

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIN

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October 5, 2010

TO: Supervisor Judy Arnold, Board President
Supervisor Susan Adams
Supervisor Hal Brown
Supervisor Charles McGlashan

FROM: Steve Kinsey, 4th District Supervisor

SUBJECT: Support for Marin County Ballot Measure S

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt resolution and authorize Board President's signature

Dear Colleagues,

I am requesting that the Board of Supervisors publicly support Measure S on the upcoming November 2 local Marin County ballot. Measure S is the most appropriate means to insure ratepayer approval before the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) can proceed with construction or financing for construction of a desalination facility within its service area. In the same election, Measure T is also being presented to voters. Both measures would require voter approval prior to financing or construction of a desalination facility; however, Measure T would prohibit the expenditure of any MMWD funds to plan, study, or evaluate desalination without prior voter approval.

The distinguishing difference between the two measures is that Measure S allows MMWD to continue exploring the viability of desalination as part of Marin's future water supply reliability, while Measure T does not.

It is important for our Board to support Measure S because Marin needs to keep all of its limited water supply options available. In recent years, the Sonoma County Water Agency has taken actions that infringe upon the certainty that Russian River water will remain as available in the future as it is today. Currently 25% of MMWD's supply comes from the Russian River. Additionally, while conservation and pricing are both effective strategies for limiting demand, MMWD does not consider them to be sufficient to address all future water needs. Measure S allows MMWD to continue researching environmental, health, energy and economic aspects of desalination while also reserving the ultimate decision for its ratepayers.

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CLERK

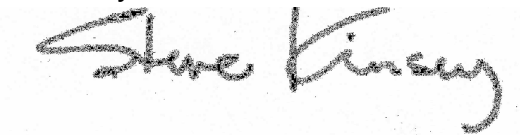
MATTHEW H. HYMEL

Support of Measure S does not equate to support for desalination. There remain many unanswered questions that are best investigated now rather than waiting until there is a water supply crisis and insufficient time to carefully consider the pro and con issues associated with desalination. It is for these reasons that organizations as diverse as the League of Women Voters and the Marin Conservation League support Measure S.

Given the importance of a reliable, safe drinking water supply to the health of our community and economy, I urge the Board of Supervisors to publicly support Measure S. Please join me in authorizing our Board President to sign the attached resolution.

Fiscal Impact: None

Sincerely,



Steve Kinsey

VICE-PRESIDENT			2ND VICE-PRESIDENT		PRESIDENT	CLERK
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