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County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

October 11, 2000

AGENDA: October 17, 2000

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Water Metering

Dear Board Members:

As you know, on September 26, 2000, the Board had scheduled a public hearing on a proposed measure to institute a metering requirement for new wells. The proposal would have applied to property located in critical areas of the County, which constituted less than 12% of the land area of the County, and only in cases where the new well would have served a new or expanded use. While staff believed that the information collected through this program would have been useful for long term planning purposes, given the level of public controversy generated by the proposal, it is recommended that staff no longer proceed with the metering ordinance. However, in our continued efforts to explore other feasible ways to improve our water management efforts, it is recommended that staff continue to work with the Water Advisory Commission and the Interagency Water Resources Group to develop alternative proposals which do not involve mandatory metering of wells.

It is therefore **RECOMMENDED** that your Board discontinue consideration of a metering ordinance and direct staff to develop alternative proposals to improve water management that do not involve the metering of wells.

Truly yours,

Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer