

Unedited Letter to Pacific Sun (October 2009):

I very much support providing a high quality, reliable water supply for the people of Marin County and our remarkable natural environment. In that spirit I recently authored the report Sustaining Our Water Future. The report recommends a package of six local supply improvements and efficiency measures that will provide abundant supply reliability at a small fraction of the cost of desalination.

Anyone who reads MMWD's written comments about the report will see that MMWD identified no substantive errors or inaccuracies in the report. Nor has MMWD substantively responded to the exposure of many inaccuracies in their planning and publicity materials used to justify the desal project. Despite MMWD's recent public statements, successful examples and thorough substantiation of every recommendation are provided in the report.

We face many increasing costs for a multitude of problems addressed by federal, state and local governments. I do not support adding more unnecessary financial burden to local residents and businesses, particularly when well-proven, less costly, more environmentally friendly alternatives are readily available.

Furthermore, serious fire, floods, and earthquakes represent much higher catastrophic risk to Marin and our economy compared to drought. MMWD has some degree of responsibility in all of these, but has limited funds for adequate preparation. Our limited funds should go to addressing these critical issues, not to unnecessary, energy intensive and environmentally risky projects such as desalination.

It is clear that MMWD just wants you to believe what they tell you about the report. Don't fall for that age-old trick. To download the report, the responses to MMWD's comments, and to see more of what MMWD apparently does not want you to know, visit www.marinwatercoalition.org.

Not "everyone is so thoroughly pissed off at SCWA" as Mr. Helliker claims. Many of us in Marin admire their more realistic and sustainable approach to resource management. Based on well-documented facts and a comprehensive assessment of our resource management challenges, it is Mr. Helliker's logic and resource management approach that are badly flawed.

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