



EXHIBIT 16-J

monterey peninsula regional park district

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April 12, 2004

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MPWMD

Board of Directors
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
P.O. Box 85
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General Manager

Joseph D. Donofrio

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Re: MPWMD Mitigation Program

Dear Board:

The Park District is a special district subdivision of the State of California under Public Resources Code 5500 et seq. The Park District was created by voter initiative in 1972 with the mission and purpose to acquire and protect open space and open space resources for public use and enjoyment. Geographically, the District serves the 150,000 residents of Monterey County's Greater Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Valley, Cachagua, Del Monte Forest, and Big Sur communities.

The Park District's first, and most recognizable, open space was, and is, Garland Ranch Regional Park in Carmel Valley. This 3500-acre park includes over 1.5 miles of Carmel River and the lower reach of Garzas Creek. The park's public trust values, including the river and creek, are highly treasured by residents within the district.

Over the years, The Water Management District has exercised several Mitigation Program projects that have improved the quality of the river environment and provided an overall public benefit otherwise left neglected. These projects include the large wood and riverbed/bank stabilization projects at DeDampierre and similar bank restoration along the Garland/Cooper reach of the river, not to mention all the monitoring and steelhead work in the river and creek.

This work is extremely valuable and unique within the river corridor – work that The Park District could not do nor afford. The Park District believes strongly that The Water Management District has been performing necessary, beneficial, and high quality public benefit work in and along the river and tributaries for years and should continue to maintain the Mitigation Program to finish what has been begun.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH DONOFRIO

General Manager

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