

Action Item: MMWD Increase in Rates

Marin Conservation League recognizes that MMWD is faced with the twin problems of increased costs and declining revenues in attempting to balance its budget for next year. Services and materials continue to escalate in price, including the price of Sonoma County Water Agency, which provides about 25% of MMWD's water supply. We commend MMWD for its responsible budget cuts in response to these problems. We recognize that the primary cause for declining revenues is reduced water consumption, due in part to the success of conservation programs, and in part to a depressed economy. This problem of reduced consumption and reduced revenues is true in many parts of California, including Sonoma County. Even while revenues are down, essential services and infrastructure must be maintained to protect the integrity of the water supply. **Therefore, we support MMWD's proposed four percent rate increase as necessary and prudent.**

We would prefer that the District not suspend the successful program of providing financial incentives for water conservation, and that important maintenance and restoration of the watershed are being deferred during this budget year. Any future consideration of water rates must insure that these critical programs are restored and fully funded.

Approved May 17, 2011

M/S/P Holden/Fullerton/unanimous