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January 27, 2009

Marty Blum, Mayor  
City Council Members  
City of Santa Barbara  
P.O. Box 1990  
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

**RE: City of Santa Barbara Water Commission**

Dear Madam Mayor and City Council Members:

I have served on the City of Santa Barbara Water Commission for about 10 years. At the time I was appointed, I was the Project Coordinator for the Cachuma Conservation Release Board (CCRB) but became Manager of CCRB about a year later. Three years ago, I was also appointed General Manager of the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB). Prior to applying for the position, I discussed my application with the Cachuma Project Member Unit General Managers, COMB and CCRB Board Presidents, COMB's General Counsel, and the City Attorney. No one expressed any objections, as long as I refrained from participating in discussions or recommendations that could pose a potential conflict of interest between the City of Santa Barbara and one or more of the other Cachuma Project Member Units. I assure you that I have been diligent in doing so for my entire tenure on the Water Commission. The City Attorney has since evaluated this issue on two additional occasions and determined there was no conflict.

However, recently I have had concerns regarding potential conflicts that might arise due to the Water Commission's role in developing comments or recommendations to City Council or the Planning Commission regarding the General Plan Update, particularly with regard to future water supply planning and water treatment over the next 20 years. Water plays an integral role in that planning effort, and although the City's water supplies are proprietary to the City alone, just as the other Member Units' water supplies are to them, issues involving water availability and water quality in the City's General Plan Update are far-reaching and present a greater potential for conflict of interest than in the past. Although I still believe that I would be objective and selective in my participation regarding these issues, I would not want the perception of conflict of interest to exist with any of the Member Units or with members of the public. Therefore, I regretfully submit my resignation from the Water Commission effective immediately.

I consider it an honor to have served as a Water Commissioner for so many years, and want to express my thanks to the Mayor and City Council for appointing me to that position. I also extend my thanks to the Water Resources Manager and her staff for the incredible work that they do, and for providing such consistently excellent information to the Water Commission. The Water Resources Department is one of the best in the City, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to work with such talented people.

Very truly yours,



Kate Rees

cc: Rebecca Bjork, Water Resources Manager  
Jim Armstrong, City Administrator