

**PUBLIC COMMENTOR 229 - DAVID BANNISTER, SEPTEMBER 24, 1996**

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Yes.

**Mayor Wright:**

Okay, we're going to go – after Lawrence Sterling, we're going to take a five-minute break so that the court reporter can have a little break there. Go ahead.

**DAVID BANNISTER:**

Yes. My name is David Bannister. I'm here today representing the Sonoma group of the sierra club. We will be submitting detailed written comments before the deadline, but today I would like to make some comments, and I would like to restrict those comments to water conservation.

We believe a large mistake was made when the decision was made to drop maximum conservation from analysis in this study. We have stated repeatedly in the public forums during this process that conservation should be a major part of any long-term wastewater solution. The EIR finds that the conservation efforts so far undertaken by the City have had a significant impact on the system requirements, but dismisses maximum conservation by saying that it requires behavioral changes which it states are unreliable. First, we find the conclusion that predicting behavior to be unreliable is highly questionable on the face of it. We know that people respond to financial incentives and penalties. Just yesterday I noticed that speeding fines on the golden gate bridge were doubled. Clearly, other governmental bodies believe that people will respond to financial penalties. So we don't see why behavioral changes are a problem with regard to conservation. [More importantly, however, analysis of real hardware-based maximum conservation is not even analyzed. The incentive-based conservation program so far undertaken as the document says has had significant impacts on reducing wastewater flows.

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What if a more dramatic approach was taken? What if low flush toilets, shower heads, and faucets were installed by the City plumbers in all homes at City cost? [What if gray water systems were permitted and perhaps even paid for by the City?] [You may say that these issues would -- would have a tremendous cost, but when you are looking at the expenses associated with other options, these costs may be reasonable. [Maximum conservation deserves to be analyzed and explored in your decision-making process. In fact, we predict that as demand for wastewater continues to outstrip supply in this area, you will be looking at maximizing water conservation soon or later. We suggest you should do it sooner and make it part of this process. Lastly, I'd like to note that the failure to analyze maximum water conservation is not an omission of the consultants. You chose not to have them analyze this process. It was one of the 30 or so options that were identified previously and dropped. You can fix this omission, and you should do so before certifying this EIR. Thank you.]

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**Mayor Wright:**

Kit Mariah, then Lawrence Sterling, then we're going to take a five-minute break.