

Concerns with Cal Am Water's Proposed Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (MPWSP)

Cal Am, a private for-profit water corporation, has proposed a desalination plant that threatens the City of Marina and its groundwater supply that residents rely upon for 100% of their drinking water.

Major Concerns:

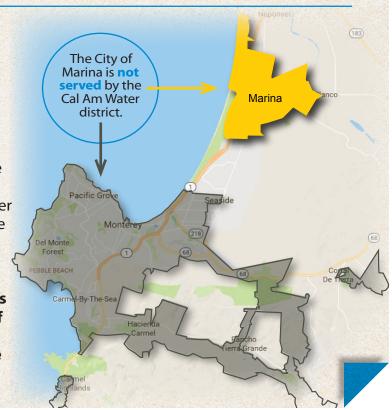
- Despite having no groundwater rights, Cal Am's project will extract water from an already critically overdrafted basin.
- Groundwater pumping will increase seawater intrusion contaminating and possibly significantly harming Marina's fresh drinking water supply.
- The project is in direct conflict with the state's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which requires regional coordination and responsible planning to restore precious groundwater resources.
- The proposed project is massive in scale far exceeding any realistic or responsible demand projections.

Marina will suffer long term environmental harm from the project, with no benefit or strategy to mitigate the impacts.

City of Marina Harmed for the Benefit of Neighboring Cities

After a State Supreme Court ruling, the State Water Resources Board is requiring that Cal Am stop illegally pumping water from the Carmel River. But their proposed desalination plant is not a responsible alternative – it would deplete and degrade Marina's drinking water supply despite the fact that Cal Am has no groundwater rights and would be acting in conflict with state laws protecting groundwater basins.

Why is the project proposed to be built in the City of Marina, at the expense of Marina's own ecosystem and quality of life, instead of within Cal Am's own service territory? There are other more environmentally sustainable alternatives that would work.



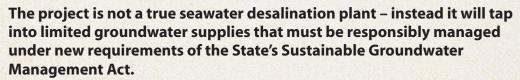
Project Size Far Exceeds Service Area Demand

Cal Am demand forecasts are overinflated and cannot justify such a large project.

- The proposed desalination project would produce more water by itself (10,750 afy) than Cal Am has delivered to its customers in either 2014 or 2015 – and there are about 6,000 afy of other water sources in Cal Am's local supply portfolio.
- Due to permanent conservation measures, Cal Am service area demand declined from 14,176 afy in 2006 to 9,545 afy in 2015.

Conservation measures should be prioritized to balance growing population needs.

Project Would
Jeopardize Marina's
Drinking Water,
and Not Use Just
Ocean Water



The Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin under the city of Marina is 1 of only 21 California groundwater basins in "critical overdraft" condition and should not be the source of a brand new water supply project.



Potential Environmental Impacts and Unproven Slant Well Technology Presents High Risk

Desalination is costly, energy intensive, and brings significant environmental risk. Beyond that, nowhere in the world does a commercial desalination plant use the proposed slant well drilling methodology.

 Greenhouse gas emission increases: The plant would bring more than a 450 percent increase over existing energy demand for Cal Am's entire water supply.

Threat to coastal ecosystem: The project area is home to 27 federally designated threatened and endangered species; the proposed project will produce 14 million gallons of high-salinity brine discharge per day, which will then be deposited in seafloor of the marine sanctuary.

More Environmentally Sustainable Alternatives Must Be Pursued

The full range of potential alternatives including smaller project options have not been properly evaluated.

Any new water supply plan for Cal Am's service territory must not harm the City of Marina and must protect local groundwater sustainability.

