

PUBLIC COMMENTOR 234 - BECKY LEPORI, SEPTEMBER 24, 1996

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My name is Becky Lepori, 6800 Gericke Road, Lepori Dairy, and I'm part of the agricultural property rights alliance group. I'm going to direct the EIR specifically. My first question is Volume 2, affected groundwater 4.5.5, quote: "predictable quantities of groundwater for the West County irrigation site is contiguous and detached ground water in Sonoma and Marin Counties are based on various reports by the California State Department of Water Resources, 1975, 1982(a) and (b)(1), and 1987, which are the most current," end quote.

There have been numerous floods since 1987, thus in many places filling and widening the Americano Creek, which does go through our property. Landslides on surrounding hills exposing new water sources that in fact ultimately affect the facts contained in the reports that are nine years old. My first question to you is what mitigation is in place to secure the effects on the environment due to the changes that have occurred over the past nine years?

[My second question pertains to facts listed in volume 3, section 4.9.21, paragraph 3, "aquatic habitat." Quote: "waters near shore provide foraging habitat for waterfowl, herons, shore birds, and belted kingfisher," end quote. Which are birds that feed in the rivers, and creeks, and fish that ultimately return to the pacific ocean, where they become a part of our food supply by commercial fishermen.

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Earlier today, I went to a safety supplier and asked a vendor if he had anything pertaining to water. He showed me this sign which the City of Santa Rosa contracted him to make to put around their City reclaimed wastewater. "notice, no swimming, no drinking and no fishing."

If the EIR passes, will our commercial fishermen see these signs up and down the coast of Marin and Sonoma Counties?

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[My last issue and concern to bring up is the actual volume of water contained in the surrounding hills and their effect if a reservoir is put in in an adjoining valley or their effect on the aquifers when their area of output has been saturated with wastewater. Though it has been difficult to get access to an EIR, when I have, I have only found this topic covered briefly.

Low lying ground water wells have been discussed extensively, but the issue of side hill wells and actual volume out, I can't -- I can't find it. I'm concerned because our ranch has numerous artesian wells in these hills that have been active since the ranch's existence over 100 years ago.

In the past six years we have activated three additional wells to increase the water supply to our animals, but to also relieve the water pressure and mounding, to control landslides and the negative effects of erosion. You can drive down valley ford highway and if you look up, you can see last year's landslides all the way from Petaluma to the coast.

Discussion of rock and soil type has been covered, proving that water can be found in these hills, but please prove to me that the City of Santa Rosa knows about the true

volume of water in the West County hills and that it would affect the West County implementation. Thank you.

Mayor Wright:

Thanks, Becky. Is Tristan Warner here? He must have left. So Dr. Griffin?