

PUBLIC COMMENTOR 242 - BOB ANDERSON, SEPTEMBER 24, 1996

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Madam Mayor, and members of the hearing board. I wrote a statement that I provided to the mayor, the staff, and I didn't have copies for everybody, I'm sorry. I'm also sorry that it's 38 pages long, but it's not that much new information, but I did glean out of my review of the EIR things that I wanted to bring to your attention as well as the consultants' attention.

Today I'm representing united wine growers, also a member of SCOR, and to paraphrase what I heard an earlier speaker say, a wastewater student retired, or hope to be retired soon.

I've been doing this for ten years. I know some of you have. I've been to Donna Borun's wastewater committee, and we were talking about the ocean. I've been at 7:00 a.m. breakfasts with apple growers in Sebastopol. It's been a long time. The question I'm being asked by farmers today is will there be enough water? Not will we use it, but will there be enough? I suspect your question in the room today is can there be a solution, and we have some ways to go before we find that. Reference has been made to a mountain of evidence. I have worked my way as best I can through 14 of the 17 volumes, and it's a task. But I have come away from that convinced, and would recommend to you to return to the base of the mountain. Actually, it's not a mountain going up, it's all standing on top of something. And to me it all stands on a simple number, and that's how much treatment capacity is needed and proposed.

At one point in this round we were looking at 20.6 mgd, then it became 20.9. We're at 21.3 under the document. For point of reference, the maximum conservation mgd is 19.44. Now, reference has also been made to what is being released today by the water agency, their next EIR. My wife asked me this morning "what are you going to do after the wastewater EIR?" My answer was go across the street here and pick up the water agency EIR. But in that document there's an indication that it will request or need to show a savings in our water use of 6,000 acre feet. And the basis of that document is the Montgomery-Watson report that's referenced in this document, and it uses 19.4 mgd with a build out year of 2015. I'm reminded of being in this room December 9th of 1995 when one of the senior consultants for the project was asked the question "when is build out under this plan?" And the answer he gave was qualified. At current rates. Well, for some, current rates are too high, and for some, current rates are too low, but if you take today's rates -- he said current rates -- build out under this plan would occur in the year 2020.

The other morning, I chuckled. When my ten-year-old daughter asked why I was laughing, I had to tell her I heard on the news that NASA had just changed -- it's plan was to have a man on mars in the year 2019. I suspect we have some time before we reach build out in the year 2020 at 21.3 mgd and would support comments made for phasing. You've heard reference to it an extended number of times today. And just remind you that it's a project that we have done before. The phasing part of the project.

I remember the final resolution in the last round approved by the council and the BPU, we discussed -- fought over -- an EIR of 15,000 acre feet of storage. The final resolution references 7,500 acre feet of storage. Somewhere it got cut in half at the very end. Yet to be seen whether the regional board would accept half of the storage, but both your bodies accepted it last round. So out of that, then, I have taken encouragement to go forward and develop a month-by-month water balance, not one, but two, actually. One that looks at 21 mgd, one that goes at a midpoint, used 19.7 -- it goes for half the storage that's proposed, 2,000 million gallons, not 4000. It irrigates to what's being proposed plus 50 percent of what we did in 1994, and it closes the window on discharge into the river to January, February, march. Now you're going to want to know, do the numbers work? Well, in 35 years, 410 months, you either have zero or one percent discharge. For ten months you have two percent. And over two percent, zero. Zero months. And I have supplied that for the record. Thank you.

Mayor Wright:

Thank you Bob. Ann Dubay, followed by Patty Rogers, followed by Martin Smith.