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Just the right words

EDITORIAL

MEASURE O is history now, as it was obvious it would be.

For anybody who objectively follows the water issue, not only was it apparent from the get-go that the Cal Am takeover measure was a bad idea, it was also obvious that a majority of Monterey Peninsula residents thought so, just as they always have.

The vote was closer this time, compared to nine years ago. That shift was due to another local newspaper's relentless campaign to discredit Cal Am. When newspapers print lies, some people believe them.

But now those days are behind us. In the aftermath of the election, die-hard Measure O supporters just seem silly, with their threats to bring the takeover idea up again and to unseat the elected officials who opposed it.

Cooler heads recognize that the failure of Measure O is a reaffirmation of this community's determination to finally get a water supply they can count on for decades to come, and its realization that achieving this critical goal, with all the permit requirements in the way, is going to take a lot of undivided attention from everyone.

By everyone, we mean "everyone," and that's why we especially welcome the comments from Mayor Jason Burnett this week. Instead of gloating or being divisive, he's doing his best to make sure everybody feels included in the quest for a water solution. Instead of pointing fingers or criticizing the people who voted "Yes" on Measure O, he is promising to heed their concerns and welcome them to join the quest for new water.

"I think we should listen to what message those voters were sending," Burnett said. "We work to represent the entire community, and those voters are clearly upset with Cal Am."

The chief proponent of Measure O, Ron Cohen, also was being constructive.

"We are going to concentrate on the new desal system," he said.

Let's hope days of unanimity are now with us, and that people who fervently wish the government owned the Monterey Peninsula's water utility will put that desire on hold until the our water supply crisis has finally been solved.