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**CITY OF SANTA ROSA**  
P.O. Box 1678  
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Marie Meredith  
City of Santa Rosa  
Department of Community Development  
P.O. Box 1678  
Santa Rosa, Ca 95402-1678

**DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Dear Ms. Meredith:

The following are our comments on the Draft EIR/EIS for the Santa Rosa Subregional Long-Term Wastewater Project:

001

1. **INCOMPLETE**--The army core of engineers has stated that discharge into the ocean is a viable option for the treated water. However, this option is not covered in the document. Therefore, the document is incomplete.

2. **INADEQUATE ACCESS**--The EIR/EIS comprises 17 volumes. The CD-Rom version contains 15 of the 17 volumes. The city required \$120 for either form. This is a prohibitive amount something that will be outdated in a short time. The work was also supposed to be available at the county libraries. However, the only library that had a complete copy appears to be the Santa Rosa library. Copies of a CD-Rom can be made professionally for from \$15 to \$35 each. The city rate payers spent approximately \$12 million dollars to have the study done. Surely for that amount copies could be made available to the public at a more reasonable cost.

002

3. **IRRIGATION**--The EIR gives as its intention for the west county irrigation project the spreading of 4.5 billion gallons of water on 6,000 acres. This averages over 25 inches per acre. I live on the ranch below the Carroll road site. This year with the breaking of the drought and the late rains we had water sitting in some of our fields until after the first of June. Our land could not handle more than 5 to 10 inches. The EIR attempts to get around this with what it calls "high tech" agriculture which I am told means crops like corn, potatoes and vegetables. Our grandfather grew potatoes on our ranch until his death. He did not irrigate them. The only time he had problems with a crop was the year when the rains came early and the potatoes started to rot in the field. Our land and those around it have also been used to grow corn, silage and oat hay all without irrigation. There is not enough warm sunny days to grow alfalfa as about half of the summer days are affected by fogs. To put 25 inches or more of water on this land would mean the rotting of the vegetable and grass roots and the rotting of the hoofs of the animals on the property and ruining the land.

003

4. **DISCHARGE INTO THE CREEKS**--If 25 inches of water is used to irrigate the land

004

there will be run off into the creeks. The EIR states that there will be no run off into the creeks. It mentions that formations will be built to stop the run off. What is to happen to the water that is prevented from running off and who is going to pay for the formations-the farmers or the city of Santa Rosa. 004 (cont.)

5. PRESERVATION OF WILDLIFE. One of the studies was to determine the number of pond turtles in the area. The survey noted seeing only six turtles. I have heard or seen that many in a quarter of a mile walking down the creek on our property. The survey was done either at the wrong time of day to observe them or on an overcast day when they would not be out sunning themselves. Besides the pond turtles there are also foxes, bobcats, raccoons, opossums, skunks, deer and ducks. In fact there are several ducks that nest along the creek every year. If a dam is built above their habitat what will happen to them. 005
6. ADJACENT LAND. The survey did not study all the land. Instead it assumed that the adjacent land was the same as that which they studied. The is not a reasonable assumption as any the ranchers in the area can tell you. The land in many cases changes from one side of the road to the other in fact the land just above our ranch is different that on our ranch. The land acrossed Carroll Road from our ranch is also different from that on our ranch. The differences are in type of soil, amount of water, and ability to grow grasses, etc. 006
7. EARTHQUAKE CONSIDERATIONS--The west county sites for a dam sit between the San Andras fault that runs along the coast line at Bodega Bay and the fault that runs inland through Santa Rosa. During the 1905 earth quake which wrecked havoc with San Francisco Santa Rosa was much worse hit. What precautions were suggested to protect the dams if they were built from an earthquake of 7.5 or 8 on the Richter scale. Especially when you consider the damage to San Francisco from the recent earthquake centered below San Jose. 007

These are a few of the problems noticed in the EIR/EIS.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Kirkland



Judy Kirkland