

The Marin Community Plan explicitly states:

- Present water use is exceeding amount of water available to support our local ecosystem – wildlife and existing population.
- Water demand will increase as a result of new development.
- Water supply would be impacted by building new homes and businesses; proposed land uses will increase demand and may impact fish and wildlife.
- Demand is now again approaching 1987 level which led to rationing in last drought and would have resulted in severe water shortages if drought had continued.
- At current increases in demand MMWD projects an increasing deficit in supply that exceeds its estimates for what can be met through additional demand management.

It further states that:

- Continued unsustainable patterns of the built environment and water use will not be supported.
- Sustainable water supply is required (no new construction or uses without an administrative finding that adequate, long-term and sustainable water supply is available to serve a project)
- Projects should offset new water demands with no net increase in demand through reuse, reclamation, catchment, retention, retrofit etc.

According to attorney, Jeff Hoffman – (Letter to Commission 3/15/07, pg. 8)

- “The county currently has a water deficit of 2,464 acre feet per year (‘AFY’). (DEIR, p.4.9-83.)
- Implementation of the CWP would cause an expected increased demand for water in Marin County of 9,242 AFY by the year 2030. (DEIR, p.4.9-75, ‘Demand’ statistics at bottom.)
- Water supplies in the County are only expected to increase by 1184 AFY during time. (Id. at paragraph 3.)
- This is expected to cause an increased water supply deficit of 8,661 AFY. (DEIR, p. 4.9-83.)
- During the same time period, during normal rain event years, the MMWD, which provides most of the supply and experiences most of the demand in the County, is expected to suffer a decrease in water supply of more than 8.5% while demand is expected to increase by more than 17%. (DEIR, p.4.9-76.)
- Overall, by the year 2030, the MMWD is expected to have a water deficit of 10,049 AFY if the CWP were implemented. (DEIR, p.4.9-83.)

The letter from Almonte resident, Adrian Gordon re: – Adequacy of Water (2/12/07)

...the DEIR found that the planned build-out under the 2005 CWP update would have 6 significant adverse impacts on the Marin water supply. The DEIR then stated that 5 of the 6 of these adverse impacts could not be reduced or mitigated to a less-than-significant level. In the DEIR it says that each of these “would remain a significant unavoidable project and cumulative impact.”

In spite of this clear evidence the new changes proposed appear to ignore this reality and attempt to promote growth regardless of the inadequacy of conservation mitigation and based on assumed possibilities of other water supply explorations!

I understand from David Keller “that California court rulings prohibit approval of new development based on the use of ‘paper water’ rather than real water. It also violates common sense and good science, the principles of sustainability, and the need for restoration of our great river systems and groundwater. It is a recipe for disaster”.

As attorney Hoffman states in conclusion: “The County now has sufficient information to understand that the HOD’s and the proposed changes to the Land Use Designations that increase allowable density if certain criteria are met are inappropriate, especially for the areas in which they are planned. Not only would construction of new housing exacerbate (these) already existing problems, doing so when the County admits that it currently has a water supply deficit defies logic, as does doing so when the DEIR identified 42 significant unmitigatable impacts should the CWP be implemented.

The current proposed plans for development build-out in the CWP are completely incongruous with the limits of our water resources. We need to live within the limits of our watershed if we are to achieve the CWP’s goal of sustainability.

As well stated by the bumper sticker I saw on my way to hear a speech on ‘peak oil’ at a global warming event – CHANGE IS INEVITABLE...GROWTH IS OPTIONAL!

Summary submitted by Ann Spake (espake@care2.com)

cc. Marin County Board of Supervisors