

## Terrie Gillen

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**From:** GARY DENISON <hikermv@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2022 7:25 PM  
**To:** Board Comment  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the Board Feb 1 meeting

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. My comments are in regard to the February 1, 2022 Board of Director package, specifically agenda items 9 and 10.

Agenda item 9 is for the approval of a \$401,175 expenditure for Jacobs Engineering. This purpose is for the company to perform a Strategic Water Assessment for the MMWD. This assessment will include: water supply and demand drought scenarios, an assessment of water supply alternatives and an evaluation of water supply alternative for the purpose of assisting in the selection of a "preferred project." This assessment and report are to be completed by the end of June, 2022.

One of the potential "preferred projects" is the intertie project through EBMUD which is the subject of agenda item 10. Item 10 seeks the approval of a \$998,030 expenditure to conduct an environmental impact review on the intertie project.

As a MMWD rate payer, I strongly object to the approval of agenda item 10 prior to the completion of the assessment being approved in agenda item 9. Regardless of which "preferred project" is selected it is likely an environmental impact review will need to be conducted. It is fiscally responsible to defer almost a \$1 million outlay until a "preferred project" is identified and selected.

This leads to my final comment. Given the lack of foresight and planning for the recent drought, should the district consider allocating money to have an outside consulting firm assess the overall governance process of the MMWD? This assessment should include, the role of Board Members and the General Manager and qualifications thereof. It should contrast the governance structure of the MMWD against other California municipal water districts. Is the Board is over involved in the day-to-day operations of the district, because of managerial weaknesses at the top of the organization? These are questions best addressed outside of the organization by an independent consulting firm.

Respectfully submitted,

MMWD ratepayer