

WE Watch, P.O Box 830, Solvang CA93463



Board of Directors, Central Coast Water Authority  
255 Industrial Way  
Buellton, CA. 93427

April 20,2021

Subject: Public Comment for April 22 BOD Meeting  
Item No 4B, Amendment 21

WE Watch works to sustain the beauty and environment of the Santa Ynez Valley. We actively support socially responsible efforts to protect our surroundings for ourselves and future generations while allowing for differences of opinions and approaches. Valley water issues and supplies are one of our most important areas of activity and to that end we have examined the subject of water sales and transfer that are covered within the scope of the new Amendment 21 provisions.

We anticipate that relaxed water sales rules, particularly in Northern California, will lead to unsustainable practices by water districts. We have already seen this in the San Joaquin Valley. The sales of allocated water in some of these areas has caused considerable groundwater overdraft as it is used to replace the sold water. We can anticipate that the easing of water transfer rules embodied in Amendment 21 will lead to similar actions on the part of Northern California water districts in their goals of generating revenue. In the discussions leading up to the approvals for Amendment 21 there has been little or no recognition of this dangerous potential; water brokers and groundwater-healthy water districts will be only too glad to drain their basins and replace their water with cash. We must take every reasonable precaution to prevent this from occurring.

Our recommendation to you is to cancel Amendment 21 and its easing of water transfer/water sales rules and stand by your current more proscriptive current rules for water transfers and sales. By doing so, you will be taking the more sustainable action, you will be erring on the side of caution, and you will be contributing to healthier groundwater basins for our future.

*Nick Di Croce*

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