
PUBLIC COMMENTOR 228 - KAREN KIBLER, SEPTEMBER 24, 1996

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Good afternoon. Karen Kibler, 6000 Bloomfield Road, and I am a member of the Agricultural Copyright [sic] Alliance. I wish to challenge the adequacy of the Draft EIR/EIS on several grounds. The first one that I'd like to bring up this afternoon is the access of information. I do not believe that you can demonstrate that you have met the requirement in that area for two reasons. One is that the documents were basically unavailable. As someone else has already mentioned earlier, the cost is prohibitive for most people. To get all 17 volumes would cost over a \$1,000. Even to get the three volumes is \$120, which is too much to pay. But it doesn't really matter, because three volumes out of 17 does not do the trick. It was available on CD ROM. Many people don't have CD ROM access, and even librarians do not always know how to have accurate access to CD ROM material. In addition, the CD ROM did not have all 17 volumes. It was two volumes short. So that is not access at all.

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In order to get access to all 17 volumes, there were four places that you could do that. One was City of Santa Rosa library. Another was the Guerneville library. Another was Sonoma state. At Sonoma state, the volumes were held so that you could only take out two at a time. You cannot adequately examine a document when you can only look at two volumes out of 17. The only really good West County alternative was the Laguna wastewater plant. The documents there were available only during the week, and only from hours I think 9:00 to 11:00 and 1:00 to 4:00. This is not public access.

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The second point about public access is that even if one did manage to get hold of the documents, the documents were pretty much incomprehensible. I think you have a burden to make the -- the Draft EIR/EIS available in terms of information that the average person can understand within a reasonable time. You did not do this .

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There were 17 volumes. There were alternatives. Each alternative had sub-alternatives. You wound up with twelve different alternatives. They were mixed so that you could not follow one alternative all the way through. I don't believe that you can demonstrate that a reasonable person -- an average person in a reasonable amount of time could understand the document, and I do not think that you can demonstrate that you could not have found a way of creating this document so that it would be more understandable to the average person, and I think you have that burden to overcome.

Moving on to the West County alternative. In talking about a few ways in which I think that the EIR is not adequate.

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One of the things that the EIR states is that septic systems in the West County alternative will become unusable and that there will have to be unconventional septic systems installed. We need a study showing which septic systems are acceptable and we need a study showing how much it will cost for each individual homeowner, because it's not going to cost the same for every person that put it in, and I didn't see any indication that the City of Santa Rosa was going to take over the costs of putting in the septic systems for people whose septic systems will be destroyed.

Another serious problem with the EIR deals with noise in the West County alternative. If you think that you did a noise study of the ambient noise study, I don't believe that you did or that it's not adequate.

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I frankly can't tell from the documents whether you think you did one or whether you're just picking figures out of the air, but in any case, it's not adequate.

We need a study of the ambient noise levels at different times of the day and night at different locations, and I don't mean these source locations for noise, I mean the receptor locations, that is the residents, the people who will have to be listening to these noises.

Then we need a study for noise after the pumps are put in, what kind of noise will occur. It needs to be for different times of day and night and all the receptor locations, and adding in all the pumps that may be in operation at any one time.

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In the EIR you mention housing lost. I don't think there's been an adequate study of what housing will be lost. You need to do that study taking into account not just the housing that will be lost by the construction of the dams and reservoirs, but housing that will be lost because of the noise, because of the odor, because of the construction of the septic systems, and because of the contamination of the wells. Housing -- existing housing may not be usable because of all of these features.

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I would like to just reiterate one other thing that has been said by other people and that I don't think everyone is clear on, and that is that by and large, West County does not want and cannot use Santa Rosa's wastewater. Thank you.

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Mayor Wright:

Let's see -- I've got these out of order -- So I have David Bannister -- are you David?