

**PUBLIC COMMENTOR 217 - JIM JACOBS, SEPTEMBER 24, 1996**

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Jim Jacobs, 6209 Carroll Road, Bloomfield. And I will address one of the alternatives. The West County alternative is the irrigation project. If it is to be feasible, it requires irrigators. The EIR devotes significant space discussing the feasibility and costs of obtaining about 300 acres for a reservoir site. It all but ignores the 6500 acres required for an irrigation component. Section 3.1, page 36 and d-06, page 25 of the EIR state that one of the primary reasons why the chileno valley irrigation proposal was not pursued was because of a lack of a land owner interest. It then sites a preliminary survey of land owners conducted by holland bartholomew that identified 3,450 acres of willing irrigators in the West County. There are no documents in the EIR to support this survey. The City has used this 3000 acre figure to justify the West County alternative to the public. Those 3000 acres of willing irrigators are a fiction. That survey conducted in 1994 merely asked land owners if they wanted information about a wastewater irrigation project targeted for their property. Those who responded were asking for information. They were not signing up as willing irrigators.

Early in 1995, the agricultural property rights alliance conducted their own survey in the form of this petition. The land owners who signed this document represent almost 26,000 acres in the West County completely blanketing the project area. They state they will not accept the wastewater for irrigation. Assistant City Manager Ed Brauner has said several times in public, if there are no irrigators there's no project.

This petition clearly indicates that the West County alternative is an irrigation project that has no irrigators. To paraphrase Mr. Brauner, since there are no irrigators, there is no project. This document should have been included in the EIR, since it goes right to the heart of feasibility and costs. On march 8th, 1995 representatives of the apra personally presented the petition to City manager ken blackman and Mr. Brauner in the City manager's office. However, the City ignored this petition and proceeded to take West County land owners to court on two occasions to forcibly gain access to the properties to conduct the studies.

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The City has known for at least a year and a half that the West County project has no support in the West County, yet they have spent millions and millions of public dollars on studies and kept West County land owners under the threat of condemnation for over two years. In other words, to complete the project, the City would have to condemn land for a reservoir, for irrigation lands, for pipeline and power line right of ways, for pump stations and for access roads. They would have to condemn about 10 to 15 thousand acres. This would add about 50 million dollars to the price tag and force ranchers and dairymen from their homes and ranches. None of this information is included in the EIR, making it impossible for City officials or the public to make an informed decision regarding the West County alternative. Therefore, the EIR is incomplete, misleading, and inadequate. If you want a copy of this petition, I'd be happy to supply one. The mayor and City manager both have a copy.]

**Mayor Wright:**

Thank you, Mr. Jacobs. Kathy Tresch, followed by Elizabeth Gunther, followed by Tony Chasteen.