



Santa Cruz County Business Council

May 29, 2014

2014 Board of Directors

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President LaHue and Directors,

In keeping with previous correspondence, we ask that you please take whatever steps necessary to avoid the declaration of a groundwater emergency and the subsequent imposition of a moratorium.

We are not experts on water system management, but we know enough to realize that Soquel Creek (SCWD) faces a very serious threat to its supply if steps are not taken soon to rectify the situation. That said, we hope that any and all options (outside of a moratorium) are on the table, including the re-imagining of currently operating initiatives, such as the Water Demand Offset (WDO) program. Success has been achieved through your WDO program, with more successes possible. Recently proposed projects such as Aptos Village and Twin Lakes School are two examples of the positive results that can be realized when developers work hand-in-hand with SCWD. We know that a moratorium would put an end to partnerships such as these, and the WDO program.

As stated above, we are not water experts. Rather, our expertise lies within the context of the local economy. In visiting with SCCBC members from industry sectors ranging from healthcare, to development, to hospitality, each of them has voiced concern about the impact a moratorium would have not only on their industry segment, but on the community as whole. Putting a policy in place that calls for ceasing new water rights would severely jeopardize our community's economic vitality due to the loss of new businesses, the reduction in the number of jobs created, and the overall "economically stagnant" stigma that would affix itself to the mid-county area. Most important to consider is that such adverse impacts would be long lasting and felt well beyond the eventual cessation of any moratorium.

Again, we ask that you do whatever it takes to avoid the drastic step of declaring a moratorium on new water hook ups within SCWD.

Sincerely,

Joe Foster
Executive Director