

NORMAN GRIB:

No, I'm Norman Grib.

The Court: Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

NORMAN GRIB:

Madam Mayor and Members of the City Council. My name is Dr. Norman Grib and I'm a director of Sweetwater Springs Water District. We are a small water district which serves approximately 10,000 people along the Russian River, and we're very concerned about anything that goes into the river. Let me tell you a little bit about my background, first. I have a Ph.D. in chemical engineering and I spent seven years with the environmental protection agency as a person who reviews environmental impact statements for their adequacy. So I'm very well prepared to make comments on the adequacy of the EIR. Our biggest concern as a water district with wells adjacent to the Russian River, knowing that our wells draw from aquifers directly underneath the Russian River, is that the Environmental Impact Report does not adequately address water quality issues, especially as to how they might affect the drinking water quality of our Sweetwater Springs water produced. That's probably our biggest concern, and this is a major concern.

I -- I want to remind the council that the Federal Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act sets zero discharge as a goal and has been a goal for 23 years. And it's a goal that has been met in many many places, and there's no reason that it can't be met here in Sonoma County. There's no reason that you can't put this wastewater, reclaimed wastewater, and use it on agricultural land. There's no reason to foul the Russian River. A few years ago, I was traveling in Egypt on a river cruise down the Nile, and we were being told by an Egyptologist that there were 23 vows passed down from pharaoh to pharaoh to pharaoh, through the dynasty, from one dynasty to the next dynasty, for thousands of years, and there were 23 rules, and the very first rule -- the very, very first rule was "do not foul the Nile. Anyone that fouls the Nile is cursed for all eternity." The Russian River is the Nile of our Sonoma County. And I ask you please do not foul it if there is a way. I say with all my heart, I know that it's a matter of money. And I ask you to spend the money, protect our environment. There's no other river around here like the Russian River. Please, please, don't ruin it. I guess that's all I got to say. Thank you very much.