

EXHIBIT 17-B

January 30, 2004

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MPWMD

Dear Chairman Edwards:

The Carmel River Advisory Council, together with the Steelhead Association and the Carmel River Watershed Council, unanimously request that the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) Board of Directors reconfirm its commitment to the continuation of the mitigation program that has been carried on by the MPWMD since 1990.

We have examined the mitigation program and find that it has and will continue to contribute substantially to the health and well being of the residents within the MPWMD's boundaries. In addition, the mitigation program has helped to revive the damaged habitat of the Carmel River and Lagoon, and has provided continued monitoring of our water supply and usage.

Attached to this letter is a draft resolution entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE MITIGATION PROGRAM." We request that the MPWMD directors consider and enact this resolution.

Sincerely,



Susan Rogers
Chair, Carmel River Advisory Council