

March 24, 2025

Tom Neisler, General Manager  
Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District  
P.O. Box 326  
Tehachapi, CA 93581

Dear Tom,

We've been working in good faith to negotiate a new contract with TCCWD for the supply of State Water Project water. Our goal has been to collaborate productively and focus on solutions that serve both our community and the region.

However, recent public comments attributed to you in *Tehachapi News* on March 5 and March 12, 2025, don't reflect the constructive approach we've been trying to take. Instead of keeping the discussion factual and solution-oriented, the remarks were unnecessarily adversarial and misrepresented the City's position.

For example, in the March 5 article, you stated that the City's demurrer contained "meritless arguments that Judge Acquisto has already rejected." You also claimed that our legal position was merely a rehash of failed arguments and suggested that the City has an "ongoing practice of violating CEQA both before Sage Ranch and continuing after." These statements ignore the City's efforts to address concerns through the legal process and negotiations, and they portray the City as acting irresponsibly rather than engaging in legitimate dispute resolution.

Similarly, in the March 12 article, you alleged that the City has a "consistent and repeated failure to adequately analyze water supply" and that we have overstated the amount of water available to TCCWD while ignoring potential impacts to other customers. You know there is more to these issues than your comments suggest, and publicly framing the situation in such a one-sided and adversarial manner doesn't reflect the full picture. These kinds of remarks aren't productive and only make it harder to move forward in a cooperative way.

Notably, while you have chosen to make public statements about these issues, the City has refrained from commenting when contacted by the same reporter. We have done so in the interest of keeping discussions focused where they belong—at the negotiating table, not in the press. Unfortunately, your approach has made it clear that a productive resolution is not possible at this time.

Given this, we've decided to end negotiations on a new contract. If circumstances change and a more constructive dialogue is possible in the future, we're open to revisiting the conversation.

Sincerely,

  
Greg Garrett  
City Manager

CC: Jay Schlosser, Development Services Director  
Don Marsh, Public Works Director  
Joe Hughes, Klein DeNatale Goldner  
Robert Kuhs, LeBeau Thelen  
TCCWD Board Members