminate rainwater.

Research indicates that first flush systems effectively minimise particulate and microbial pollution. First flush systems reduce contamination because the first few litres of rainwater, which contain the highest concentration of pollutants, are discarded to stormwater. Microbial contamination of rainwater can also be easily controlled by chlorination in the collection tank. The area of the roof needs to be considered when determining the quantity of first flush water to discard. The rainwater tank must be maintained and checked

periodically for sludge accumulation.

Rainwater can have the added benefits of a low Total Dissolved Solids and is therefore soft water being low in carbonates. In heavily polluted areas, the cost of pre-treatment to maintain safe water may outweigh any benefits, especially where a reliable water source exists. Further information is contained in Rainwater Tanks (2) and Guidance on use of rainwater tanks.(3)

The use of filtered clean rainwater to top-up swimming pools is supported provided controls are in place to protect public health. A suggested risk assessment and management framework is outlined below.

Components to consider in water harvesting for use in swimming pools

(Developed for use with Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health and Environmental Risk (Phase 1), 2006(1)

Element 1: Commitment to responsible use and management of recycled water quality

Components

- Recycled water policy
- Regulatory and formal requirements
- Engaging stakeholder

Activity

- Regulatory framework compliance
 - Water Quality Guidelines:
 - NSW Health. Public Swimming Pool and Spa Pool Advisory Document 2012
 - Australian Drinking Water Guidelines

- Health Risk Assessment Guidelines:
 - Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health and Environmental Risk (Phase 1), 2006
- Develop a recycled water policy

Element 2: Assessment of the recycled water system

Components

- Identify intended uses and source of recycled water
- Recycled water system analysis
- Hazard identification and risk assessment

Activity

- Source of water
 - Backwash from swimming pool(s)
- Treatment
 - Reverse osmosis
 - Ultrafine filtration (UFF) and/or granular activated carbon (GAC) may be recommended
- Intended uses
 - Recreational swimming
 - Hydrotherapy (possibly immunocompromised clients)
 - Learn to swim (infants not toilet trained)
- Exposure routes
 - Ingestion (100 mL) - more for infants
 - Dermal: disinfection by-product (DBP) - trihalomethanes (THM)
 - Inhalation: DBP - THM
- Assessment of water quality data
 - Turbidity, pH
 - Microbial quality
 - Chemical quality (DBP-THMs)

- Water quality indicators: total dissolved solids (TDS) conductivity
- Treated backwash water to be tested prior to reuse
 - Microbial hazards
 - Chemical hazards
 - Hazards from failures
 - Control to prevent failures

Element 3: Preventive measures for recycled water management

Components

- Preventive measures and multiple barriers
- Critical control points

Activity

- Preventive measures
 - Control of bather hygiene, showers prior to pool entry
 - Treatment: best available technology (RO, UFF, GAC, ultraviolet [UV])
 - Validation of treatment system
 - Pipework purple with reuse caution and signage (may be needed)
 - Documentation of responsibilities, operational procedures
 - Backflow and cross connection prevention
 - Controls - monitoring, shutdown upon failure
- Communication
 - Recycled water should be tested prior to reuse, otherwise alternative clean water source should be used
 - Failures should be communicated and reported
 - Education program for operational staff
 - Validation prior to commissioning to ensure that recycled water complies with the standards for drinking water

- On-line monitoring of pool water for TDS, free chlorine and/or oxidation-reduction potential (ORP)
- Determine critical control points

Element 4: Operational procedures and process control

Activity

- Documented procedures
 - Operational monitoring (auditing of critical limits for TDS/conductivity)
 - A contingency plan should be developed to effectively deal with pool contamination events
 - Corrective active

Element 5: Verification of recycled water quality and environmental sustainability

Activity

Water quality monitoring (turbidity, TDS, DBP, microbial)

- Receiving water monitoring - swimming pool water
- Documentation and reliability
- Annual reporting of water quality monitoring results to Public Health Unit (PHU)
- Short-term evaluation of results
- Corrective action

Element 6: Management of incidents and emergencies

Activity

- Potential public health problems should be reported to PHU

- Non-compliance with approval conditions to be reported immediately to PHU
- Incident and emergency response protocol

Element 7: Operator, contractor and end user awareness and training

Activity

- Skilled and trained operator

Element 8: Community involvement and awareness

Activity

- Community consultation and education

Element 9: Validation, research and development

Activity

- Validation of processes
- Design of equipment
- Investigative studies and research monitoring

Element 10: Documentation and reporting

Activity

- Management of documentation and records
- Reporting

Element 11: Evaluation and audit

Activity

- Long term evaluation of results
- Audit of recycled water quality management

Element 12: Review and continual improvement

Activity

- Review by senior management
- Recycled water quality management improvement plan

Reference

1. National Resource Management Ministerial Council; Environment Protection and Heritage Council; Australian Health Ministers Conference. National Water Quality Management Strategy. Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health and Environmental Risks (Phase 1). 2006. Available at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/water/quality/nwqms/nwqms-australian-guidelines-water-recycling-managing-health-phase1> (Cited 28 April 2009)
2. NSW Department of Health. [Rainwater tanks](#). Sydney: NSW Health, 2007. (Cited 28 April 2009).
3. Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, enHealth Council. Guidance on use of rainwater tanks. 3rd edition. Canberra, 2010. Available at: [https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/0D71DB86E9DA7CF1CA257BF0001CBF2F/\\$File/enhealth-raintank.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/0D71DB86E9DA7CF1CA257BF0001CBF2F/$File/enhealth-raintank.pdf) (Cited 28 April 2009)
4. NSW Department of Health. [Public Swimming Pool and Spa Pool Guidelines](#). Sydney: NSW Health, June 1996.

Further information

In NSW call 1300 066 055 to talk to your local Public Health Unit.

From: [Jill Sellers](#)
To: [Water Conservation](#); [Customer Service](#); [Larry Russell](#); [Eli Beckman](#)
Subject: Village Corte Madera
Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 10:42:29 AM

Hello.

As an MMWD customer who is working hard to reduce water usage I am somewhat appalled that the Village Mall in Corte Madera (Nordstrom mall) is undergoing an EXTENSIVE landscaping project planting hundreds of new plants and trees.

While their choice may be water wise plantings (or may not, I don't know) all NEW plantings require a substantially greater amount of water than established ones. Yesterday they were laying about 5 main irrigation lines across the all medians between their parking lot and the public roadway over the course of at least 1/4 mile- with more to come as they continue the project towards to the north end of the mall- when it is my understanding medians are not even to be watered.

Why is this allowed in our severe drought conditions?

Thank you
Jill Sellers

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Susan Cluff](#)
To: [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: Hi and dust control on construction sites?
Date: Thursday, June 10, 2021 6:30:57 AM

Hi Larry: I see that the latest water restrictions from MMWD say building contractors should NOT using potable water on construction sites for dust control, can you tell me how this is being implemented and promoted? And what large constriction sites and local road and utility crews should do instead of spraying down 2-3 times a day with hoses connected to the usual source?

On a quick check of Marin county and city building department websites, I see no mention of this new restriction, and at active work sites around here, it's not being enforced. I know a moratorium or limiting new water hook ups is being considered during the drought and assume it's because of the high use of water during demo and construction as well as adding all sorts of new customers.

I really appreciate the technical expertise you bring to the MMWD Board (my parents were architects), so thought you might be the person to ask.

Thanks so much,

Susan Cluff
Belvedere-Tiburon, CA
415-203-8861

From: [williwell](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: ebikes
Date: Friday, June 11, 2021 7:18:40 PM

I have lived in San Anselmo for over 40 years, and ridden bikes in the MMWD watershed for the last 20. I strongly believe electric bikes should NOT be permitted on MMWD non-paved roads. They are dangerous and destructive to the landscape. The term “motorized vehicles” clearly applies to electric motorized bicycles, and they should be kept out just as motorcycles are. The difference is only in the type of motor and ebikes can easily reach 28 MPH.

William Wells
San Anselmo

From: [Bob Silvestri](#)
To: [Terrie Gillen](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: Mill Valley Car Wash runs fountain and sprinklers in the middle of the day. WHY is this allowed?
Date: Saturday, June 12, 2021 12:18:39 PM
Attachments: [06-12-21 Mill Valley Car Wash.pdf](#)

Dear MMWD,

Why are commercial businesses allowed to ignore water restrictions? The attached photo shows the Mill Valley Car Wash at the corner of Blithedale Avenue and Lomita Drive, today, Saturday June 12th, at approx. 10:50 AM.

They are not only running their lawn sprinklers at full blast but they are running their decorative fountain, which is essentially a water evaporation machine.

Why is this allowed while homeowner's are under heavy restrictions?

Bob Silvestri
Mill Valley



From: [Betsy McGee](#)
To: [Cynthia Koehler](#)
Subject: Drought conservation suggestions
Date: Monday, June 14, 2021 6:10:50 PM

Dear Ms. Koehler (and the rest of the Marin Water board),

Water is California's gold. It is precious and rare -- even more so now that we are projecting years of drought. I would like to offer these suggestions for Marin Water -- for this year, and for the future:

Drought signage: Instead of waiting for concerned citizens to request and post signs in their neighborhoods, Marin Water should proactively place them throughout the district. Instead of the "plain vanilla" blue and white signs, invest in full color signage that shows a photo of Phoenix Lake or Nicasio Reservoir. These are graphic images that would show everyone how serious the drought truly is.

Tier Pricing: In my view, any household should be able to live off of 35 gallons of water per person per day. We take our water for granted, and have little appreciation for how lucky we are to have had a plentiful supply in most years. I suggest altering the tiers to keep the "bottom third" of Tier 1 very affordable; after that, increase the prices dramatically. Pricing is not necessarily going to influence behavior, but it might have some effect.

Outside Irrigation: It's time to bite the bullet. All outdoor watering must be done by hand.

Media: Continue to publicize in local media the severity of the drought, and use video and photos for impact!

Timing: I was very disappointed by the "late to the game" attention that the current drought received. This last year we had ZERO significant rain events (meaning, a rain storm that dropped 2-3 inches within 24 hours). As the lack of rainfall continued through January, we should have heard talk of conservation starting in February. I hope this won't be repeated in subsequent dry years.

Outside Irrigation (part 2): I think *any* residential or commercial landscaping that uses automatic watering must either have a smart controller, or must be subject to a twice-yearly audit of their system for a nominal fee. Visits by Master Gardeners are good, but not enough. Too many places are overwatering plants that don't need so much water. Many systems are still using pop-up sprinklers that don't deliver water where it's truly needed. And way too many systems deliver the same amount of water in September and October, as they do in June. It is a huge waste!

Alternative sources: With protracted drought projected, it's time to look for other ways to provide water other than through conservation. Yes, we need to conserve, but we must invest in other options such as desalinization or pumping water from other, much more distant, sources. We have no other options.

Thank you for your consideration.

Betsy McGee
Larkspur

From: [mylo.schaaf](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: drought regulation
Date: Monday, June 14, 2021 9:52:24 PM

Dear Board Members,

Cutting out the extra summer water allocation will increase the fire risk to many properties. Please do not include this on your list of drought control measures. 20 years ago we bought a house on the edge of the GGNRA. We have installed drip irrigations and primarily drought tolerant plants. If we stop watering our acre of land, we (like many customers) will be surrounded by dead fire fuel.

I agree with no new water hook-ups (except possible for those current in the permitting process).

We are already taking 2-minute showers, not washing our cars, not flushing urine, taking care with washing dishes, drip irrigating 2 times a week between 7 pm and 9 am, and not wasting water in general. We have no lawn. We installed a hot water circulating device.

We tried to install a recycled water system for irrigating plants several years ago, but the amount that our washer could put out was not worth the effort or cost. We don't understand why more robust recycling of water (like you are able to do) is forbidden to the rest of us.

Best regards,

Mylo Schaaf

From: [John K. Neuenburg](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Water Conservation Suggestion for Board Meeting June 15
Date: Monday, June 14, 2021 12:55:32 PM

Dear MMWD Board:

I am submitting this for hopeful discussion at your board meeting June 15, 2021. It is a complaint about one of the new water conservation rules - banning washing vehicles at home, referenced in particular to vehicles which should not be or cannot be washed at commercial car washes. Keep in mind many vehicles are not stored in garages or carports, so they get dirtier than others.

Home car washing according to what I propose at the bottom of this letter (see bold text) uses a tiny fraction of water used for landscape irrigation and a tiny fraction of inside use, which can consume a nearly unlimited amount of water with nothing going into a gutter. My guess is most owners who handwash their car or truck outside his or her home with a shutoff nozzle, under the eyes of watchful neighbors (prodded by MMWD into informing on their neighbors) are not going to waste water! For example, I use a low-pressure "shower" setting on my nozzle because I use a biodegradable soap with a wax protectant. Too much pressure and volume will wash off much of that wax. My guess is an owner hand washing a vehicle properly using a hose with automatic shutoff will usually use less water than the typical commercial car wash, assuming not all of the water used by the latter is recycled.

Consider these categories of vehicles that the owners cannot or do not want to have washed commercially:

1. Dual rear wheeled trucks because they do not fit onto car wash tracks or are too long to navigate the entrances and/or exits.
2. Trucks with wider than original tires, such as many four-wheel drive trucks and jeeps. Same reason as above.
3. Pickups and commercial bodied trucks with toolboxes or bed covers that are not water-tight under jets of high pressure water. Water can damage what is underneath.
4. Convertibles. These tops often leak especially when hit with high pressure water. This is especially true of old cars and tops.
5. Vehicles with no tops including some classic cars, original Toyota Land Cruisers, Ford Broncos, Chevy Blazers, and old jeeps. Owners know how to wash these.
6. Collector cars because most owners know commercial car washes use abrasive brushes, or if employees hand wash, the towels can be filled with abrasive dirt. Owners want to

preserve original paint and their investment.

7. Lastly, mandating using a commercial car was creates a new expense for the vehicle owner. To avoid the expense, the vehicle is left to get dirtier and dirtier with acidic bird droppings and tree sap which will damage paint. Who should pay for new paint?

Creating exceptions for the above would be a reasonable, customer-focused move by MMWD and/or the County, **BUT a simpler choice is to eliminate the "washing at home" rule entirely and replace it with an "excessive water use" rule.** If necessary, this could be combined with a monthly water ration. Let the people decide their personal priorities.

The bigger culprits in the excessive use of water are overwatering landscape, new construction water hookups, leaks, and park and golf course watering. One can argue the importance of catering to fish rather than humans.

Water hardship does not have to be our new reality. The long-term solutions are a **pipeline** across the Richmond Bridge (top deck first because it's fast to build and less expensive than the under-deck permanent solution), **desalination** plants, and/or build **more storage**.

Thanks for your consideration.

John Neuenburg
San Rafael
415-847-2801

From: [Mimi Willard](#)
To: [Board Comment](#); [Ben Horenstein](#)
Subject: Letter from CO\$T re Agenda Item 7 and Summer Rate Hike (Public Comment)
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:40:22 PM
Attachments: [MMWD Drought Emergency Letter 061521.pdf](#)

Please find attached a letter from the Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers re Water Shortage Contingency Plan (item 7 at tonight's board meeting) and summer water rates (public comment on items not on the agenda)

--

Mimi Willard
President
Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers
COSTMarin.org

Board of Directors

Carsten Andersen	Kingston Cole	Lucy Dilworth	Laura Effel	Doug Kelly	Paul Premo	Mimi Willard
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To: MMWD Directors and General Manager
From: The Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers
Date: June 15, 2021
RE: Water Shortage Contingency Plan; Summer Rate Hike

MMWD is appropriately considering drought emergency measures needed to protect water sufficiency. The Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers supports such measures but registers these reservations and exhortations:

- A water sufficiency plan must be top priority. MMWD should move urgently to ensure water sufficiency, tap any external funding sources (e.g., Federal and state infrastructure money), and expedite regulatory review. We applaud that the district operations committee is expeditiously exploring emergency options to boost interim supply. We also urge that the district's contemplated 10-year capital improvement plan options be reworked to include detailed cost and timing estimates for various potential projects that permanently enhance water sufficiency. This MUST be the 10 year CIP centerpiece, prioritized above all else. Many non-urgent projects should accordingly be deleted from the wish list.
- Individual metering for all new multi-unit housing. MMWD must require all new multi-unit residential hookups to have individual water metering. This ensures new residents are subject to the same water conservation incentives implicit in MMWD's rates. Today's technology makes this possible without meter readers needing to enter individual apartments (and indeed, without meters being installed in individual apartments).
- Prop 218 compliance. MMWD reportedly is considering what effectively would be an increase in the summer season rate relative to last year (and relative to limits contained within its already approved 4-year rate cycle). MMWD must properly complete a new prop 218 process before adopting higher rates.
- Summer rate hike: little impact on usage. Given the above, new rates cannot be imposed before August 2021. For customers on the July billing cycle, a portion of the summer season rate hike will be first seen in their bills due mid-October. As such, the rate increase will have negligible impact on usage this summer and is a blunt tool for increasing conservation.
- Prop 218 requires a Cost of Services Analysis. Before pursuing a summer rate hike, the district should make clear what documentation is required to validate that the proposed new summer rates tie to the district's cost of service.

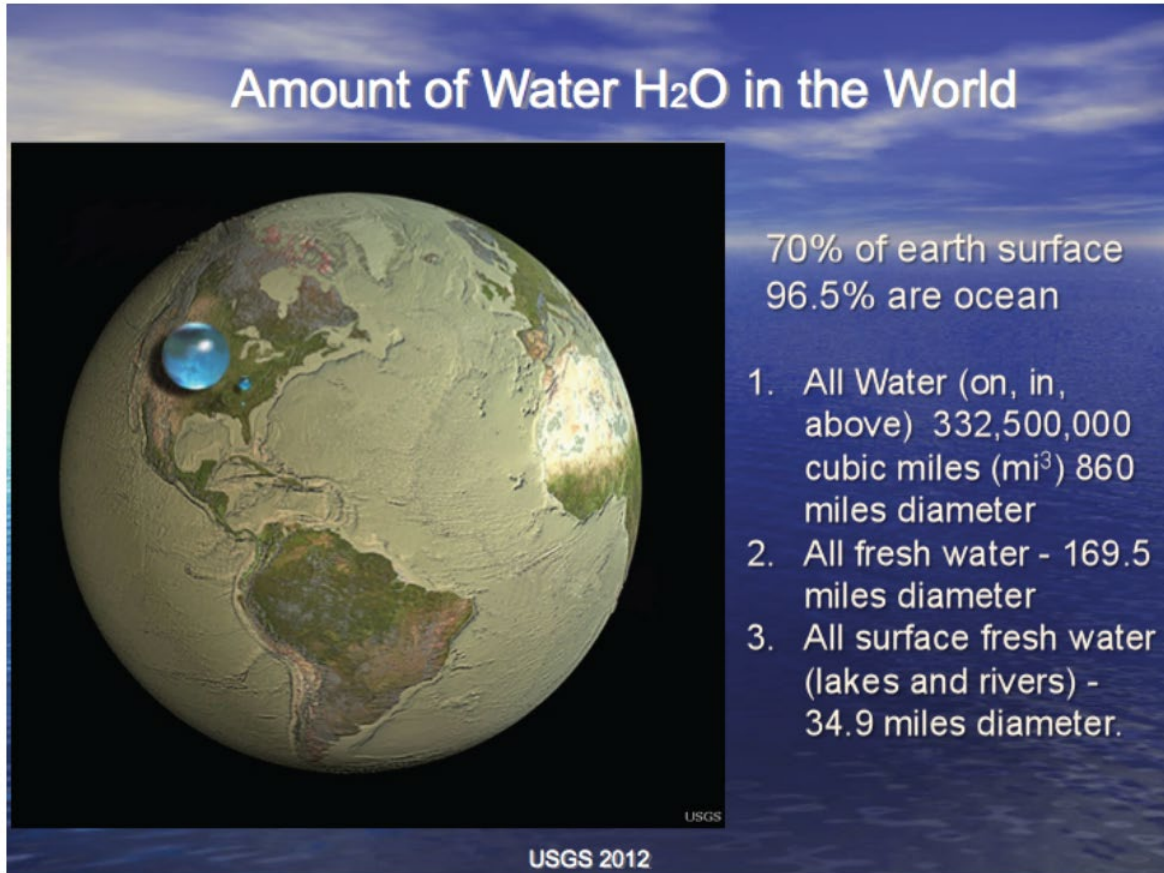
From: [Riley Hurd](#)
To: [Cynthia Koehler](#)
Subject: new special district funds
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 8:14:24 PM

I am watching your meeting and thought you would be interested to know this just passed specific to special districts instead of the County and the Governor will hopefully sign soon:

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/1577e4c7/UQnrFLnckkGgF0vpB0cWeA?
u=https://www.cstda.net/blogs/vanessa-gonzales/2021/06/15/legislature-passes-special-district-
covid-19-relie](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/1577e4c7/UQnrFLnckkGgF0vpB0cWeA?u=https://www.cstda.net/blogs/vanessa-gonzales/2021/06/15/legislature-passes-special-district-covid-19-relie)

Riley F. Hurd III, Esq.
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[1101 5th Avenue, Suite 100](#)
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Fax: [415.453.8269](#)
Email: rhurd@rflawllp.com

From: laurachariton@comcast.net
To: [Larry Bragman](#); [Larry Russell](#); [Jack Gibson](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Monty Schmitt](#)
Subject: Amount of water in the world
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:55:17 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.png](#)
[image.png](#)



Thank you all for protecting our most precious and finite resource. Please help us save water for salmon, our keystone species, and all wildlife.

Sincerely,

Laura Chariton, President Watershed Alliance of Marin

M.A. Riparian Policy and Restoration

watermarin.org (501) C3
446 Panoramic Hwy. Mill Valley, CA 94941



415 234-9007 cell 415 855-5630

From: [Valeri Hood](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: please take time to scan bills that will significantly impact Marin County water use--ACTION ALERT! Please send letters re: Proposed housing bills to the CA Legislature Position Letter Portal ASAP!
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 7:47:46 PM
Attachments: [Sustainable TamAlmonte letter to Assembly Member Levine re Support ACA-7 6-3-21.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

This is an overview- provided by the members of Sustainable TamAlmonte- based in Mill Valley

Many of you may have received this or be on their email list.

It has very important information that will prove invaluable when assessing factors that will affect water use in Marin County.

Valeri Hood

Fairfax, Ca 94930

LETTERS FROM SUSTAINABLE TAMALMONTE:

Below are descriptions of detrimental and beneficial proposed State housing bills for the 2021 legislative session, which have caught our attention, and links to Sustainable TamAlmonte's position letters regarding the bills (We are in the process of writing additional letters re: other pending State housing legislation.):

- **Sustainable TamAlmonte's Letter Re: Oppose SB-6 (Caballero)**
“**Local planning: housing: commercial zones**”: Requires and Streamlines housing in commercial zones and expands the reach of SB-35: <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/f473e33e/IDcxDdcgbE6EEeF2kHdolw?u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/12%2318397>
- **Sustainable TamAlmonte's Letter Re: Oppose SB-7 (Atkins)**
“**Environmental quality: Jobs & Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act of 2021**”: Extends and expands the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) streamlining provisions of AB-900:
https://link.edgepilot.com/s/8f6052be/11klkaEVSk_cz7RPt9FWMQ?u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/10%2318361
- **Sustainable TamAlmonte's Letter Re: Oppose SB-8 (Skinner)**
“**Housing Crisis Act of 2019**”: Extends and expands the “Housing Crisis Act”. Reduces local government review and approval over developments.:
https://link.edgepilot.com/s/2393492c/tx08R3oFF0mVvqCiY7_jQg?u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/10%2318363
- **Sustainable TamAlmonte's Letter Re: Oppose SB-9 (Atkins)**
“**Housing development: approvals**”: Requires local governments to ministerially allow lot splits and duplexes in single-family zones and thereby up-zones single-family parcels to 4 units and potentially up to 6

or 8 units, depending on the applicability of the State Accessory Dwelling Unit law.:

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/abe086c7/HUmV43x5fEaEnCxfhznxcA?u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/12%2318401>

- **Sustainable TamAlmonte's Letter Re: Oppose SB-10 (Wiener)**
“Planning and zoning: housing development: density”: Permits a local government to pass an ordinance, which is not subject to CEQA, to zone any parcel (including those in single-family zones) up to 10 units of residential density per parcel, at a height specified by the local government in the ordinance, if the parcel is located in a transit-rich area, a jobs-rich area, or an urban infill site, as specified. “:
https://link.edgepilot.com/s/afff9920/UMUrDdN9S0_ble7rmPTKaw?u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/10%2318357
- **Sustainable TamAlmonte's Letter Re: Support-If-Amended SB-12 (McGuire) "Local government: planning and zoning: wildfires"**: Imposes new planning requirements for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) and restricts development in VHFHSZ.:
<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/a12beea8/5SLtYuCrYkaT7S0Rb2KZBw?u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/13%2318416>
- **Sustainable TamAlmonte's Letter Re: Oppose SB-290 (Skinner)**
“Density Bonus Law: qualifications for incentives or concessions: student housing: moderate-income families: local government constraints”: Increases Density Bonus while lowering affordable housing threshold.:
<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/96e4ac68/Umk2HJ1yfEiGMuac3RgXLg?u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/10%2318358>
- **Sustainable TamAlmonte's Letter Re: Oppose SB-478 (Wiener)**
“Planning & Zoning Law: housing development projects”: Prohibits local governments from setting Floor Area Ratio less than 1.5 (1 and ½ times the size of the lot). Limits the Floor Area Ratio and minimum lot sizes that cities can impose on projects with ten or fewer units.:
<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/bf736e86/hwNO-4zl8UOeebHqKrNoUw?u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/20%2318473>
- **Sustainable TamAlmonte's Letter Re: Support-if-Amended SB-765 (Stern) "Accessory Dwelling Units: setbacks"**: Improves the ability of local governments to retain control of setbacks:
<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/88798c04/H9FhR4DJcUCXPwqNGD18SQ?u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/10%2318362>
- **Sustainable TamAlmonte's Letter Re: Oppose AB-215 (Chiu)**
“Housing element: regional housing need: relative progress determination”: An intent bill to strengthen the CA Department of Housing and Community Development’s (HCD’s) housing law enforcement authority. The bill requires cities/counties to undertake a mid-cycle housing element consultation to check the jurisdiction's

progress toward fulfilling their housing quotas (including market-rate housing allocations). Jurisdictions that fall behind must attain a "pro-housing" designation by adopting housing policies that facilitate planning, approval or construction of housing, such as offering local financial incentives, lowering parking requirements, and streamlining the permit process with by-right approvals. :

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/f65ef21b/WDTSZPJvOEWS9cTjFF9H6g?](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/f65ef21b/WDTSZPJvOEWS9cTjFF9H6g?u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/10%2318359)

[u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/10%2318359](https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/10%2318359)

- **Sustainable TamAlmonte's Letter Re: Oppose AB-721 "Covenants and restrictions: affordable housing"**: Makes recorded restrictions on the number or size of residences on properties unenforceable against the owners of affordable housing developments.:

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/8f242553/4aBVNVQZkU2akqKT-wU3JA?](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/8f242553/4aBVNVQZkU2akqKT-wU3JA?u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/11%2318370)

[u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/11%2318370](https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/11%2318370)

- **Sustainable TamAlmonte's Letter Re: Oppose AB-1401 (Friedman) "Residential & commercial development: parking requirements"**:

Eliminates parking requirements within ½ mile of public transit.:

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/596d39ac/bwF3z0f8MUudmYxnFiH9QQ?](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/596d39ac/bwF3z0f8MUudmYxnFiH9QQ?u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/28%2318526)

[u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/28%2318526](https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/28%2318526)

- **Sustainable TamAlmonte's Letter Re: Oppose AB-1486 (Carrillo) "California Environmental Quality Act: housing"**: Establishes alternative streamlined California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review procedures for housing elements and related projects undertaken by cities.:

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/6dd8dbaf/40gYpVXw3kmpf7tbESATFg?](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/6dd8dbaf/40gYpVXw3kmpf7tbESATFg?u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/28%2318527)

[u=https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/28%2318527](https://marinpost.org/letters/2021/04/28%2318527)

- **Sustainable TamAlmonte's Letter re: Support ACA-7 (Muratsuchi) "Local government: police power: municipal affairs: land use and zoning"**: This Assembly Constitutional Amendment stipulates that city or county regulations regarding "zoning or the use of land" prevail over conflicting state laws, with limited exceptions. **This letter is attached.

In addition, we oppose AB-115, AB-345, AB-916, AB 1277:

- **AB-115 (Bloom) "Planning & zoning: commercial zoning: housing development"**: Requires cities and counties to allow housing in commercial zones and dramatically increase height, density, and Floor Area Ratio (FAR) maximums of such housing, ministerially without any CEQA review, provided the development reserves 20% of the units for affordable housing.
- **AB-345 (Quirk-Silva) "Accessory dwelling units: separate conveyance"**: Requires, rather than authorizes, a local government to allow an ADU to be sold separately from the primary residence, if the ADU meets specified conditions.
- **AB-916 (Salas) "Zoning: accessory dwelling units: bedroom addition"**: Prohibits hearings for room additions to single-family homes and expands allowable ADU height to 20 feet.
- **AB-1277 (Rubio) "California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):**

student housing development projects: expedited judicial review”:
Streamlines the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review for student housing projects.

We also support:

- **AB-1258 (Nguyen) "Housing element: regional housing need plan: judicial review":** This bill would subject the department’s final written determination of a region’s housing needs to judicial review in an action brought by the council of governments. The bill would also subject the final regional housing need plan adopted by the council of governments or the department, as the case may be, to judicial review.

--



215 Julia Ave
Mill Valley, CA 94941

June 3, 2021

Honorable Levine
State Capitol, Room 5135
Sacramento CA 94249

Re: **Support ACA-7** (Muratsuchi) "Local government: police power: municipal affairs: land use and zoning"

Dear Assembly Member Marc Levine,

Sustainable TamAlmonte supports Assembly Constitutional Amendment 7 (ACA-7) "Local Government: police power: municipal affairs: land use and zoning" and requests that you do so also. It is essential that the Constitution of the State of California is amended to reaffirm the powers of locally elected governments to regulate local land use and zoning and limit the state's ability to override those powers.

About Assembly Constitutional Amendment 7:

ACA-7 stipulates that city or county regulations regarding "zoning or the use of land" prevail over conflicting state laws. Limited exceptions include conflicts with state statutes involving (1) the California Coastal Act, (2) the siting of certain power generating facilities, and (3) water or transportation infrastructure projects. Transportation infrastructure projects do not include transit-oriented development projects. This amendment would apply to both charter cities and general law cities. However, in charter cities, courts would determine whether a local ordinance that conflicts with one of the subject areas listed above addresses a matter of statewide concern or a municipal affair.

Reasons to Support Assembly Constitutional Amendment 7:

The impacts of land use decisions differ depending on the municipality and the infrastructure required to maintain appropriate levels of public services, including police and fire services, parklands and public open spaces, transportation, schools, and sewers, varies greatly across the state from locality to locality. The Legislature cannot properly assess the impacts upon each community of sweeping land use rules and

zoning regulations that apply across the state and, as a result, do great harm to many local communities with differing circumstances and concerns.

ACA-7 will make it possible for local agencies to control their own destiny despite the endless legislative attempts to undermine that control. The amendment will provide local control over land use decisions in order to balance development with the economic, environmental, and social needs of a community. Furthermore, it is in the best interests of the State for these complex decisions to be made at the local level to ensure that the specific, unique characteristics, constraints and needs of those communities are properly analyzed and addressed.

Accordingly, ACA-7 is needed to ensure that local cities and counties will make the final decisions on land use and zoning regulations.

Therefore, Sustainable TamAlmonte supports Assembly Constitutional Amendment 7 (ACA-7) and requests that you to do so also.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Sharon Rushton, President
Sustainable TamAlmonte

From: [Jim Allen](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Drought
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 4:57:41 PM

How about NO New Swimming Pools

Jim Allen

Allen Construction Group
627 Goodhill Rd., Kentfield, CA, 94904
PH: 707.480.5937

jim@allenconstructiongroup.com

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/75c68416/yDMmBpN6FEKr5w71IVFD0w?u=http://www.allenconstructiongroup.com/>

From: [Pamela Reaves](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Golf course water usage
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 3:24:32 PM

Dear MMWD Board Directors,

I am grateful for the opportunity to comment on MMWD's response to or water shortage and potential mandates to decrease water usage.

After online research, and information from the Marin IJ article by Will Houston, June 8, 2021, It is likely that there are three golf courses in MMWD jurisdiction; private Meadow Club in Fairfax 18 hole, Mill Valley public, 9 hole, and Peacock Gap private, 18 hole in San Rafael. It is very likely that their combined water usage is 60,000,000 gallons of water per year. That is 164,000 gallons per day of potable water.

If you mandate a 40% reduction for these courses, they will still use 36,000,000 gallons per year, or 99,630 gallons of potable water per day!!!

I did not include McInnis golf because they utilize purple water.

How does this compare to other customer usage? Please consider how egregious this appears compared to a typical residence that has a no turf, drought resistant and bio diverse food producing landscape, gray water use, and rain garden use?

Thanks for your consideration,
Pamela Reaves
Terra Linda resident

From: Sandra Bushmaker <sandrabushmaker@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 8:17 PM

To: Public Information

Subject: Water rationing/allotments

To: MMWD Board of Directors and General Manager of MMWD

I wish to comment that I am a 40+ year resident of Marin County and lived through the drought in the mid-70's with water rationing. I am currently a resident of Sausalito.

I have been judiciously conserving water since we first opined on the drought. My water consumption has dropped almost 50% from the prior billing cycle. I am a tier 1 user. I am using less than 30 gallons per day.

When the Board considers rationing or further cutbacks, I hope there is not a blanket percentage cutback required on all customers regardless of their efforts to cut back. To do so would further punish those, like me, who voluntarily cut back. To impose another percentage cut back on my already reduced consumption would punish me and those like me who have conserved.

Please use another system of cutbacks that does treat those who have conserved and those who haven't to the same amount of cut back allocations.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sandra Bushmaker

(former Mayor of Sausalito)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: califdell <califdell@aol.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:34 PM

To: Public Information

Subject: Drought

Dear Board of Directors -

With all due respect you are moving much too slowly and with a lack of urgency. You need to get strict NOW.

1 day week of overhead spray irrigation??? I could spray for 6 hours!

We're in a severe drought - let's deal with it. I feel that you're dilly dallying too much.

There should be hard decisions made right away - not next meeting , not July.

Outreach needs to become much more visible.

Too much talk - not enough action!! Yes, Cynthia, we want more!

Dellie Woodring
Customer

Dellie Woodring

Sent from my iPhone

From: ["oi](#)
To: opinion@marinij.com; chair@maringop.org; [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#)
Subject: To be or not to be Water
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:29:04 AM

Almost every day there is a letter criticizing the MMWD for their lack of action to combat the drought and lack of water. Allen Friedman was today's writer. And with good reason. The MMWD exists for one reason, to give us clear and plenty of water for our daily use. They aren't doing that. Instead they tell us to conserve, use less while they charge us more for less use. I am pretty sure if these directors were in the real corporate world, they have their jobs for long.

Desalination is the wave of the future since more water will always be needed as the population grows. But in Marin it's a sacrilege to even think about using ocean water. That water belongs to the environmentalist climate phoebes, not us. Now they will never allow drilling in "their" ocean but they are considering 1000s of windmills. But it is a relative easy solution. Get rid of the directors and replace them with directors who will finally do something about Marin's water problem.

Robert A. Casper, SR
San Rafael, CA

From: [DAVID SYDNEY](#)
To: [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: Drought
Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 9:49:47 PM

Dear Director Russell:

Many years ago, when Director Koehler was first running, and I presume my address in Larkspur was in the district she aspired to, she came to my door asking for my vote. We engaged in an extensive conversation about water supply and at that time Ms. Koehler expressed a strong willingness to consider desalinization as a source for additional supply.

Of course, time has passed and she is no longer my representative on the MMWD board, a position now held by you.

I would like to add my name to a list of people who think that desal is still a viable solution to at least in part, supplement the supply. I am distressed at the appearance of the MMWD Board to use a 'pray for rain' and ask for more conservation as the ultimate solutions to the climate change and resulting lack of rain to supply water to this district.

I view the primary responsibility of the Board to insure a supply of clean, fresh and safe potable water to its service clients and if a proven technology such as desal is a viable adjunct to the natural rain supply, then so be it.

I am asking you as my representative on the Board to advocate for additional water supply via the desal route so that a prolonged drought or future droughts will not force the district to merely wring its hands and bemoan the effects of a changing environment while the pipes run dry. The district at one time had a small desal 'sample' facility near San Quentin. From what I remember, the product was well received as an experiment. Please advocate for desal on a larger scale to meet the mandate of the MMWD.

Thank you,
David Sydney
Larkspur

From: [Stan Hutchings](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#); [Engineering Services](#); [Water Conservation](#); [Terrie Gillen](#); [Team@marclevine.org](#)
Subject: Prepare for future droughts with desalination plants
Date: Thursday, June 10, 2021 11:13:09 AM

Hi all,

Please include Ben Horenstein, the general manager of the Marin Municipal Water District, in this discussion.

Please present this at the next meeting of the meeting of the Board of Directors and discuss the pros and cons of the two options after you get an estimate of the cost of a pipeline and compare it to the cost of a desalination plant of similar capacity.

I just read the article in the MarinIJ by Will Houston describing the meeting with Assemblyman Marc Levine.

Personally, I would much prefer to see a desalination plant that can yield sufficient water to guarantee Marin County enough drinking water to survive even a multi-year drought. It should be completely wind- and solar-powered - resources abundantly available in Marin. It should also be scalable, so future needs can be met by expanding the facility. Other cities around the world utilize desalination,

see <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/7aaf993d/alMVnq0L6UCYy0pBaDuT6A?u=https://www.waterworld.com/home/article/14071194/desalination-opportunities-and-challenges> for examples. Indeed, California alone has 11 municipal seawater desalination plants, with 10 more proposed (<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/e9b35a43/qWGhIGMP0k2foDK0BRqF7w?u=https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2020/09/tale-coastlines-desalination-china-california/>).

By contrast, a pipeline from the East Bay would depend on there being sufficient water there for export, not guaranteed in the event of an extended drought. Furthermore, according to the article, "Completing such an endeavor now would be incredibly expensive — though no cost estimate has yet been provided — and would require extensive cooperation between Caltrans, the East Bay Municipal Water District and customers willing to sell their State Water Project allotments, Horenstein said." It would be much safer to leave decisions that concern Marin in Marin, rather than depend on the political wind in the East Bay. There is an additional, significant risk from earthquakes.

Best regards,
Stan Hutchings
45 Estates Drive, San Anselmo, CA 94960

RECEIVED

JUN 11 2021

MMWD

Mike Elgie
83 Mt. Muir Ct.
San Rafael, CA 94903

June 8, 2021

MMWD
220 Nellen Avenue
Corte Madera, CA 94925

I have been a MMWD customer since 1976. I lived through the big drought of 1977, pumping washer rinse water to save plants, etc. Over the years we have converted toilets and shower heads to low flow, installed drip system for our landscaping, catching shower warm up in bucket and various other tricks to save and conserve water. The same is true with thousands of homes around Marin. There is not much more we can do, short of turning our yards into deserts.

Meanwhile, there have been a large number of new residences and businesses in Marin while MMWD has done very little to increase the water supply. I have attended presentations by MMWD people and asked what is being done to increase the water supply and storage capacity. The message always seems to be the same. We are in good shape and water conservation will save the day. MMWD must do more.

Today's Marin Independent Journal had a letter to the editor describing what the San Diego area has done with Desalination. Why have you not taken similar action? Why are you waiting now? The new Desal technology is available. Please take advantage of it.

I do not say we should not continue to conserve wherever possible, but we need prompt help on the supply side to complement our conservation efforts.

Thank you,



Mike Elgie

Cc: Marin Independent Journal

From: runbug563@aol.com
To: [Cynthia Koehler](#)
Date: Sunday, June 13, 2021 1:06:34 PM

As a Mill Valley resident who lived through the 1974 (I think) drought I am not looking forward to a similar experience. I have discussed this possibility with a number of fellow residents and we wonder why Marin County has never built a desalination plant. Santa Barbara and many, many other places have and they have proven to be very effective. I am sure it is very expensive but California has so much money now. I don't think this is the last time we will have a water shortage. Please let me know if this is a possibility.

Yours truly,

Mary Cudahy

From: [Ben Horenstein](#)
To: [Terrie Gillen](#)
Subject: FW: Desalination
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:26:35 AM

From: "oi <robtcasper@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:19 AM
To: Ben Horenstein <bhorenstein@marinwater.org>; opinion@marinij.com;
hiddenaddress@comcast.net
Subject: Desalination

Mr. Leonard Malherbe is right about desalination to end our water worries. But he lives in Marin and that will never be done. First of all the climate phoebe environmental liberals own Marin. They got rid of oyster in the bay and want to get rid of cows because they pollute "their ocean". No oil rids in their ocean but maybe wind turbines.

Desalinating water to these climate phoebes is blaspheming the ocean. It would harm fish, sand and be ugly. Imagine taking oysters from the bay for our consumption is evil how can anyone take water from their god the ocean. Ms. Horenstein of the water district knows this and is petrified at even mentioning this desalination. Maybe those opposed to desalination should sign a petition against it. Then we can use that petition to charge them more for water since they are the reason we pay such high prices. If they have this paranoia over the ocean, let them pay not us.

But desalination is on our aircraft carriers, Tampa Bay, and most of the Middle East nation. It's a shame these environmentalist have so much power or should the water district just get some guts and suggest desalination. I do think politically the district would be supported by most working people of Marin. Why not put it to a vote in Marin.

Robert A. Casper, SR
San Rafael, CA

From: [SYDNEY PARK](#)
To: [Cynthia Koehler](#)
Subject: Drought alert
Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 6:53:36 PM

What do you think about road signs announcing a drought. The electronic sign at Lucky Dr. Seems to be a perfect avenue. Instead of tell us how long it will take to get to Novato, etc. it might say something like: Critical Drought/ Conserve water.

I dont think the very beautiful mailing is really conveying the urgency of the matter.

SYDNEY PARK

slpark@comcast.net

SYDNEY PARK

slpark@comcast.net

From: [Joe Amato](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: Water Conservation + Proper/effective/timely Communications = Success
Date: Thursday, June 3, 2021 9:44:25 PM

Hello MMWD Board,

I am a paying customer in the San Rafael area who has taken your water restrictions to heart by 1) reducing lawn watering by 50%; 2) further by reducing lawn watering to 2 days a week even at 50% levels; 3) instructing family on better usage of a faucet for everyday needs; and 4) communicated to friends and neighbors to do the same.

It's that last one that is key, because many in Marin do not know what water restrictions are even needed. To a person, they all say that they just don't see/hear enough about water conservation needs. Some are just burnt out on the news, so that method becomes ineffective. Others are seeing empty email inboxes, no notices in snail mail boxes and certainly no public displays of messaging.

I implore you. I do not want to live through what I did back in '76 when a smaller less news burnt populace was more aware of water conservation. So please....for heaven sakes.....**improve your messaging skills**. Get smarter. Take out Facebook ads, tv commercials, flyers, direct emails, fly streamers around town, billboards, town hall visits, local school visits, day care center visits, direct communication with apartment property owners, mall owners, and on and on. Communicate often, loudly and with a better sense of urgency than has been displayed. If you communicate better you'll get the conservation respect you're asking for. TV stations in the area should be giving you free ad space given the life and death issue that this can become.

Water Conservation + Proper/effective/timely Communications = Success

Thanks for listening.

-joe

From: [Karen Dunn](#)
To: [Cynthia Koehler](#)
Subject: Communicating Water Restrictions
Date: Friday, June 4, 2021 8:57:01 AM

Dear Cynthia. My family and I follow the MMWD mandated water restrictions (limiting watering days, not washing cars, etc.), but our neighbors' lawns look much greener than ours, one neighbor washed her car last week, and the neighbors on both sides of us have uncovered pools. I'm wondering if these nice people just don't know about the water restrictions. I read the IJ, and I read the information that MMWD sends in the mail. But frankly, the brochure that came from MMWD was pretty dense. I'm wondering if a sign campaign, notices under door mats, or a less dense mailing might get through to these people?

Thanks,

Karen Dunn
Larkspur

From: [beryn](#)
To: [Christina Mountanos](#); [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#); [Ben Horenstein](#)
Subject: A request for more urgency in MMWD drought related communications
Date: Sunday, June 6, 2021 3:16:13 PM

Dear Madam and Sirs;

By now you know me as an outspoken advocate for water conservation. My grassroots effort includes building an email list for “A Drop in the Bucket,” the newsletter that I curate with useful information and events. As of today, it’s being sent out to 130 people, and the list grows daily. As well, I invite every recipient to share each newsletter they receive with as many of their friends as they wish as part of my “Each One Reach One” approach, so I really don’t know its ultimate reach.

The reason for my letter today is to share with you something that I received from a friend who lives in Cape Town, South Africa. In 2018 that city came close to running out of water entirely during their drought. When I asked him for some thoughts on his experience, this is what he wrote;

“I recall an incredulous feeling overall. IMHO [in my humble opinion], our local government was definitely not proactive enough leading up to the critical situation. I feel that more educative work needed to be done on a more proactive basis, before the damage was done.”

That’s a reflection of his experience, and his comment about being more proactive is exactly why I’m writing this.

Yes, the timing of having a more determined communications campaign couldn’t happen at a worse moment; everyone is emotionally exhausted from the pandemic as well as the fear of catastrophic fires, but we didn’t choose this time for a drought, it chose us.

How the drought is handled today will be looked back at from the future. So my question is this; how do we want to be remembered? Were we a community that came together despite our reluctance and made the sacrifices necessary to get past this challenging time in tact, or were we a group of people ignorant of the environmental issue and its accompanying challenge only to have found ourselves in dire straights?

I believe that we are people willing to make sacrifices... but only if someone tells us what it is that we need to do.

At the last MMWD board of directors meeting (June 1), the public learned that the district is at only 8% of the goal of 40% conservation. The drought didn’t just happen; it’s been in ongoing for several months, and this conservation goal been in place for a while too.

With that said, I beseech you to ramp up the communications campaign to a more urgent level; give people the information that is difficult to hear but necessary to know. A year from now ignorance of the problem will not put water in the system and blame will be cast.

We have to do better in letting people know about the drought and what each person can do to save water.

Thank you again for listening.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beryn". The script is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'B' and a trailing flourish.

Beryn Hammil

From: [Betsy McGee](#)
To: [Cynthia Koehler](#)
Subject: Drought conservation suggestions
Date: Monday, June 14, 2021 6:10:50 PM

Dear Ms. Koehler (and the rest of the Marin Water board),

Water is California's gold. It is precious and rare -- even more so now that we are projecting years of drought. I would like to offer these suggestions for Marin Water -- for this year, and for the future:

Drought signage: Instead of waiting for concerned citizens to request and post signs in their neighborhoods, Marin Water should proactively place them throughout the district. Instead of the "plain vanilla" blue and white signs, invest in full color signage that shows a photo of Phoenix Lake or Nicasio Reservoir. These are graphic images that would show everyone how serious the drought truly is.

Tier Pricing: In my view, any household should be able to live off of 35 gallons of water per person per day. We take our water for granted, and have little appreciation for how lucky we are to have had a plentiful supply in most years. I suggest altering the tiers to keep the "bottom third" of Tier 1 very affordable; after that, increase the prices dramatically. Pricing is not necessarily going to influence behavior, but it might have some effect.

Outside Irrigation: It's time to bite the bullet. All outdoor watering must be done by hand.

Media: Continue to publicize in local media the severity of the drought, and use video and photos for impact!

Timing: I was very disappointed by the "late to the game" attention that the current drought received. This last year we had ZERO significant rain events (meaning, a rain storm that dropped 2-3 inches within 24 hours). As the lack of rainfall continued through January, we should have heard talk of conservation starting in February. I hope this won't be repeated in subsequent dry years.

Outside Irrigation (part 2): I think *any* residential or commercial landscaping that uses automatic watering must either have a smart controller, or must be subject to a twice-yearly audit of their system for a nominal fee. Visits by Master Gardeners are good, but not enough. Too many places are overwatering plants that don't need so much water. Many systems are still using pop-up sprinklers that don't deliver water where it's truly needed. And way too many systems deliver the same amount of water in September and October, as they do in June. It is a huge waste!

Alternative sources: With protracted drought projected, it's time to look for other ways to provide water other than through conservation. Yes, we need to conserve, but we must invest in other options such as desalinization or pumping water from other, much more distant, sources. We have no other options.

Thank you for your consideration.

Betsy McGee
Larkspur

From: jefmgmtserv@aol.com
To: [Cynthia Koehler](#)
Cc: jefmgmtserv@aol.com; marcia.sulenta@yahoo.com; wsulenta@hotmail.com; mcrowreis@earthlink.net; lindseytalbotdavis@gmail.com; elizacleere@gmail.com; alohacarl@sbcglobal.net; sehayes58@gmail.com; jake@fidoclubmarin.com; linmoor24@gmail.com; michcampell@hotmail.com; jrussell@baysidemgmt.com
Subject: MMWD water meter ban
Date: Thursday, June 3, 2021 7:15:22 PM

Greetings Ms. Koehler,

I am writing on behalf of my rental property at 251 Miller Ave., Mill Valley CA, the fourteen residents and the Alegria Child Care facility at 251 Miller Ave. Mill Valley, CA concerning the proposed temporary ban on water hookups.

We strongly urge you to move forward with this ban. The residents and child care facility at this address already try to conserve water on a regular basis and do not need any additional rent raises to cover additional costs. Conserving even more is restrictive on cleanliness and a healthy lifestyle.

It's understandable that construction and housing advocates don't want to see this ban, but the current residents of the community should come before new projects.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jonetta Frasson
Owner, 251 Miller Ave.
Mill Valley, CA 94941
415-388-5187
jefmgmtserv@aol.com

From: [Linda Moore](#)
To: [Cynthia Koehler](#)
Subject: Moratorium on water hookups
Date: Thursday, June 3, 2021 11:33:10 PM

Dear Ms. Koehler,

I respectfully urge you to consider a vote to ban water hookups for new construction. It's the only sensible thing to do given the state of our reservoirs at this time.

To demand that current ratepayers reduce water usage under threat of fines (and even prison) yet still allow new hookups is unreasonable! I am happy to reduce my water consumption, as I think most of us are, but to allow new construction to go forward in a severe drought is unconscionable. I agree with the president of Marin Audubon who said that "Your [MMWD] responsibilities are to current customers...."

The precedent has been set: Marin County has twice ordered a ban on water hookups in the past 50 years – from 1973 to 1978 and 1989 to 1993. It is time to do it again. Drastic conditions call for drastic solutions.

I strongly entreat you to endorse this ban. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Linda Moore, tenant
251 Miller Avenue
Mill Valley CA 94941

From: [Personal](#)
To: [Cynthia Koehler](#)
Subject: New Water meters in Mill Valley
Date: Thursday, June 3, 2021 9:45:10 PM

Dear C.Koehler, as a home owner and renter of business as well as residential property for over 40 years in BV Mill Valley the one thing that has been an unresolved issue has been housing. Granted the need for more affordable housing has never been greater. The fact existing costs of maintaining the existing homes and businesses have continued to increase. With the drought continuing, fear of water use shortages increase.

In my opinion it is irresponsible to grant more new construction water meters. This drive to build mega homes, multi million dollar condos does nothing to answer the affordable housing issue. These new meters will drive up usage and create even higher taxes and water use bills for the existing residents. I strongly suggest that these new meters be denied.

Thank you
Carl Arena

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Adams, Kathleen](#)
To: [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)
Subject: Please reconsider your grating new water meter hookups to developers during a historic drought
Date: Thursday, June 3, 2021 10:04:54 PM

Dear Marin Municipal Water Board,

We just learned that you are allowing developers to side-step local regulations and pay extra to get water hookups. I really hope this is a false report, as it is unimaginable that our water district would do such a thing during an historic drought. It puts the entire county at risk. If this is true, I hope you will reconsider and reverse this immediately.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Adams

~~~~~

Kathleen M. Adams, Ph.D.

Corte Madera Resident

-Professorial Research Associate, SOAS, Anthro. & Sociology, University of London

-Visiting Research Fellow (2021-2022), Centre for Tourism Research, Wakayama University, Japan

-Professor Emerita of Anthropology, Loyola University Chicago

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/950482e0/Oe\\_5vElKT0KEEw-MIerVPw?](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/950482e0/Oe_5vElKT0KEEw-MIerVPw?)

[u=https://www.luc.edu/anthropology/faculty/adams.shtml](https://www.luc.edu/anthropology/faculty/adams.shtml)

-Adjunct Curator, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL

**From:** [Constance Gurka](#)  
**To:** [Jack Gibson](#)  
**Subject:** Drought 2021 and beyond  
**Date:** Friday, June 4, 2021 8:07:49 AM

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Mr. Gibson,

It is a very hard time in this Megadrought which will continue. As you have seen during pandemic people could not keep up with water bills and this will only worsen as rates rise due to drought. and drought worsens.

Established properties and residents are being forced into restrictions because of mismanagement of planning departments approving high density buildings - hotels, multi-units, etc. Then the MMWD approves the water hook-ups. People will flock to hotels to take showers, etc. In huge density housing and apartments water usage is not curtailed.

I have not taken a shower in 4 months. People need to be told no more showers and just wash-up, rarely wash hair, etc.. Live in fire and crash area so try to keep a little moist because drivers are very careless and crash us continually because of turn especially contractor trucks. We had 14.5 projects in our area during pandemic and the water they used! Drought is going to get even worst because this drought is hotter than 76-77.

**It is time to stop on any additional water hook-ups.** There will pretty much be just vacant buildings and houses as people migrate out so there will be sufficient buildings to remodel for use. I have counted more than a dozen vacant buildings within a 3 mile radius of our home so building does not make sense. Also, MMWD needs to inform the residents when they will need to leave the area. MMWD needs to be honest when situation is that dire. It is also occurring in other developed countries.

Connie & Ed Gurka  
197 Coleman Drive, San Rafael

**From:** [DELOS PUTZ](#)  
**To:** [Larry Bragman](#); [Gibson, Jack](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#); [Monty Schmitt](#)  
**Subject:** Impose use restrictions now  
**Date:** Friday, June 4, 2021 1:36:04 PM

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I had hoped that MMWD would impose mandatory use restrictions last January rather than wait in hope of rain. Better late than never.

C. Delos Putz  
San Geronimo

**From:** [Dave Griffis](#)  
**To:** [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)  
**Subject:** First Law of Holes and Water Hookups -- Stop Digging and Impose a Moratorium  
**Date:** Sunday, June 6, 2021 5:13:57 PM

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Dear Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) Directors,

Acknowledging that I am preaching to the choir, I am compelled to offer the following: Marin faces a drought of historic proportions. (*SF Chronicle* May 3, 2021, Marin reservoirs have only about half the normal supply for this time of year, their lowest point in nearly 40 years; MMWD Water Watch, 6/3/2021, Current storage (37,358 AF) is 53.42% of the average storage (69,933 AF) for this date.) Marin Board of Supervisors President Dennis Rodoni has a grimmer assessment, "Drought conditions are the worst we have seen in over 140 years in Marin." (MBOS Press Release, May 18, 2021). Matters are worsening, Sonoma will soon cut Marin water imports and we approach the driest months of the year.

Consumer conservation measures are proving ineffective. Last week the *Marin IJ* reported that though the MMWD asked customers to cut back on usage by 40%, customers only cut consumption by 11%. Among the drastic measures considered by the District is spending \$45,000,000 (2014 dollars) to reconstruct the 1977 pipeline across the Richmond San Rafael Bridge to import water from the East Bay.

While water conservation and resupply efforts are reasonable given the severe drought, there is a simple prophylactic measure, described below, which will avoid aggravating our perilous predicament. This measure is consistent with the *First Law of Holes*. "When you find yourself in a hole, stop digging." Digging a hole makes it deeper and therefore harder to get out of.

MMWD finds itself in a hole -- an insufficient water supply to sustain its over 190,000 population, an empty well if you will. My family and I along with our neighbors implore the MMWD to impose a temporary water hookup moratorium to curb future demand which will aggravate the drought. Simply put, increasing consumption during a drought makes no sense, it is like finding ourselves in a hole and digging it deeper.

Respectfully,

Griffis Family  
70 Forbes Avenue

San Anselmo

**From:** [cindy taylor](#)  
**To:** [Jack Gibson](#)  
**Cc:** [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)  
**Subject:** No new hookups!  
**Date:** Sunday, June 6, 2021 7:13:46 AM

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I trust MMWD will do the right thing and ban all new water meter hookups until we are out of the current drought situation.

I am complying with the restricted water use and my lawn and garden are dying and projects are put on-hold. To allow new hookups when other customers are doing their required part at this time is unthinkable.

Any new construction considerations with new hookups should be disclosed to all your MMWD customers for scrutiny. This is not the time for MMWD to be bending to the notion that new customer-construction projects can be obtained for an additional fee.

Thank you for your serious consideration to the ban of new water permits at this time.

Cindy Taylor  
542 panoramic highway  
Mill valley

[MSchmitt@MarinWater.org](mailto:MSchmitt@MarinWater.org),  
[LBragman@MarinWater.org](mailto:LBragman@MarinWater.org)  
[CKoehler@MarinWater.org](mailto:CKoehler@MarinWater.org)  
[LRussell@MarinWater.org](mailto:LRussell@MarinWater.org)

**From:** [Public Information](#)  
**To:** [Terrie Gillen](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Drought emergency  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 9, 2021 10:07:49 AM

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Board comment

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**From:** califdell <califdell@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 9, 2021 9:44 AM  
**To:** Public Information  
**Subject:** Drought emergency

Dear Board of Directors -

Allowing any new hookups sends a very negative message to your thousands of customers who are depriving themselves of water conveniences in order to increase water conservation- for example, "why should I let my plants die and not run my washing machine when new hook ups are allowed?" It's very basic.

Thank you for your work.

Dellie Woodring  
94920

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Kevin Malone](#)  
**To:** [Jack Gibson](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Monty Schmitt](#)  
**Subject:** New hookups  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 9, 2021 10:49:41 AM

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Hello Board Members, I write to express my concern with any approvals for new water hookups during this unprecedented drought. I normally do not get involved in local political decisions, but feel compelled to voice my opinion here. It just makes no logical sense to add additional water demand when supplies have already fallen below that needed to support current demand.

I understand the Board will vote at its next meeting June 15th. I urge you to issue a temporary ban on new hookups until we either:

- 1) replenish reservoirs/groundwater with ample new rainfall
- or
- 2) announce plans to acquire new sources of water such as desalination, pipelines, new reservoirs etc and detail the funding secured for such new sources

If you cannot demonstrate fully funded new sources of water, it is entirely irresponsible to approve any increases in water demand during extreme drought. **This should be self-evident**

Please vote to suspend new water hookups.

Respectfully,

--

Kevin Malone  
786.554.1000 cell

**From:** [caldararo@aol.com](mailto:caldararo@aol.com)  
**To:** [Cynthia Koehler](#)  
**Subject:** moratorium  
**Date:** Saturday, June 12, 2021 4:16:26 PM

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## Marin Municipal Water District Board

Dear Ms. Koehler:

I would like to make a few comments in support of your proposed hookup moratorium. There are two main issues opponents of the moratorium have consistently made in public. One is that the savings in water is minimal. The water crisis we are in contradicts this assertion, and this is not just because conservation efforts could save more water, but because even with draconian restrictions, which I support, the situation is already dire. Whatever we can save is necessary to avert even worse conditions as general drying increases. The second issue is housing. What is unfortunate is that when one reads the list of opponents we find they are builders, financiers, promoters of housing. We would expect them to protect their incomes. But their arguments are not in the public interest. I will now detail my reasons.

### A. On **Housing, Low Cost Housing, Profits and Demand Strategy**

1. We are building housing in the wildland interface. Marin has failed, as has the State of California and most municipalities, to contain sprawl. A recent *Independent Journal* (IJ) article by Olga Rodriguez (June 12, 2021) summarized a report by U.C. Berkeley's Center for Community Innovation that found California's state and local agencies are encouraging building and rebuilding in the most fire-prone areas of the state.
2. Opponents of the moratorium claim it will slow the production of affordable housing. What is clear is few affordable units are being built anywhere, but if we are to see such dwellings added to our housing stock it is in the urban cores where they can most affordably be situated. This is because of the urban infrastructure. Large dense housing units are more efficient than small spaced units. Electrification and plumbing can be provided at a fraction of the cost in high rises than in small units, though at a diminishing return as over 20 stories the benefit disappears  
(<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/bfc43255/l6xeSil2kkWK4koygCRueg?>

[u=https://phys.org/news/2017-06-high-rise-energy-intensive-low-rise.html](https://phys.org/news/2017-06-high-rise-energy-intensive-low-rise.html)). Yet even when we are considering "large" units of 10 to 30 compared to 100 to 200 the way an inner city core promotes efficiencies is still great (<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/2fdc4a8f/0Cqw88ea9KHuw?u=https://www.citylab.com/design/2012/05/limits-density/2005/>).

But we have to ask why American cities have a glut of high rise developments and still little affordable housing? That is because builders and financiers are pursuing luxury buyers and planners and politicians are supporting them (<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/7a8268e8/uRqte0mhC0eteerdl6c76g?u=https://www.forbes.com/sites/joelkotkin/2017/08/31/high-rise-glut-affordable-housing/%232acd6f3f53e0>).

Most units built are not primary residences but are speculative investments (back to the commodification of housing). What we need is a housing policy that prevents the construction of commodified units and promotes affordability.

3. There is a world-wide problem in housing. One has to ask why. Part of the answer is how housing is financed and built. It would seem obvious that over the past 60 years planners have failed to "plan" for both housing and traffic. If nimbys are responsible, as is often asserted, then why do we have a world wide housing crisis? From San Francisco to Nairobi, Cairo to London there is a crisis. Squatters' slums are growing across the world due to a lack of planning and affordable housing, as Robert Neuwirth demonstrates in his 2006 book *Shadow Cities: A Billion Squatters. A New Urban World*. New York: Routledge.

To blame local citizens for the housing problems is contrary to fact. In the post-WWII period the government provided significant financial support for new housing and to upgrade substandard housing, both with the FHIA and government sponsored housing as well as Redevelopment. Even with this massive government effort the conditions for low cost, safe housing fell very far from needs as Nathaniel Keith (Politics and the Housing Crisis Since 1930, New York, Universal Books, 1973) demonstrated in his survey of housing costs and income since 1930. Government support fell substantially after 1970. After this date housing size exploded and that was a central reason for the increase in cost. Reference to DataQuick on housing built between 1980 and 2010 or using U.S. Census data shows that most housing built was over 2,000 sq. ft. (up from about 900) and definitely not affordable for most workers given the fact that wages have been flat since 1970 (see New York Times article at: <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/320ec9ab/T2Byd6Y8qkGjZkda6JSjfA?u=http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/09/10/a-decade-with-no-income-gain/>)

But this was not the only factor, investment in housing changed the landscape, as housing became "commodified" as Margaret Jane Radin explained in her analysis of housing financing and public housing policy: Rent Control and

Incomplete Commodification: A Rejoinder Author(s): Margaret Jane Radin  
Source: Philosophy & Public Affairs, Vol. 17, No. 1 (Winter, 1988), pp. 80-83.

The same situation has occurred elsewhere. The Financial Times (21 November 2017) published an article by Jonathan Eley that documents the effects of housing becoming more an asset to be invested in than a dwelling to be lived in. He shows in a chart from government data on housing units built and households, that since 1996 the production of housing has kept up with the creation of households (families). So if England is building enough housing to keep up with population why is housing so expensive? The reason is cheap money and speculation in housing. More REITs and investment vehicles are buying housing as investments, so the market is driven, not by housing needs of people but by the need to acquire hard investments, assets, that are secure. Even in China there is an investment boom in housing speculation.

So, where do we see affordable housing? Where governments own the land and the housing, as in Hong Kong and Singapore and where the government sets rental prices at wage levels. Both countries have housing bubbles, just as our "financialization" or commodification of housing, but government action has stabilized housing for the majority of the population about 50% in both locations.

So if we want affordable housing the county or the State of California will have to build it.

Some might be uncomfortable with big government taking over this portion of the housing market, but then several laws supported by builders and banks, as in Senate Bill 35 in 2017 were designed to gut local government controls of development and enhances Sacramento's power, so housing advocates trust in big government. What local governments can do now is stop the destruction of our most affordable housing, rentals as in duplexes, small homes and existing rentals that are under siege not only by Airbnb which is displacing rentals, but in the demolition and/or gutting for larger single family units.

## **B. On Water Resources, Demand and Conservation**

Will Houston's article in the IJ recently ("Plan for new well survives challenge") relates how Marin's authorities are ignoring factors that make the drought worse. More wells is one of these factors. NASA images show the ground is sinking across California as groundwater is pumped out for gardens, agriculture and drinking. Bridges, roads other infrastructure are suffering (Kurtis Alexander, "Land sinking fast as aquifers drained" SF Chronicle, August 20, 2015).

The County needs to address this issue now starting with a moratorium on wells. We need a groundwater ordinance, a countywide study of groundwater quality and drawdown, a groundwater management plan, and a groundwater

replenishment district and a conservation district. The County should require existing wells be licensed and charged a fee for use to pay for water table recharge testing and procedures and related studies.

California is finally doing something about water wells. After decades of intense pumping (2 million more pumped out than is recharged) the state legislature passed laws regulating pumping. Marin is one of the worst offenders. Laws passed in 2014, especially the Sustainable Ground Water Management Act (SGWM) should have made a difference. But it has had little effect due partly because 2020 was the first year for compliance and it has little teeth or enforcement staff (Susie Cagle, The Guardian, 27 Feb 2020).

The main problem we face with groundwater resources is that Marin has no countywide groundwater study or plan. According to the California in 2014 Department of Water Resources data in Bulletin 118, no Bay Area county had one, and none had yet passed groundwater ordinances. According to the SGWM submitted by Marin County only 2 wells in the County have been monitored and as of 2019 there were only plans to monitor 5 more (<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/f277fa30/IcKwhVnrOkW9lASO0OJEsw?u=https://www.marincounty.org/-/media/files/departments/cd/ehs/water/groundwater-resources/marincasgemplan062019.pdf?la=en>).

Former Supervisor Katie Sears was right in her comments about the abdication of the Supervisor's responsibility for the ground water basins in Marin. As reported by Richard Halstead, (County Transfers jurisdiction over groundwater site, Sept 24, 2018) the Marin County Supervisors modified boundaries over the San Point Area Basin giving away control over the Wilson Grove Basin (physically located in Marin) to Sonoma County. This was done to avoid the law passed in 2014 requiring counties across the state to develop groundwater plans to achieve control of losses to over use and to develop recharging methods. (see UC Davis website for details:

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/770b60c5/LrTO\\_DHm30ecyFvuG6ocZA?u=http://groundwater.ucdavis.edu/SGMA/](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/770b60c5/LrTO_DHm30ecyFvuG6ocZA?u=http://groundwater.ucdavis.edu/SGMA/))

Groundwater is a local responsibility under the State Constitution, although AB3030 has had the effect of increasing water basin and other studies of groundwater since 1990 and Proposition 13 (the one passed in 2000 not 1978) allocated money to the counties to do

so. Yet Marin lacks a study, a water replacement district and a water conservation district. Most of the groundwater management plans submitted to the State "...are brief recitations about continuing the agency's existing programs." according to the analysis undertaken for Bulletin 118.

In the past 4 decades thousands of wells have been drilled in Marin to allow homeowners, commercial enterprises and public entities to avoid restrictions on water use imposed by drought conditions and overuse of our water supplies. Those that have been done with permits are filed with the County and some of the towns, but there are few reports with comprehensive information about the water use or quality. People are using a public resource for private ends as the water drawdown affects the water table, all our streams and rivers and generally our wildlife and flora. Human use is drying out the county and promoting a change in the environment.

We are seeing this in Marin with the reports given by MMWD staff on complaints of users on increased salinity. This is underscored by the poor production of the Gallagher Ranch well that was predicted to produce more than 300 gallons per minute but only gives out half that. We are making the situation worse day by day.

Finally, we need not only a moratorium, but a County-wide plan to protect and restore our water resources.

Niccolo Caldararo  
165 Frustuck Ave.  
Fairfax, Ca. 94930 453-9064

**From:** [Victoria Sievers](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Comments in advance of Tuesday meeting  
**Date:** Sunday, June 13, 2021 3:40:36 PM

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Dear Board Members:

Please issue an immediate moratorium on new water applications and hookups. It just makes sense.

Please *consider* possible reduction in MMWD staffing expenses.

Please do not set up any kind of system that would reward/encourage neighbors reporting on neighbors. YIKES. We are much bigger and better than that. Exceptions might be made with respect to identifying questionable commercial use—for possible MMWD investigation.

Thank you for your service in this tremendously challenging time.

Vicki and David Sievers

San Rafael

**From:** [Barbara](#)  
**To:** [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Jack Gibson](#); [Larry Russell](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Ben Horenstein](#)  
**Subject:** MAS Comment on Drought for June 15 meeting  
**Date:** Sunday, June 13, 2021 11:01:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [MMWD Board drought comment.pdf](#)

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Hi All,

Here are Marin Audubon's comments in writing.

Thank you for considering the environment and rate payers.

Barbara





# Marin Audubon Society

P.O. Box 599 | MILL VALLEY, CA 94942-0599 | [MARINAUDUBON.ORG](http://MARINAUDUBON.ORG)

June 11, 2021

Cynthia Koehler, President Board of Trustees  
Marin Municipal Water District  
Email: [LBrigman@MarinWater.org](mailto:LBrigman@MarinWater.org), [JGibson@MarinWater.org](mailto:JGibson@MarinWater.org), [CKoehler@MarinWater.org](mailto:CKoehler@MarinWater.org),  
[MSchmitt@MarinWater.org](mailto:MSchmitt@MarinWater.org), [LRussell@MarinWater.org](mailto:LRussell@MarinWater.org)

Dear President Koehler and Members of the Board:

Following up on my testimony at the last District Board meeting, the Marin Audubon Board is disappointed that you did not take any action to approve additional measures to address our serious drought. The measures the District Board has enacted so far are not sufficient. We urge you to approve stronger conservation measures to ensure the essential water needs of current customers and for the Lagunitas Creek special status species and ecosystem.

Marin Audubon supports most components of Ordinance 452 as proposed in the June 1 staff report, specifically the general prohibition with exemptions for fire and permitted permits/projects until reservoirs again reach acceptable levels. As I testified, public projects can wait unless it is demonstrated they are essential. And we recommend other critical actions to ensure maximum water conservation and fairness to all current customers: prohibition on filling swimming pools, and use of potable watering for irrigating lawns including golf courses and turf for recreational uses on private, commercial or public lands.

Actually, the fairest method of limiting use of this very limited resource would be capping per person daily use, such as was done in the drought of the 70's. We are all in this together – a person's wealth or lack thereof, social status, nature of their property/gardens should not entitle them to any more water than anyone else.

While inconvenience and increased costs will result from water-use restrictions, the public does not want to run out of water. The bottom line is simple: consequences of restrictions today are minor compared to the challenge the district will face if there has been no rain and there is not enough water on hand to get through another year. So act now and act firmly.

Sincerely,

Barbara Salzman  
Conservation Committee

**From:** [Gary Denison](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Moratorium on hookups  
**Date:** Sunday, June 13, 2021 2:50:54 PM

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While acknowledging there is a need for low to moderate income housing in Marin, availability of water is a more immediate and pressing need. Consequently, I am urging you to place a moratorium on new water hook ups.

With the reality of climate change there is no certainty that our current drought conditions may become the “new normal.” Consequently it is important that any and all conservation efforts be undertaken no matter how small the impact. Having lived in Marin for five decades, I like most of my friends and neighbors have already cut back on our water usage over the years. Gone are our lawns replaced with drought resistant plants. Low flow showers and toilets are the norm. Full loads of laundry and dishes are also the norm. Shorter showers, no running water everyone I know is already taking those measures. It is difficult time imagine more ways to conserve but we will try. However, the Board must show its willingness also, with a moratorium on new hook ups just a good faith beginning.

Gary Denison  
MMWD - Mill Valley, Ca

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Dorothy McQuown](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Re. Marin Water Shortage  
**Date:** Sunday, June 13, 2021 4:00:22 PM

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As a concerned citizen of Mill Valley I am requesting you:

1. Issue an immediate moratorium, during Severe Stage 4, on new water service applications and hookups. No waiting for a later stage.
2. Eliminate encouragement of (and hotline for) neighbors reporting on neighbors; and
3. Reduce Marin Water's Staff expenses before increasing customers' costs. Our costs have already gone up too much and your actions can help us, especially us seniors, manage during these difficult times Thank you. Dorothy MCQuown, Ph.D.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Joan Bennett](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Water Hookup Moratorium  
**Date:** Sunday, June 13, 2021 12:08:48 PM

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Dear Marin Water Board of Directors,

The Tamalpais Conservation Club, founded by William Kent in 1912, is dedicated to preserving the slopes and spurs of Mt. Tamalpais. Our board is dedicated to this mission, especially during difficult times such as the current drought.

We endorse the correspondences of Sustainable Tam Al Monte, Community Venture Partners, and other organizations and countless individuals who urge you to immediately impose a water hookup moratorium for all new construction within the district. Additionally, we object to the issuance of hookups in exchange for payment of a conservation fee. Such a fee will do nothing to ease the drought or supply additional water to the District. As you know, you have the legal authority to impose such a moratorium and the historical precedent from the 1970s to guide you.

The severity of the drought, which may well extend beyond this year, and the water shortage faced by your customers should be your only concerns. Supplying sufficient water for your customers is your primary mission. You are not charged with satisfying the demands of other agencies' missions, namely, ABAG, and its unrealistic bloated RHNA numbers for Marin (especially since there is an ever-increasing exodus from California). It is inconceivable that new construction may be allowed while your already existing customers are exhorted to conserve even more water (which every member of our board is doing, e.g., allowing landscaping to die, installing further water-saving devices and appliances, recycling bathwater, and the like) or else face severe monetary penalties and/or even stoppage of service. This is a disservice to your customers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Secretary,  
Joan P. Bennett

President,  
Janice Barry

Joan P. Bennett, Esq. Law Offices of Joan P. Bennett, 822 College Avenue, #295, Kentfield, CA 94914-0295; mailing address P.O. Box #295, Kentfield, CA 94914-0295  
Telephone: 415-299-5473 or 416-464-8824. This e-mail, including attachments, contains information that is confidential and may contain information protected by the attorney-client communications privilege. This e-mail, including attachments, constitutes non-public information intended to be conveyed only to the designated recipient(s). If you are not an intended recipient, please delete this e-mail, including attachments, and notify me by return e-mail or at 415-299-5473. The unauthorized use, dissemination, distribution or reproduction of this e-mail, including attachments, is prohibited. Circular 230 Disclosure: Pursuant to recently-enacted U.S. Treasury Department Regulations, we are now required to advise you that, unless otherwise expressly indicated, any federal tax advice contained in

this communication, including attachments and enclosures, is not intended or written to be used, and may not be used, for the purpose of (i) avoiding tax-related penalties under the

**From:** [Margo Reis](#)  
**To:** [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: MMWD water meter ban  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 8:48:31 AM

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To Members of the MMWD,

I also live at 251 Miller Ave., Mill Valley, CA and strongly urge you to ban any new water hookups as stated in Jonetta Frasson's letter attached below.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Margo Reis, 251 Miller Ave. Apt A. Mill Valley, CA.

Begin forwarded message:

Greetings MMWD Board Members:

I am writing on behalf of my rental property at 251 Miller Ave., Mill Valley CA, the fourteen residents and the Alegria Child Care facility at 251 Miller Ave. Mill Valley, CA concerning the proposed temporary ban on water hookups.

We strongly urge you to move forward with this ban. The residents and child care facility at this address already try to conserve water on a regular basis and do not need any additional rent raises to cover additional costs. Conserving even more is restrictive on cleanliness and a healthy lifestyle.

It's understandable that construction and housing advocates don't want to see this ban, but the current residents of the community should come before new projects.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jonetta Frasson  
Owner, 251 Miller Ave.  
Mill Valley, CA 94941  
415-388-5187  
[jefmgmtserv@aol.com](mailto:jefmgmtserv@aol.com)

**From:** [Link](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** No new water hookups.  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 1:21:04 PM

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Water is needed for life, survival.

No new water hookups.

Should an individual need a waiver, there should be an appeal process.

No turning neighbors against neighbors.

Cut your staff, cut salaries, pensions.

Do not punish your already conscientious customers.

We deserve to be number one to MMWD.

Not Sacramento.

**From:** [Ann P Becker](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Larry Bragman](#)  
**Subject:** Support for moratorium on new water hook-ups  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 11:31:48 AM

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Dear Members of the MMWD Board:

We support the proposed moratorium on new water hook-ups during drought years.

We endorse the correspondences of Community Venture Partners Sustainable Tam Al Monte, and other organizations and customers who recommend that you adopt a moratorium on water hookups for all new construction within the district. What's more, we urge you to abandon the notion of the payment of a conservation fee in exchange for the issuance of a water hookup for this this will in no way alleviate the drought or provide additional water to the District. History and the Courts are on your side on this issue. A moratorium was imposed by the district during the 1970s drought. Legal challenges to the moratorium were rejected by the Court.

Supplying clean water to your current customers, not potential future customers, is your primary mission. It is unthinkable that you charge your customers with the obligation of conserving even more so than they have for years, and simultaneously issue new water hookups, especially if such hookups are for multi-unit developments without individual meters (e.g., Tam Ridge apartments have three meters for 180 units).

ABAG's saddling the County with unrealistic housing numbers for the next housing cycle in the face of a severe drought is unconscionable. We urge you to retain your independence from ABAG's ever increasing attempt to expand its jurisdiction over every local agency that in any way may relate to housing issues. MAD recommends that you issue a moratorium on water hookups as quickly as possible.

Thank you,

MarinAgainstDensity Leadership

Ann Peckenpaugh Becker  
Spokesperson  
Mobile: 415-609-6004  
[AnnBecker@comcast.net](mailto:AnnBecker@comcast.net)

***MAD is a grass-roots group of close to 1,000 Marin residents, some life-long and some new to the County, attracted by its natural beauty and sustainable quality of life, who are concerned about the preservation and improvement of our County. Our Mission is to be a strong coherent voice for the County and to work toward common goals:***

- (1) Restore local control of land use planning; and***
- (2) Advocate for true affordable housing.***



For more information: [https://link.edgepilot.com/s/d5d73039/2mhJ5j2zMUSxi1acdQjqYQ?  
u=http://marinagainstdensity.org/](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/d5d73039/2mhJ5j2zMUSxi1acdQjqYQ?u=http://marinagainstdensity.org/)

**From:** [Linda Rames](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:28:57 AM

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Board Members:

Please declare a moratorium on new water hookups for the duration of the current drought. It is really unfair to ask customers to severely cut back their usage of water if you continue to issue new hookups.

We trust that you will see the wisdom of not continuing to issue hookups while our storage is at such a low point.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Linda & Robert Rames  
240 Morning Sun Ave.  
Mill Valley, CA 94941

**From:** [Barbara Freitas](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** New Hook-Up Moratorium  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:54:35 AM

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MMWD Board of Directors:

**Please provide for your EXISTING CUSTOMERS** as outlined in the MMWD District Goal as quoted below from your website:

- Assure that water produced is of high quality and protects public health from source to the customer's tap
- Provide a long-term reliable water supply for MMWD customers
- Maintain the District's infrastructure in a cost-effective manner to assure reliable operation
- Provide a water rate structure that is fair and reasonable, and that adequately funds the long-term maintenance and capital needs of the District's supply and delivery systems
- Promote conservation and water recycling programs and other practices which encourage the efficient use of water
- Provide responsible stewardship of land under district management, balancing existing mandates to safeguard ecological integrity, protect against wildfire, and maintain water quality

**Requesting that you postpone your vote on the "DRAFT 2020 Urban Water Management Plan."**

**1. Make the following revisions to the "DRAFT UWMP Water Shortage Contingency Plan":**

- a. Revise the Water Shortage Contingency Plan so that a moratorium on new water applications and hookups will be issued in Severe Stage 4, rather than in Emergency Stage 6;**
- b. Abandon plans to encourage neighbors to report on neighbors; and**
- c. Reduce Staff expenses before increasing customers' rates.**

**Please consider the current needs in this severe drought and don't allow developers the ability to buy in because they are paying for future conservation. Water shouldn't be a commodity that is available if access to water hookups are for sale. No pay-to-play gaming with this precious, essential resource.**

**Planning for future water storage needs to be done. If we had some of the abundant rain run-off that occurred in recent years, we might not be in this disastrous water storage.**

**Residential customers' water conservation alone won't fix this water shortage. Don't make the shortage worse by allowing more hookups.**

Barbara Freitas  
Larkspur

**From:** [JACQUELINE WARNER](#)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Water Hookups  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:56:37 PM

---

To whom it concerns,

I am a 27 year resident of Marin County and have been a homeowner here for 24 years. I expect the County to safeguard our community, please restrict new applications for water hookups at stage four. Waiting until **Emergency Stage 6** to declare a moratorium on new water hookups is too late. Marin Water should issue a full moratorium as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
Jacqueline Warner  
Mill Valley

**From:** [tamsen.mccracken@gmail.com](mailto:tamsen.mccracken@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Board Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Drought Concerns  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021 7:37:26 AM

---

Dear MMWD Board,

I wanted to mention two issues that have been on my mind. First, please do not allow new water hookups during this monumental drought. Water (unless you figure out how to fix it, which should have happened years ago) is a finite resource here in Marin. You can't just keep adding housing and assume it'll all be fine.

Second, water is a finite resource here in Marin, and THAT needs to be fixed. Why have I not heard anything about a possible de-salinization plant? Have you considered it? It would seem to make all the sense in the world unless I'm missing something. It's all very well and good to run a line across the Richmond San Rafael Bridge, but if there isn't enough water for them either, it won't do us much good. A de-salinization plant would solve that problem. There are others in California that seem to work fine and produce PLENTY of water.

Just my two cents, but unless and until you figure out how to address the water shortage issues (and this is certainly NOT the first time) then STOP adding hookups.

Sincerely,

Tamsen McCracken  
Larkspur, CA

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Alicia Giudice](#)  
**To:** [Cynthia Koehler](#)  
**Cc:** [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Ben Horenstein](#); [Larry Russell](#); [Jack Gibson](#); [Jim Schutz](#); [Mayor Kate](#); [Eli Hill](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MMWD Possible Moratorium  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 10:20:45 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[MMWD Moratorium Letter from Mayor Kate 6-14-21.pdf](#)

---

President Koehler and MMWD Boardmembers. On behalf of Mayor Kate, I am forwarding the attached letter, requesting consideration of exemption from a possible moratorium for certain types of projects, including projects with any affordable housing units.

Sincerely,

**Alicia Giudice, AICP | City of San Rafael**

Community Development Director

1400 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

San Rafael, CA 94901

415-485-3092



**COVID-19 SHELTER-IN-PLACE ORDER UPDATE.** The City of San Rafael is currently operating under the Shelter-in-Place Order **Yellow Tier**. Counter staff and services continue to be available on line at

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/20df3dda/pILphqDFKkyhLaxs-ZeG0A?  
u=https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/virtual-counter/](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/20df3dda/pILphqDFKkyhLaxs-ZeG0A?u=https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/virtual-counter/).

**You may access Community Development Staff** in one or more of the following ways:

- **Walk in service:** Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30am-12:30pm
- **Remotely-By appointment:** you may schedule an appointment by going to [https://link.edgepilot.com/s/20df3dda/pILphqDFKkyhLaxs-ZeG0A?  
u=https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/virtual-counter/](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/20df3dda/pILphqDFKkyhLaxs-ZeG0A?u=https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/virtual-counter/)
- **Remotely- Virtual Drop-in (Building Division):** Building Division staff is available for virtual drop-in. For more information go to [https://link.edgepilot.com/s/b2940aaf/fj0Xj9iyvE23LVSONX2euQ?  
u=https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/departments/building/](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/b2940aaf/fj0Xj9iyvE23LVSONX2euQ?u=https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/departments/building/)

*For San Rafael City Services questions, updates, and resources*

visit [https://link.edgepilot.com/s/3cefae60/KXk-tjAl6kuhUZ4ZhpWEyg?  
u=https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/coronavirus](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/3cefae60/KXk-tjAl6kuhUZ4ZhpWEyg?u=https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/coronavirus).



June 14, 2021

Cynthia Koehler, President  
Marin Municipal Water District  
Board of Directors  
220 Nell Avenue  
Corte Madera, CA 94925

**RE: Proposed Moratorium**

Dear MMWD President and Board Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the District's upcoming meeting related to drought conditions and a possible moratorium on new development.

In prior correspondence, City of San Rafael staff asked your Board to consider exempting certain types of projects from such a moratorium (see attached letter), particularly those projects that would create affordable housing units. Over the past few years the City of San Rafael has made an effort to demonstrate a commitment to reaching our goal of complying with the RHNA allocation by adopting a number of initiatives intended to remove barriers to housing production.

This year, the City Council adopted changes to the City's inclusionary housing ordinance in hopes of sparking interest in residential development within the City and moving us in a direction of complying with our housing obligation. Of importance is the real need for affordable housing and the positive impact that development of even 1 new affordable housing unit would have. The City has yet to see the impact of our efforts. If your Board adopts a moratorium on development, such moratorium will delay any such positive impact and the City will be faced with the challenge of having to demonstrate progress toward our housing goals, while also being faced with the need to comply with a moratorium on development. For this reason, I urge you to direct water district staff to instead, explore other water conservation programs that may result in a greater and more measurable impacts on water conservation throughout the County.

City staff previously provided a list of project types that the Board should consider for exemption and includes affordable housing projects. If your Board decides to adopt a moratorium on development, please consider exempting such a project that includes even 1 affordable housing unit. I would also like to affirm my support of staff's requested list of exemptions for the Board's consideration. The full list is provided in the attached letter by staff and includes exemptions for both City-sponsored and private development projects as follows:

#### CITY-SPONSORED PROJECTS

- Projects that have received funding or are not high-water use projects; and
- Project that are under constructions; and
- Building remodels with no or minor additions.

#### PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

- Affordable housing projects that include at least 1 below market rate unit;
- Other projects that have received land-use entitlements and/or building permit approvals;
- Addition to existing residential units where no new units are created;
- ADUs that swap out turf or other high water use landscaping;
- New residential units/single family homes that propose low water use landscaping (no turf), deferred landscaping, or other water conservation methods;
- Other non-high-water use projects (i.e. remodels, demo & rebuild, minor additions to commercial buildings, etc.)

Please do not hesitate to contact me with question at [Kate.colin@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:Kate.colin@cityofsanrafael.org).

Sincerely,



Mayor Kate Colin  
CITY OF SAN RAFAEL

Attachments: Letter to MMWD, dated June 1, 2021

CC: Jim Schutz, City of San Rafael City Manager  
Alicia Giudice, Community Development Director  
Jack Gibson, MMWD Boardmember  
Monty Schmitt, MMWD Boardmember  
Larry Bragman, MMWD Boardmember  
Larry Russell, MMWD Boardmember  
Brian Horenstein, General Manager





June 1, 2021

Cynthia Koehler, President  
Marin Municipal Water District  
Board of Directors  
220 Nell Avenue  
Corte Madera, CA 94925

**RE: Proposed Moratorium**

Dear MMWD President and Board Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the District's upcoming meeting related to drought conditions and a possible moratorium.

As you may know, the City is obligated to provide its fair share of housing under the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process and to demonstrate annual progress towards meeting our housing goals. If a moratorium on development is approved by your Board, the City will be faced with a challenge of having to demonstrate progress toward our housing goals, while also being faced with the need to comply with a moratorium on development. However, exempting certain projects from a possible moratorium would allow the City to continue to approve those certain types of projects and allow us to continue to demonstrate progress toward our housing obligation.

As such, on behalf of the City of San Rafael, I am requesting your consideration of the following exemptions to a possible moratorium:

**CITY-SPONSORED PROJECTS**

- Projects that have received funding or are not high-water use projects; and
- Project that are under constructions; and
- Building remodels with no or minor additions.

**PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT**

For projects that require land-use entitlements

- Affordable housing projects;
- Projects that have received land use entitlements (projects that have not received entitlements should be allowed to continue through the entitlement process, but would require will serve letters from MMWD before building permits are issued).

For projects that do not require land use entitlements, allow with certain parameters:

- Projects that have already received building permit approvals;
- Addition to existing residential units where no new units are created;
- ADUs -allow if applicants swap out turf or other high water use landscaping;

- New residential units/single family homes allow only if: no turf, low water use landscaping, deferred landscaping, or other water conservation methods are proposed
- Other non-high-water use projects (i.e. remodels, demo & rebuild, minor additions to commercial buildings, etc.)

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (415) 485-3092 or [Alicia.giudice@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:Alicia.giudice@cityofsanrafael.org).

Sincerely,



Alicia Giudice  
CITY OF SAN RAFAEL  
Community Development Director

CC: Jim Schutz, City of San Rafael City Manager  
Mayor Kate Colin, City of San Rafael  
Jack Gibson, MMWD Boardmember  
Monty Schmitt, MMWD Boardmember  
Larry Bragman, MMWD Boardmember  
Larry Russell, MMWD Boardmember  
Brian Horenstein, General Manager

**From:** [J Reynolds](#)  
**To:** [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)  
**Subject:** Sierra Club Water Hook-up LTE  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 6:25:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [Sierra Club New Water Hook-ups LTE.docx-2.pdf](#)

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Dear Board of Directors,  
Please see the attached letter. Thank you for your consideration and time.  
Jinesse Reynolds  
Chair, Sierra Club Marin Group



**MARIN COUNTY GROUP**

*Protecting the Marin environment since 1968*  
*scmaringroup@gmail.com*

June 14, 2021

Dear Directors of the Marin Municipal Water District,

As you know, Marin County is experiencing a drought, described by the President of the Marin County Board of Supervisors as, "the worst we have seen in over 140 years."

On behalf of the Sierra Club, and it's more than 6,600 members in Marin County, we are writing to strongly encourage you to adopt an open-ended moratorium on all new water hook-ups — except for 100% affordable housing units in the "extremely low, very low, low" categories as defined by Marin Housing's "Fiscal Year 2021 Marin County Income Limits" — at this time.

We urge you to implement this moratorium until sufficient reliable water sources can be identified that guarantee adequate, reliable water supplies for existing customers, and any additional customers, for the foreseeable future, taking into account weather pattern changes projected to affect those supplies.

It is clear that the Marin Municipal Water District does not have the water capacity to ensure reliable, adequate water supply to its existing customers at this time.

In addition, repeated, consistent conservation measures by MMWD customers, over time, and particularly during each drought, have resulted in "demand hardening" — the easiest conservation measures have largely already been done, making it increasingly difficult for MMWD's existing customers to achieve previous degrees of additional conservation in response to drought conditions.

On average, since 1900, water run-off from major rivers in California has steadily and substantially decreased, land temperatures have steadily and substantially increased, and the altitude at which water freezing occurs has steadily and substantially increased. Those trends are projected to continue.

While we may see occasional wetter years in the near future, we feel it would be deeply imprudent to regard the current multi-year drought as due to natural variability in weather patterns.

We feel it wise to "trust the science," anticipating that water supplies — across the western United States — including in Marin and in the rest of Northern California, will, on average, continue to decrease over the coming decades.



**SIERRA  
CLUB**

**MARIN COUNTY GROUP**

*Protecting the Marin environment since 1968*  
*scmaringroup@gmail.com*

Therefore, the Sierra Club asks that the Marin Municipal Water District adopt an open-ended moratorium on all new water hook-ups, except for 100% affordable housing units (as above), until sufficient reliable water sources can be identified that guarantee adequate, reliable water supplies for existing customers, and any additional customers, for the foreseeable future, taking into account weather pattern changes projected to affect those supplies.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Jinesse Reynolds  
Chair, Sierra Club Marin Group

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Jeffrey Prose <[jeff@3bpencil.com](mailto:jeff@3bpencil.com)>

> Sent: Sunday, June 6, 2021 8:28 AM

> To: Terrie Gillen <[tgillen@marinwater.org](mailto:tgillen@marinwater.org)>

> Subject: Re: 38 Upper Fremont - entitled SFR

>

> Terrie,

> Thanks for your reply.

>

> I would like to add that the water problems facing us now are likely to be long term. If a temporary solution to a long-term problem includes a water meter moratorium, the projects that are best suited, due to new codes, are best suited for future water conservation measures.

>

> The Board should be considering other actions that are not punitive or that have limited long term impact. For example, when you consider air quality, Marin County took steps to limit the impact of wood smoke in the winter months. Initially, bans on new wood burning fireplaces took effect. Now, any time a home is sold a wood burning fireplace must be removed. Overtime, most if not all wood burning fireplaces will be removed from homes in Marin County. This is a long term vision - step by step efforts to improve air quality.

>

> The Board should consider like measures. At the sale of every home, the seller must change all faucets, toilets, and shower heads to low flow fixtures. Given the number of homes sold in Marin County each year, this will quickly begin to show significant water savings.

>

> An additional step could extend to all permits. Anytime a permit is pulled to build a deck or repair a roof, the inexpensive costs of replacing faucets and shower heads would also provide great cumulative water savings in a short period of time.

>

> New construction, and new water saving fixtures will go a very long way in creating a community water system that is focused on meaningful conservation. Bans on new construction water meters and landscape irrigation reductions are temporary and do nothing to contribute to long term water conservation.

>

> Thanks,

> Jeff

>

> Jeffrey Prose

> [jeff@3bpencil.com](mailto:jeff@3bpencil.com)

> 503-432-0687

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Jeffrey Prose <[jeff@3bpencil.com](mailto:jeff@3bpencil.com)>

>> Sent: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 3:44 PM

>> To: Terrie Gillen <[tgillen@marinwater.org](mailto:tgillen@marinwater.org)>

>> Subject: 38 Upper Fremont - entitled SFR

>>

>> Ms. Gillen,

>> Thanks to the Board and staff for the Board Meeting on zoom last night. I was most interested in the discussion regarding the pending moratorium of water meter service issuance.

>>

>> I did not volunteer to speak as most of the speakers were expressing my concerns, and namely those few folks who have an entitled project and are now navigating the permit review process. My repetitious comments would extended the late hour of adjournment. As noted in the subject line, I also have an entitled single family home, at 38 Upper Fremont in San Rafael.

>>

>> I am also an architect. I was taken aback when I read the agenda yesterday where staff was proposing that an extension of 30 days was seemingly adequate to allow for someone to obtain their building permit. One distinctly correct statement was made - the "MMWD is not in the land development business" as the lack of awareness of the process of acquiring entitlements and permits is way off the mark. Applicants don't control the permit review process - the reviewing agency does. A 30 day 'token' extension really is ludicrous. This implies that ALL building permit applications must have been submitted long ago should the proposed ordinance have passed last night.

>>

>> Our first application to obtain planning approval for our new home began in October of 2018. Not until after 3 design review hearings and a number of meetings with the San Rafael Planning staff did we receive our entitlement in September 2020. At that point we began our building permit application process. As Covid has only exacerbated the demand for housing, it is has also increased the demand for other construction related services. 5 months to obtain the services and receive the geotechnical report (required for the structural engineer). Delayed start of structural engineering due to engineer's increased work load and staffing complications due to Covid. We are now within 2-3 weeks to submit our building application.

>>

>> Several people spoke about what I agree is a reasonable compromise for the board to adopt. Entitled projects should be allowed to close the project development process and be able to receive a water meter. The 30 day window to have received a building permit from the time of the last night's meeting is truly punitive. It financially punishes many families and groups that have invested thousands of hours and as a group millions of dollars to move their projects forward. As I noted above, review times for building permits are controlled by the building departments. In some cases like Mill Valley, the building permit review part of the process is almost guaranteed to exceed 6 months. The impact of these projects in the pipeline as stated last night? 4 acre feet - .0001% of the current capacity of 38,000 acre feet.

>>

>> The home I have designed for my family is modest - 1700 sf. This home will also follow in the footsteps of some previous projects, 2 which have received LEED for HOMES Platinum certification. This home will include rain water collection and a gray water system for reuse in toilets and laundry, will not have any new landscaping requiring irrigation due to the sloping

hillside and entitlement constraints, and will benefit from the numerous water saving fixtures required of new construction. Compared to an equal size home built 50 years ago, a new home like ours is more than 2x more efficient with water usage.

>>

>> While projects like mine may qualify for a hardship, why add this additional burden to my application and create additional 'busy work' for MMWD staff to review, process, and manage hardship applicants (many of which will not be happy)? A simpler and direct process to limit qualified projects should be proof of entitlement - I have attached our approval from the San Rafael Planning Commission for your use and reference.

>>

>> Regards,

>> Jeff

>>

>> Jeffrey Prose

>> [jeff@3bpencil.com](mailto:jeff@3bpencil.com)

>> 503-432-0687

>>



**From:** [Lillian Trac](#)  
**To:** [Monty Schmitt](#); [Jack Gibson](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)  
**Subject:** Vote to Allow New Water Hookup  
**Date:** Thursday, June 3, 2021 5:03:10 PM

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Dear Marin Municipal Water District Board members:

I am writing to urge you to allow new water hookups during this drought. The amount of water saved is miniscule in comparison to the benefits of providing additional housing.

We can save this much water and so much more by limiting actual water consumption based on housing size, rather than limiting irrigation to 2 or 3 days per week. If that is too difficult to monitor, limit water use to a certain percentage above winter water usage, as we all know that the increase in summer water use is primarily due to landscaping.

Let's ask Marinites to conserve water so that new families can join us in living in this wonderful county that we all call home.

Yours,  
Lillian Trac  
San Rafael resident since 1999

**From:** [Noel Lindsay](#)  
**To:** [Jack Gibson](#); [Monty Schmitt](#); [Larry Bragman](#); [Cynthia Koehler](#); [Larry Russell](#)  
**Subject:** A moratorium on new water hookups is a harmful, ineffective gesture that insults everyone's intelligence.  
**Date:** Monday, June 7, 2021 2:44:36 PM

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I'm not a developer, nor am I involved with anyone who is -- or even anyone building anything. I'm just a citizen who views your proposal to ban new hookups as an ineffective yet harmful symbolic gesture that I literally find offensive.

If such a moratorium was highly-effective at conserving water, it would be worthy of consideration, but even then, we would need to ask if it makes sense to create so much disruption to the unfortunate few who would need to bear the brunt of such a disruptive policy. But of course, a moratorium wouldn't be "highly-effective." It wouldn't even be modestly-effective. In fact, its effect would literally be difficult to even measure.

It's been reported that the rationale is to "avoid sending mixed messages." Really? Do you honestly think that the population of Marin County can't comprehend the fact that the vast majority of water usage comes from EXISTING water hookups? Honestly, it's truly insulting -- actually offensive -- that you would even propose such an utterly ineffective "solution" that does virtually nothing to solve the problem while thoroughly disrupting the lives of a tiny number of people who are just trying to get construction projects completed...something that's difficult enough without your interference. That's not leadership...at least not good leadership.

If you want to be true leaders, act immediately to implement the kind of incentives that are going to actually get existing users to significantly reduce usage. Also start efforts now to get new water storage infrastructure built so we'll have it in the future. While desalination is expensive, running out of water is even more expensive, so let's move forward in that direction, if that's what's necessary. And rather than just asking people to conserve water, why not offer financing programs that homeowners can tap to fund projects to add greywater systems and cisterns to irrigate their landscaping, which we all know consumes a huge percentage of our water. As an added benefit, cisterns can reduce runoff during major storms, thereby reducing flooding. Also the stored water could be used to reduce loss during wildfires. Leadership. Ideas. Courage. Let's get on with it!

We know that climate change is real, so it's time we all start investing for it, rather than just hoping it doesn't get worse. In my world, there is an old saying: "Hope is not a strategy."

If you want to gain the trust of the people of Marin County, don't insult them with ineffective, disruptive proposals like the moratorium on new water hookups. Instead, demonstrate real leadership by being more proactive at driving new water infrastructure projects and by being decisive in regarding the obvious need to implement incentives for immediate conservation.

Best regards,  
Noel

Noel P. Lindsay  
65 Stuyvesant Drive

San Anselmo, CA 94960

E-mail: [noel@lindsayfamily.org](mailto:noel@lindsayfamily.org)

Home Tel: (415) 259-0782

Office Tel: (415) 484-1452

Mobile Tel: (415) 264-2253