

Monterey County
Water Resources Agency

Ordinance No. 04014

RECEIVED

AUG 06 1999

WATER

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 2, 4, AND 9 OF ORDINANCE 3851
TO EXTEND FOR THREE YEARS THE REQUIRED FILING OF
AGRICULTURAL WATER CONSERVATION PLANS

County Counsel Summary

This ordinance extends for three years the existing requirement that all growers farming property in Zones 2, 2A, or 2B file plans with the Monterey County Water Resources Agency not later than February 15 of each year, showing the water conservation measures that the growers will implement for their agricultural operations during that calendar year and the water conservation measures implemented during the previous year. The ordinance describes the required contents of the plans, and prescribes penalties for failure to file plans on time. By its terms, the ordinance is to be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors within three years following its adoption.

The Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency ordains as follows:

Section 1. Section 2 of Ordinance 3851 is amended to read:

Section 2. Findings

A. The Salinas Valley Ground Water Basin continues to experience overdraft. This inability to maintain a constant water supply is based in part on demand for water resources which, for many years, has annually exceeded the natural and augmented recharge capabilities in the Salinas Valley. The recent drought, from 1987 to 1992, significantly increased overdraft and exacerbated water quality impacts. However, even without the drought, overdraft of the Salinas Ground Water Basin remains a constant problem. Overdrafting of the Salinas Ground Water Basin contributes to the serious problem of intrusion of seawater into the basin along the coast.

B. Nitrate contamination in the Salinas Ground Water Basin continues to be a widespread problem and is increasing as documented by annual water quality investigations conducted by the Agency. Water supplies for municipalities in the basin are threatened as wells have become unusable due to nitrate contamination and have required replacement.

C. The conservation of agricultural water is an economically and environmentally feasible way to reduce water demand, to help prevent further overdraft, to reduce nitrate contamination to the ground water basin by reducing the leaching of nitrogen-based fertilizers, and to help curtail the presently existing threat to the ground water basin.

D. Agricultural Water Conservation Plans filed to date pursuant to Ordinance No. 3851 have documented good agricultural water conservation efforts in the Salinas Valley and have shown that the agricultural community has made a significant investment, both in terms of dollars and time.

E. Enactment of an extension for the continued filing of required agricultural water conservation plans is a matter of necessity in that the severity of ground water overdraft, seawater intrusion, and nitrate contamination is a threat to the municipal water supply for thousands of Salinas Valley residents and a multi-billion dollar agricultural business.

Section 2. Section 4 B of Ordinance 3851 is amended to read:

B. Zones 2, 2A, and 2B.

Zones 2, 2A, and 2B mean the zones established by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency in connection with the construction of the San Antonio and Nacimiento Dams and Reservoirs and the Monterey County Water Recycling Projects.

Section 3. Section 9 of Ordinance 3851 is amended to read:

Section 9. Review by Board of Supervisors.

Not later than three (3) years from the effective date of this amendment, the Board of Supervisors shall again review and determine whether the requirements of Ordinance 3851 and any amendments thereto should remain in effect without change, be amended, or be repealed.


1999

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 25th day of May, by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES: Supervisors Salinas, Pennycook, Calcagno, Johnsen and Potter.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.


Judy Pennycook
Chair
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

SALLY REED

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By

