
PUBLIC COMMENTOR 227 - NATASHA PEHRSON, SEPTEMBER 24, 1996

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Good afternoon bureaucrats, rate payers, and river rats. And I would like to correct Mr. Coopender. It is Gurneville -- not Gurneville. Thank you. Your time is up, sir. My name is Natasha Pehrson. I live in Cazadero. As a 20 year resident of Sonoma County, I have gone to so many of these meetings that it makes me dizzy to think about them. It is my right, not a privilege, to address the twin topics of my physical and economic well-being as affected by the prospect of 20 percent discharge of sewage in the Russian River.

The City of Santa Rosa has consistently treated us lower river denizens as wicked stepchildren who do not deserve consideration. Water is a resource, not a nuisance. I wish to address the way the City of Santa Rosa has given out information on so-called options for sewage disposal. Earlier this year, in the summer, a case in point. The headlines in the bay area section of the San Francisco Chronicle said that the preferred decision of increased dumping to 20 percent was what was going to be happening in the Russian River. The perception of increased dumping will cause our healthy economy to die. The successful class action suit against the City of Santa Rosa in 1986 will show you how viable my statement is. [As far as physical well-being, people with weakened immune systems will suffer, and others will be so stressed by the prospect of the unhealthy river, that they will join the growing roll of people on public assistance, if there will be any]

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I only want to say a few more words. Zero discharge without compromise. Thank you.

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Mayor Wright :

Karen Kibler.