



CITY OF
ARROYO GRANDE
CALIFORNIA

October 19, 2020

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center
1055 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re: October 20, 2020, Agenda Item 24 - Appeal (APPL2020-00012) of City of Pismo Beach Minor Use Permit/Coastal Development Permit (DRC2020-00050)

Dear Honorable Board Members,

We are writing to express the support of the City of Arroyo Grande for staff's recommendation to deny the Appeal (APPL2020-00012) filed by J.H. Edwards Company of the Planning Department Hearing Officer's approval of an application by the City of Pismo Beach for a Minor Use Permit/Coastal Development Permit (DRC2020-00050).

The Central Coast Blue project is vital to the ongoing sustainability of the groundwater resources that serve all of the residents and visitors to the 5 Cities area. The City of Arroyo Grande has long recognized this reality and has engaged with the Cities of Pismo Beach and Grover Beach as partners in the development of this project. The Arroyo Grande City Council has discussed and considered this project numerous times at its public meetings held on August 11, 2020, June 9, 2020, January 28, 2020, October 29, 2019, and August 27, 2019. Most recently, on August 11, 2020, the Arroyo Grande City Council approved a framework for a cost-sharing Memorandum of Agreement that memorializes the roles and responsibilities of the Cities of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, and Pismo Beach as the project progresses through development and implementation.

In short, Pismo Beach has not bullied, cajoled, or flimflammed the City of Arroyo Grande into participating in this important regional water sustainability project. Arroyo Grande has exercised, and continues to exercise, its independent judgment and discretion in evaluating the value of the Central Coast Blue project to its residents, businesses, and visitors. Through this evaluation, the City of Arroyo Grande has independently determined to support the project and to continue participating with its partners throughout the process of development in a manner that benefits the citizens of Arroyo Grande as well as the citizens of the 5 Cities area as a whole.

While the test wells that are the subject of the Minor Use Permit/Coastal Development Permit at issue in this appeal have independent utility for ongoing management of the groundwater basin, they will also provide needed information and data regarding the design and feasibility of the Central Coast Blue project. The Cities of Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, and Arroyo Grande have determined that these wells will provide the best opportunity to obtain necessary information to continue the development of this vital regional water sustainability project. We therefore request that your Honorable Board uphold the decision of the Planning Department Hearing Officer to approve Minor Use Permit/Coastal Development Permit (DRC2020-00050).



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Whitney McDonald'.

Whitney McDonald
City Manager

Cc: City Council
City Attorney
Bill Robeson, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director
Matt Bronson, City of Grover Beach
Jim Lewis, City of Pismo Beach
Jeff Edwards, J.H. Edwards Company