
PUBLIC COMMENTOR 231 - LAURENCE STERLING, SEPTEMBER 24, 1996

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Madam Mayor, thank you. I will try to be brief. I know you're all looking forward to your break. I am here on behalf of famers [sic] for water, as more fully explained in the letter which I'd like to add to the record.

Famers [sic] for water is an alliance of dairy ranchers, grape growers, apple growers and farmers who have come together throughout Sonoma County to address an issue that is vital to the future of agriculture, and that's water, and in particular on the need for a long-term project that involves the reclamation and reuse of tertiary wastewater produced here in Sonoma county. Now, while we at famers [sic] for water could raise a number of specific issues, technical problems and the like concerning the current Draft EIR, we are confident that they will be -- those issues will be raised today or in subsequent written comments and that they will be addressed. We do recognize that it's a hard document to read, but no doubt it would have cost an extra 10 million dollars to make it readable. So our primary interest is to see the study process concluded and thereafter gain access to a new source of water. The fact is, there are many farmers that do want and can use this water if we can move two hot point issues. The first is condemnation, and the second are the large reservoir projects and the problems that they entail. Both the Draft EIR and many of the earlier comments that you have heard today have clearly demonstrated that the two large reservoir-based alternatives are unaffordable and unacceptable to many.

Our approach is to reduce project costs and environmental impacts by expanding the delivery system that you already have in place, and to satisfy there are any storage problems through more on-farm storage. Now, we view this as a variation of the reuse alternative already included in the EIR, and we hope that as the project selection moves forward and the EIR is finalized that this alternative will be given very serious consideration. Thank you.

Mayor Wright:

Thank you, Mr. Sterling. We are going to limit this break to five minutes. we will reconvene at 4:30.

(recess taken.)

Mayor Wright:

Our next speaker is Judy James, followed by Jean Marie Foster, followed by Becky Lepori. She's coming back there. I need your attention, please. Judy James, followed by Jean Marie Foster. Could I have your attention please, so we can hear the speakers, so we can show them respect?

Could we have -- if you need to have a conversation, would you go out into the lobby area, please? Hi, Judy, go ahead.