

**PUBLIC COMMENTOR 247 - LINDA CURRY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1996**

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Hi, my name is Linda Curry, and I live in Santa Rosa. I'm speaking for the conservation committee for the 1700 members of the Madrone Audubon Society. I'm speaking from my own experience of spending over 20 hours with at least six of the volumes of the EIR, and I recommend medals for anybody who did more than ten volumes. I'm a registered environmental assessor, and I have over 20 years of experience with hazardous materials issues and I've been following Santa Rosa wastewater issues since the '70's proposals for the triple use program.

I must express my disappointment as a tax payer, as an Audubon member, and as an environmental engineer that while the volumes presented are an imposing collection of data, the report is the most convoluted document that I've ever had the misfortune to review.

As the various potential impacts are outlined, the report leaves it to a very determined reader to discern which alternative is being referred to in that particular section of the project.

I would echo previous comments by at least Marty Griffin to say it in plain English, tell us how many people you're talking about, and how many million gallons a day are you talking about when you're discussing capacity for the system, and would also echo other comments about document availability.

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It took a tremendous amount of effort on my part to access the documents. And I had access to a special set that was made available to the environmental center. Most of the report leads the reader to the conclusion that 20 percent discharge is the alternative with the least impact and the least cost.

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Cost benefit analysis makes irrigation alternatives look expensive and undependable when exactly the opposite is true.

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As tourism becomes a more important contribution to the local economy, we need our agricultural assets more than ever. Tourists will come to drink our wine and eat local cheeses and produce and spend their recreational dollars here, but once agriculture has been squeezed out and open space is gone, I think you'll find very few tourists that are willing to look at our subdivisions instead of going to more scenic climes, and I don't imagine they'll want to swim in our sewage.

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The Madrone Audubon supports a zero discharge alternative, and we also support reclamation alternatives to river discharge that respect the property rights of farmers, enhance the hydrology and health of the Laguna de Santa Rosa and the Russian River.

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We support wastewater solutions that recognize highly treated wastewater as a resource to be managed, not something to be flushed down the river.

The EIR does not address the real problem that the current system faces, which is a lack of <u>winter storage capacity</u> .	284
The EIR does tell us that eight other cities are already using river discharge as their solution, yet the EIR does not adequately address the cumulative impacts of these discharges from less sophisticated systems or the potential synergy of these man made flows combined with the <u>Santa Rosa system discharges</u> .	285
The water quality sample data presented does not state the date or method of analysis used in some cases.	286
The water quality data are presented as -- so as to leave the reader with the impression that the water quality is acceptable and potential impacts outlined in the surface and ground water <u>sections are minimized</u> .	287
The document does not address all the viable options, and many of the maps and tables do not contain <u>clear reference points</u> .	288
The time frame for the document is misleading, and by stating that this document began in 1993 discounts the many years of previous public testimony and volumes of wastewater documents that Santa Rosa rate payers have financed.	289
The EIR needs to look at further down the road than 2010 on any project undertaken, or it will be obsolete before <u>construction is completed</u> .	290
Earlier mentions of a master plan for the Russian River system and the Laguna de Santa Rosa should be considered before any Final alternative for Santa Rosa is <u>implemented</u> .	291
And finally I must protest paying 12 million dollars for a study that is obscure, incomplete, and at conflict with <u>sound economic analysis</u> .	292
This EIR fails to address other viable and less expensive options such as those advocated by SCOR and written comments will follow by Madrone Audubon Society by October 7th.	293

**Mayor Wright:**

Thank you, Linda. Susan Richter? Is Susan here? Edy Sallee? Susan Bartholome? Dr. Gregory Pehrson, is he here? Dr. Pehrson?

**BRENDA ADELMAN:**

These are all the people who gave me their time.

**Mayor Wright:**

Right. Wini Thomas? Dale Webster. Is Dale here?