

My concerns are not with water availability, but with impact on creek habitat and fauna. The experts tell us that there is sufficient groundwater within the preserve. Maybe, but one needs to be reminded that Walter Wong, the head of the County Health Department was also adamant on water sufficiency at the Carmel Valley Ranch (Tularcitos), in the late 1970's and that proved not to be the case.

At the hearings the public voiced their concern at the impact on the three primary creeks running through the property that are important tributaries of the Carmel River. Little is known regarding the ability to lift water in copious quantities from fractured granite. If the promoters were satisfied with supply, then why did they insist on using wells in the creek beds?

A restriction on pumping water within a 1000 feet of the creeks was removed from the final document. The highest yielding well on the ranch is a 65 gallon per minute unit right smack in the Garzas Creek. That creek dried up this year, requiring steelhead rescues. If you recall we had good rainfall this past winter, and yet existing usage of the wells in the lower end of Garzas creek by Cal-Am caused the creek to cease flowing at the lower reaches, where spawning occurs! The excessive pumping of the Carmel river is supposed to stop by order of the SWRB. Nothing will be achieved if Rancho San Carlos goes ahead with their development and takes water from the creeks.

If Rancho San Carlos were to undertake to eliminate any pumping from within a 1000 feet of the creeks as was originally provided for in the EIR, they would get my vote of "Yes to Measure M".