



Salinas Basin Water Alliance

"Preserve and Protect Salinas Valley Water"

May 16, 2022

Members

Bengard Ranch

Boutonnet Farms

Louie Calcagno

Christensen &
Giannini

Cooper Land Corp.

D'Arrigo Bros.

Dole Fresh
Vegetables

Fontes Farms

General Farm
Investment

Higashi Farms

Huntington Farms

Lanini Family

Merrill Farms

Norcal Harvesting

Nunes Vegetables

Ocean Mist Farms

Panziera Ranches

Pedrazzi Farms

Queen Victoria
Farms

R.C. Farms

Secondo Farms

Scattini Family LP

Springfield Farms

Sunberry Growers

Sunset Farms

Tanimura & Antle

The Tottino Group

VIA ELECTRONIC [MAIL—WRAPubliccomment@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:WRAPubliccomment@co.monterey.ca.us)

Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors
c/o Secretary of the Board
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

RE: May 16, 2022 Meeting of Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Director (Board)—Agenda Items No. 8, Agreement with the City of Salinas and Monterey One Water to use Industrial Wastewater Utilizing Pond 3 Improvements

Dear Chair Baillie and Honorable Directors:

The Salinas Basin Water Alliance ("Alliance") is a California nonprofit mutual benefit corporation formed to preserve the viability of agriculture and the agricultural community in the greater Salinas Valley. Alliance members include agricultural businesses and families that own and farm more than 80,000 acres within the Salinas Valley. To that end, the Alliance has a significant interest in the long-term sustainability of the water supplies in the Salinas Valley, and supports the integrated and equitable management of this critical resource to achieve sustainability. **The Alliance submits these comments to strongly support the Board's approval of the Agreement with the City of Salinas and Monterey One Water to use Industrial Wastewater Utilizing Pond 3 Improvements (Agreement).**

The Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP) was approved in the early 1990s to provide a supplemental water supply to agricultural uses in the northern end of the Salinas Valley in order to prevent seawater intrusion in that area. Farmers in the "CSIP Area" have funded the CSIP in exchange for the promise that the project will provide an adequate supply of water to support their respective enterprises.

May 16, 2022

Page 2

However, with the current drought, lack of surface water from the Salinas River(SRDF), reduced effluent to the CSIP, and certain operational deficiencies, additional water supplies for the CSIP are urgently needed. This issue is critical as certain turnouts from the CSIP have already gone dry this year and farmers are already incurring losses as a result of system failure. Absent additional water supplies farmers in the CSIP Area will continue to incur additional significant losses. Accordingly, the Alliance supports the Monterey County Water Resource Agency's ("MCWRA") efforts to develop additional water supplies for the CSIP.

The Agreement achieves that result. It allows the CSIP to receive a supplemental water supply from the City of Salinas' industrial wastewater system and treatment of that supply by Monterey One Water's Regional Treatment Plant. Utilizing the City's additional wastewater for agricultural uses will fulfill MCWRA's promise in developing the CSIP to ensure an adequate supply of water to the farmers in the CSIP Area. As such, the Alliance respectfully requests the Board approve the Agreement and ensures the continued viability of the CSIP.

Respectfully submitted,



George Fontes

President, Salinas Basin Water Alliance

With Copy To:

City Council of the City of Salinas, c/o publiccomment@ci.salinas.ca.us

Monterey One Water Board of Directors, c/o chayito@my1water.org