

November 4th, 2020

**RE: Public Comment
Support for LAFCo Resolution 2020-31**

Dear Local Agency Formation Commission,

I am a water customer and property owner in the Big Basin Water Company, Inc. (BBWC) – A private, for-profit water company— water service area, and I am providing this public comment to urge the Commission to adopt resolution 2020-31 and to direct staff to immediately coordinate with SLVWD to analyze an annexation of BBWC's water service area.

The Commission's Staff's recommendation to extend San Lorenzo Valley Water District's sphere of influence to include the properties in a jurisdictional island along 236 between Big Basin State Park and Boulder Creek Village, currently served by BBWC, is well supported by current and projected service needs:

- a. The BBWC water service area was severely affected by the CZU August lightning fire. Approximately 25% of the structures in the service area were destroyed, and the entirety of the water service area at this moment has a do not drink and do not boil order. SLVWD has successfully managed water system contamination caused by wildfires and lifted do no drink and do not boil orders. SLVWD employs staff that are knowledgeable and sufficiently skilled to manage this health issue. Future needs will include capital improvement program for replacement of deteriorating infrastructure to meet fire protection requirements and minimum industry standards. SLVWD employs staff and administration sufficient to address these needs.
- b. The type of development to occur or planned for the area will be for the replacement of approximately 150 single family homes requiring adequate fire flow storage, pursuant to local fire codes. SLVWD employs capital improvement programs that meet minimum industry standards for fire protection.
- c. Possible jurisdiction water service changes to this area will not deplete or exceed the service capabilities of SLVWD. During normal operations, the water service area maintains adequate water rights and impounds sufficient raw water storage. Historically, SLVWD has served water to BBWC water service area through an intertie pipeline during emergencies.
- d. Possible jurisdiction water service changes to this area will not constitute a change in services already provided by SLVWD.
- e. The project future growth of the area is limited by land restrictions. Potential growth is minimal.
- f. Boulder Creek Fire Protection District provides fire safety services to the greater SLVWD jurisdiction including the area currently proposed for SLVWD's 2020 sphere of influence. The sphere of influence change would improve coordination between the local fire protection district and firefighting water resources and improve the safety of the public.

- g. No other local governmental agency presently provides services to this area or would reasonably serve this area. Historically, only SLVWD's jurisdictional boundaries extended over portions of the water service area.
- h. An overt interaction and dependence exists between SLVWD and the BBWC through an intertie pipeline between the two water systems. The intertie is not currently used. Other possible interdependence between BBWC and the City of Santa Cruz Water Department exists through water rights and diversions of Hare Creek, but no water service jurisdictional boundary exists.
- i. Watershed lands exists in the BBWC water service area which are surrounded by watershed lands currently within SLVWD's sphere of influence.

Please adopt Resolution 2020-31 and direct staff to immediately begin coordination with SLVWD to analyze an annexation of the BBWC water service area. BBWC has been badly affected by the recent fires and now after two months has yet to return potable water service to any portions of their water system area. BBWC struggles to secure funding for infrastructure repair and reconstruction following the fires. Please direct LAFCo staff to analyze the possibility of an assessment district to provide an option for property owners to fund necessary improvements and payment of assets for a possible SLVWD acquisition.

Regards,

Patrick LaBruzzo
620 Memory Lane
Boulder Creek, CA 95006
(650) 245-1032