

**From:** [Michelle Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Michelle Wilson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Thank You  
**Date:** Monday, August 22, 2016 12:20:33 PM

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**From:** Carl McCaw [<mailto:carlmccaw@charter.net>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2016 7:27 PM  
**To:** Steve Tate  
**Cc:** Larry Carr; Gordon\_Siebert  
**Subject:** Thank You

Charter had a hiccup and did not send this to the Council members so I am retransmitting.

But Please forward to them.

Dear Steve,

Based on your action I was put in contact with John Varela who is our SCVWD representative.

That was a very useful and wise thing for You to do.

John immediately contacted me so John and I met on 2016/8/15.

We exchanged several useful items. He is a good listener!

He is clearly dedicated to the good of our community!

He gave me a 1/4" packet of SCVWD materials.

Please note that I am going to present my items in terms of my struggles to get to a solution.

The hope is for You and your team, to correct this weak communication public communication on the water problems (drought – insufficient long range water).

John is a strong believer that my attending official meetings is the path to my enlightenment.

1. That is not my experience:

My conclusion is that public meetings:

- a. Do not focus on the fundamental problems
- b. Meander around unrelated or unimportant issues
- c. Waste time on educating the public with facts that are only of interest to the authorities

- d. Run so long that the public is just bewildered and frustrated.
- e. Primarily focus on what has been done in the past with archaic tools.
- f. Fail to grasp that some of the public have better relevant solutions and so shut them down after 3 minutes and then continue to pontificate.

This packet has the same problem.

2. The largest water purification plant in the world is in Southern California.

John alerted me to that fact that San Jose also has a new plant. Good news!

An insert states that it produces 8 million gallons per day.

Numerous other volume statistics are in Acre-Feet.

The total volume of SCVWD is probably around there somewhere but I missed it.

What we need to know is, "What percentage of the total needed, is 8 million gallons?"

That is, when does the percentage get significant?

By 2022 the contribution will be 14 billion gallons. What percentage is that?

Trillions, billions, and millions tend to lose me. I live mostly at the \$100 level!

## **Authorities**

I look up to see four relevant agencies:

Morgan Hill City Council

SCVWD

CA State Legislature

Governor Brown

(plus some Federal Government for money and restrictions)

3. One false Focus is that in Northern CA they are all staffed by rainfall/well professionals.

Where is the new-blood we see in Southern CA?

Where are the nuclear experts? Where are the recycling chemists?

Hello! We have a drought. Do we just punish the population with Conservation.

Or do we look to the Pacific, which we are conveniently beside?

The Americas burst past Europe because of our vast resources.

But we have exceeded the rainfall resource.

The responsible solution is move on from that restriction, not worship it.

The Arabs learned how to survive in the desert.

The Israelis now sell them water.

#### 4. The Missing Focus!

In the booklet in the packet, there is a chart showing

Population Growth vs Water Use over time.

The Water use shown is not increasing.

The population is growing steadily at a 25% slope.

The population is now about 1,900,000.

The water usage has been about 400,000 acre-feet, and a little less, since 1980.

**In a logical world why wouldn't the water usage grow with the population?**

Do we wish to shut down the bounty of the Central Valley farmers?

Do we wish to live in a vast firetrap?

5. John Varela shared with me some estimates for our local district, that are not ready for public release;

Initial Desalination plant expense ~ \$2B

New Recycling Plant ~ \$30 – \$60M

**The public needs to know** those values of potential real solutions.

These need to be common knowledge in the newspaper, not Board Meetings!!!!

But they need to be translated into **specific annual costs to me.**

Let's round the Gilroy/MH population to 100,000 and the water-rate-payers to 30,000.

By tradition, by the time the recycling plant gets built the cost will double.

So  $60M \times 2 / 30,000 = \$4000/\text{rate-payer}$ .

I think we all could deal with that when it is put into a bond spread over 20 years?  
Yes?

I think we will easily spend that in higher water rates, buying rainwater.

The point is that these two sets of disjoint proposals need to be published in dollars that the rate-payers can understand, not gross costs!!!

It needs to be made clear what percentage of the present water usage will be implemented by these new solutions, not an acre-foot statistic!!!

6. One side issue is the public bickering over solution of the two 40' tunnels bypassing the Delta.

That is Governor Brown's eight year old proposal which is stuck in the Legislature.

It is interesting but does not solve the longer rainfall problem.

What is the point of trying to resolve the bickering:

Salmon

Federal Gov't vs State

Northern CA vs Southern

Local Delta water users

Sacramento River aficionados

What is the use of chasing rainbows?

There are two other solutions and they directly address the rainfall problem, FOREVER!

The large costs weigh heavily on the MH City Council. So what is the alternative?

LOBBY the SCVWD and the Governor.

With admiration,

Carl McCaw

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-----Original Message-----

From: John Varela [<mailto:jvarela@valleywater.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 12:25 PM

To: [Carlmccaw@charter.net](mailto:Carlmccaw@charter.net)

Subject: A forward message from Mayor Tate

Hello Mr McCaw

I received copy of a letter sent by you to M H City Council, I would enjoy the opportunity to connect with you at some point to address your comments from the Water Districts perspective.

I live in Morgan Hill so perhaps we meet at a local coffee stop, I look forward to your reply.

Kindest regards

John

Sent from my iPad

John L Varela

SCVWD Board of Directors

District 1

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