

**COMMENT LETTER 42 - NEIL H. MCKAY (SEPTEMBER 24, 1996), RECEIVED
SEPTEMBER 24, 1996**

Response to Comment 42-1

Comment Summary: The comment states an opinion that the Draft EIR/EIS is far too complete and that further effort further wastes the taxpayers' money.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that the Draft EIR/EIS address all potential impacts of the Project. CEQA further requires that the City of Santa Rosa respond to all comments on the Draft EIR/EIS.

Response to Comment 42-2

Comment Summary: The comment states an opinion that the ratepayers already pay more for wastewater treatment than should be necessary and that added charges will reduce home value and damage the Sonoma County economy. The comment also expresses the opinion in favor of proceeding with the low cost alternative with a minimum of additional studies.

A substantial part of capacity of the Project, and therefore a substantial part of the cost of the Project, is attributable to the need to provide a reliable method of disposal of reclaimed water generated by existing users. Section 4.18 of the Draft EIR/EIS (page 4.18-37) concludes that increased rates will primarily affect long-term land prices, and that the increase in rates constitute a significant impact of the Project. Section 4.18 (page 4.18-49) also concludes that the net economic impact for the area will be positive. The opinion related to proceeding with the low cost alternative is a comment concerning project selection. Refer to Master Response 2, located in Section 6.2 of this document.

