



Statement from Nicole Sandkulla, Chief Executive Officer, about Providing More Water for East Palo Alto (EPA) from the San Francisco Regional (Hetch Hetchy) Water System (System)

August 17, 2016

Urgent discussions are underway among EPA, the City of Mountain View, the City of Palo Alto, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and BAWSCA to provide EPA the additional water it needs to build a new school and complete 11 construction projects to improve its community.

In 1984, the water agencies, districts and private utilities in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties, which were purchasing water from the System, agreed to allocate among themselves the perpetual supply assurance of 184 million gallons a day (mgd) from the System. The East Palo Alto County Water District, which was operated and governed by the County of San Mateo and served the City of East Palo Alto, was one of these agencies. In 1994, the agencies adopted a permanent allocation of the 184 mgd from the System. In 2001, San Mateo County dissolved the East Palo Alto County Water District, and EPA took responsibility for its water from the System.

The transcript of a "NBC Bay Area" television broadcast on August 9th states that the original decision to allocate the guaranteed supply of water from San Francisco "was left up to the group, known collectively today as the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA)." That is incorrect and misleading. BAWSCA, authorized by the California legislature in 2003, has a different mission, management and membership. In fact, that water was not "divvied up" by a single agency, it was allocated by the 26 individual agencies, through 26 separate actions taken by the governing boards of each agency. Any statement that BAWSCA is the same as the entities, which set EPA's water allocation in 1984 or 1994, is incorrect and it is critical to BAWSCA that the facts are correctly presented.

Today, we are making encouraging progress to get more water for EPA, and BAWSCA is pursuing its mandate from the California Legislature in AB 2058 to represent and protect the interests of all of its 26 member agencies, including EPA.

BAWSCA is determined to get a result for EPA that meets the interests of all parties, including individual member agencies that may provide from their current water supply allocation the water needed by EPA on a long-term basis as allowed for under a new provision in the wholesale customer contracts with San Francisco.

At the moment, the City of Mountain View is in direct discussions with EPA to find an equitable way to supply EPA with some of Mountain View's excess high-quality water from the SFPUC to EPA at a fair price.

Importantly, earlier this month, the Commission's president, Francesca Vietor, and Commissioner Ike Kwon visited East Palo Alto to understand first-hand the City's need for more water and its importance to the community, and how the SFPUC staff can help EPA. BAWSCA appreciates its participation to find a prompt solution. The SFPUC's current plan calls for a decision by 2018, but BAWSCA feels the decision should be made now.

Also, we are pleased that State Senator Jerry Hill and State Assembly Member Rich Gordon are supporting this effort on behalf of their constituents, including EPA.

BAWSCA is confident that a satisfactory result will be achieved soon.

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