

RESOLUTION NO. 2189

RESOLUTION OF THE MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT FURTHER REFINING ITS PLAN FOR RECYLED WATER

WHEREAS, the Montecito Water District (MWD) is a County Water District formed under and pursuant to the County Water District Law [Water Code Sections 30000 – 33901], located in and serving the unincorporated areas of Montecito and Summerland with water since 1921 and 1996 respectively; and

WHEREAS, the County Water District Law grants MWD broad power over water in its jurisdiction, including: the authority to do any act necessary to furnish sufficient water for any present or future beneficial use; operate water works necessary to convey, supply, store or make use of water for any purpose; and establish rules and regulations for the sale, distribution and use of water; and

WHEREAS, MWD has a diverse water supply portfolio consisting of: (1) regional and local surface water supplies including Jameson Lake, the Cachuma Project, and the State Water Project; and (2) groundwater supplies; which are both rainfall dependent; and

WHEREAS, during the unprecedented drought spanning from 2012 to 2018, the extent to which MWD's existing water supplies are rainfall dependent and susceptible to drought became evident, with regional and local surface water supplies, and groundwater supplies, reaching historically low levels requiring reductions in urban water consumption; and

WHEREAS, in May 2017, amidst the sixth year of extraordinary drought, MWD adopted its *2015 Urban Water Management Plan Update* which set a goal of increasing its local, drought-proof water supplies to 85% of total supplies by the year 2025 and identified the need to acquire additional local, rainfall independent, water supplies, citing recycled water as such a source that could help alleviate the impacts of future droughts which are anticipated to be of greater frequency, higher intensity, and longer duration; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being less susceptible to drought, and nearly 100% reliable, MWD has identified additional benefits of recycled water for the entire community including: reducing the discharge of treated wastewater to the ocean; increasing conservation of potable water; and reducing dependence on imported supplies; and

WHEREAS, due to the complexities and challenges associated with bringing recycled water to the community including the continually evolving regulatory environment, and significant infrastructure requirements and related costs, in December 2017, MWD initiated a *Recycled Water Facilities Plan* (RWFP) and sought and received grant funding, to explore the various recycled water opportunities, weighing the advantages of recycled water with the cost of potential projects that are considered to be feasible and beneficial for the community; and

WHEREAS, in December 2018, MWD completed the RWFP, which assessed various recycled water opportunities and ultimately recommended a large Non-Potable Reuse (NPR) project with an Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) option, whereby treated recycled water produced by Montecito

Sanitary District (MSD) would be supplied to MWD to irrigate various large commercial and institution landscapes including golf courses, hotels and a cemetery, and/or injected into the groundwater basin and used to augment groundwater supplies; and

WHEREAS, in January 2019, MWD's Board of Directors voted unanimously in support of continuing to pursue the recommended project outlined in the RWFP and authorized pursuit of additional grant funding and technical studies required to refine the project scope including a *Groundwater Augmentation Feasibility Study* to evaluate the potential for groundwater augmentation in the Montecito Groundwater Basin which was projected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2019; and

WHEREAS, in September 2019, following approximately 8 months of collaborative meetings with MSD, MWD's Board of Directors unanimously supported the adoption of Resolution No. 2187 with the understanding that it would be adopted jointly by both agencies to express support for a Recycled Water "Pilot" Project involving the evaluation of 1) new treatment technology, i.e. 'pulse flow' reverse osmosis, and 2) the impact of use of the finish recycled water on one to two acres of landscaping, i.e. existing lawn located at the Santa Barbara Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, in October 2019, the results of the *Groundwater Augmentation Feasibility Study* revealed that the potential use of the Montecito Groundwater Basin for storage of advanced treated recycled water is limited due to the insufficient basin geology, the density of private wells, and routinely low quantities of available storage capacity; and

WHEREAS, based on these results, MWD's Board of Directors further refines the scope of the recycled water project as described herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. MWD continues to support meaningful wastewater recycling and intends to efficiently, effectively, and affordably implement a recycled water project that will serve the best interest of the community and be in compliance with California law, including but not limited to those laws encouraging the use of recycled water to maximize the beneficial use of the state's water resources.
2. With limited opportunity for groundwater augmentation in the Montecito Groundwater Basin, as determined by its *Groundwater Augmentation Feasibility Study*, MWD hereby further refines the scope of the recommended project as outlined in the *Recycled Water Facilities Plan* to be a Non-Potable Reuse (NPR) project using tertiary treated recycled water from MSD to irrigate large commercial and institutional properties that could include, for example, a cemetery, hotels, and golf courses, all being established MWD customers and all located within MWD's existing service boundary.
3. Recognizing the potential funding and other challenges of implementing a full-scale recycled water project, MWD supports a phased approach whereby Phase 1 includes supplying tertiary treated recycled water to the Santa Barbara Cemetery, located in close proximity to the MSD wastewater treatment plant.
4. MWD identifies numerous practical reasons for a phased approach to implementation of a recycled water project including: 1) timing of infrastructure improvements in consideration

of required financial investments 2) acquiring experience operating and maintaining tertiary treatment and distribution systems; and 3) Obtaining and using practical knowledge to progressively address technical details in advance of implementing a larger project.

5. The phasing of a recycled water project shall be designed and pursued in a manner such that:
 - 1) all components of a tertiary treatment process are fully expandable in capacity;
 - 2) the recycled water quality can be enhanced as required;
 - 3) the project water works components are phased as efficiently and economically as possible.
6. Future phases of a recycled water project with MSD will depend on multiple factors including cost, regulatory requirements, and water supply need; pursuit of future phases shall be initiated at the direction of MWD and will involve collaboration with MSD.
7. With respect to recycled water use in its service area , including but not limited to use attendant to the recycled water project, MWD will continue to exercise and/or intends to exercise its authority under Water Code Section 31022 to operate water works to convey or make use of water, and under Water Code Section 31024 to establish the rules and regulations pertaining to the sale, distribution and use of water, including recycled water within its service area.
8. MWD finds that it is a “retail water supplier” pursuant to the terms of Water Code Section 13575(b)(6) which is “any local entity...that provides retail water service” and therefore MWD will distribute recycled water to retail customers of any recycled water project located within its service area.
9. MWD finds that the Santa Barbara Cemetery, is a potential “customer” of the recycled water project pursuant to the terms of Water Code Section 13575(b)(1) which is “a person or entity that purchases water from a retail water supplier”, as are the other large commercial and institutional properties such as hotels and golf courses as identified in its RWFP.
10. MWD finds that MSD is a “recycled water producer” pursuant to the terms of Water Code Section 13575(b)(4) which is “any local public entity that produces recycled water” and therefore MSD will be the producer of recycled water from the MSD wastewater treatment plant, and, MWD will closely collaborate with MSD on the design and implementation of any tertiary treated recycled water project to achieve the implementation of an efficient, effective, and affordable recycled water project for the community’s benefit. Nothing in this resolution precludes MWD and/or MSD from collaborating on options for recycled water projects in the Montecito community, including but not limited to contracts with individuals and/or entities authorized to contract with MWD and/or MSD under the County Water District Law and/or the Sanitary District Act of 1923.
11. MWD intends to, appropriately and in compliance with California law, share in all costs that are associated with the implementation of a recycled water project within its service area and to pursue grant funding if or when available to help cover those costs.
12. MWD is committed to continuing to work diligently and collaboratively with MSD towards implementing recycled water projects that benefit the community.

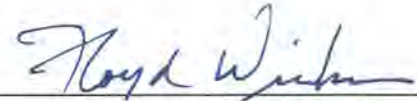
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT on the 19th day of November 2019 by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Coates, Goebel, Hayman, Plough, and Wicks

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None



Floyd Wicks, President
MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT

ATTEST:



Nicholas Turner, Secretary
MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT