

Edwards Family Farm

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May 28, 2006

Ken Landau, Assistant Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

re: Pollution from the Colfax City Sewage Treatment Plant

Dear Mr Landau,

Thank you for meeting with us last Wednesday in order to discuss the ongoing pollution from the Colfax Treatment Plant. We appreciate your concern about this plant's historic and ongoing failures to fulfill its permit requirements, and the levels and amounts of pollution that have leaked, spilled, and discharged from this plant onto our land (flowing through our farmstead and past our home).

We also greatly appreciate your willingness to put the Colfax sewer plant as a high priority project within your agency. We feel this is timely, in that the plant is soon due for relicensing and review of its 2001 Cease and Desist Order. We applaud your intent to personally inspect the Colfax plant, and invite you to visit our land to view this issue from the pollutees point of view.

During last week's meeting you expressed an interest in information regarding recent and impending hookups to the City of Colfax sewer system. That information is provided below. For perspective, keep in mind that your agency's tentative Cease and Desist Order was made public in January 2001. That order made it clear that the Colfax plant had, for the previous several years, repeatedly exceeded its inflow limits and repeatedly violated discharge limits. In other words, the order made it clear that your agency believed the Colfax plant was exceeding its biologic and hydraulic capacity.

Yet, in the face of that information, the City of Colfax continued adding sewage input to this already overloaded plant. The numbers to date, using City of Colfax data, are as follows:

Sewage hookups (EDUs) at end of 2000	Approximately 1000
Sewage EDUs connected and authorized from 2001 through 2005 ¹	280

These hookups add over 20 million gallons of sewage a year to the plant (each

¹ Data from City of Colfax : memos from City manager Bob Perrault, dated 9/3/2003, 9/28/2004, and 10/12/2005.

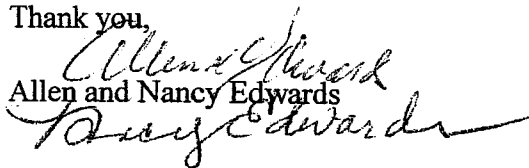
EDU is estimated to add 200 gallons per day).

In addition, Colfax has a relatively large number of hookups that are in development. These include 372 housing units that have been specifically identified, several projects where the number of housing units has not yet been publicly identified, several commercial and industrial projects, as well as a planned hotel/conference center.² These near-term projects would add another 30 million gallons of sewage per year.

Finally, the City of Colfax is aggressively seeking to incorporate more area into City boundaries - surrounding areas that are expected to be further subdivided and developed. Rightly or wrongly, Colfax City Government is actively seeking real estate development. While this may expand the City economy, and will certainly increase city revenues, it will cause significant increases in the input to a sewage treatment plant that has never functioned as designed, and never consistently treated sewage to standards your agency required in its permits. In addition, as we have discussed with your staff, the most recent facility plan for the CDO ordered sewer plant reconstruction would result in a plant with insufficient capacity to handle the current load, let alone the additional sewage from new development.

Again, we appreciate your willingness to give the Colfax treatment plant a high priority within your agency. We also appreciate your understanding of the degree to which our family and farm have suffered because of years of pollution from the Colfax plant. We understand that you and your staff will now work to protect us from this pollution, while you use your mandated authority to enforce water quality laws at the Colfax sewage treatment plant. Please let us know if we can provide you with any additional information to help you in these efforts.

Thank you,


Allen and Nancy Edwards

cc: Dave Carlson
Elizabeth Thayer

² Data from the March 20, 2006 memo from Sherri Conway, city planning director to Bob Perrault, City manager