

**From:** [Shirley Virgil](#)  
**To:** [Terrie Gillen](#)  
**Subject:** Water conservation  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 10, 2022 6:38:52 PM

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Sorry TGillen, I did not know whom else to send my comments. Perhaps you can forward my comments to the folks that need to hear it.

Why not move Marin watershed to eliminate front lawns and all lawns that no one walks upon. You have always encouraged native plant landscaping, how about another push for all the pollinators. Marinites would go for that, creating an amazing water conservation.

Thank you, Shirley Virgil  
Marin County resident since 1985

Phone Message:

Patricia Warnock – Please contact state elected officials to stop the increase of housing in Marin County, because there's not enough water. Also, please oppose desalination, because it's costly.

**From:** [chuck ballinger](#)  
**To:** [Cynthia Koehler](#)  
**Subject:** Soulajule expansion  
**Date:** Monday, May 16, 2022 8:23:59 AM

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5/16/2022

**To MMWD Directors and General Manager**  
**From: Charles Ballinger - Marin Coalition for Water Solutions**  
**RE: Water supply**

I attended your last meeting after hearing it concerned our Marin water supply. Sadly, it turned out to be more of the same discourse regarding conservation and use restrictions. Only grey water and storm water capture were mentioned as potential supply alternatives.

I made a comment applauding your Kastania pump station improvements and the direct pipeline from Phoenix to Bon Tempe Lake. They are both significant improvements to keep our reservoirs full. And keeping Phoenix low in the winter will help flood control for Ross Valley. I also expressed my desire for you to raise Soulajule dam to increase our water storage by 25% for only \$2,000./ AFY.

There's a clear reason why Marin County leads other California counties this year in water supply. Our **reservoirs** have saved us this year because we are blessed to have a watershed that captures water effectively during winter storms.

I wrote an op-ed in the Marin IJ about the history of Marin reservoir construction and expansion up to 1982, when we last raised Kent Lake 45'. As you know, 1982 marked the last expansion of our reservoirs- and that was 40 years ago. This might work if our population didn't increased - but it did - dramatically.

In fact, if we hadn't expanded Kent Lake in 1982, we might have run out of water last summer.

Yes, I realize everyone is scared to challenge water rights on Lagunitas Creek, but Soulajule feeds Walker Creek and those rights have not been determined, at least not publicly by the 1995 SWR ruling. With all the environmental pushback against desalination and the diminishing value of a Richmond Bridge pipeline, expanding the Soulajule reservoir is an option that needs to be addressed - without delay.

At the Marin Coalition for Water Supply (.com), we have received over 100 comments regarding water supply in Marin. Overwhelmingly, they're fed up with increased conservation talk. Some suggest desalination, water recycling, storm water capture, IPR, and DPR, and yes, many suggest expanding our reservoir system - just like the old days.

We are in remarkably good shape compared to the rest of California and the entire Southwest this year. We must realize our geography, our unique watershed, and our reservoirs have saved us **this time**. To not recognize this would be a huge mistake.

I understand a reservoir dam can be raised while maintaining the same release for spawning fish since the outlets are at the bottom of the reservoir. Once raised, winter storms or pipelines can do the rest. Stormwater capture beckons to be captured.

I implore the MMWD to focus more on increasing our water supply. It's what Marin residents expect to see from this agency. It's what they deserve.

As one who has retired my lawn, installed a Flume meter, and decreased my usage 40%, I agree with your meeting consultant who said "the sponge has been squeezed" - so let's move on to other solutions.

I'd also prefer to keep our water supply local - Marin is uniquely situated for that. Desalination is an improving option, but could take a decade to implement. The pipeline has diminished capacity and is only for indoor

emergency use (which is untenable since most every home only has one meter).

Expanding Soulajule is “money in the bank” for future droughts. The plans exist. They only require implementation. Please move forward with this project and show your customers that you can do something to increase our water supply - even if it’s the tried-and-true, old-fashioned way.

Best regards,

Chuck Ballinger  
Founding member - Marin Coalition for Water Solutions