
PUBLIC COMMENTOR 248 - DALE WEBSTER, SEPTEMBER 24, 1996

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How do you do. My name is Dale Webster. I live on Highway 1 in Valley Ford. And tonight I'd like to talk to you about the environmental impact report. To begin with, you've gone to great lengths pointing out the inadequacies of all of the plans, all of the alternatives in the environmental impact report. I could talk for hours and ridicule each one of them. I could critique all of them and just make them so laughable that we'd all be just sick of listening to me. They're just ridiculous.

During the course of all these round tables and workshops and everything, at the first workshop they brought forth an idea, was alternative a-1-a-1-a. It was the first thing we looked at at the workshops. It was growing forests from wastewater. For some reason, we shelved that, and we didn't carry it forward. Instead, we carried the geysers and the West County and the South County and the whichever, and no alternative. I didn't like that. So it's one thing to be against your plans, it's another thing to have another plan and bring that forward. The plan I'm bringing forward tonight is project 7. And I find that project 7 is missing from the environmental report. Quoting the City attorney, who phoned me up, Rene, that unless all of the options are looked at, the City faces a challenge in court. And I tried to -- to present project 7 on the 11th hour, and you wouldn't let me speak. You wouldn't let me talk of my project 7.

I talked to Rene about it, and he says if you don't let him speak you're going to wind up in court, you're going to be challenged in court.

So I got my day before the Board of Public Utilities last April 18th. Do you remember, board? Do you recall this tree, and the time I came down and spoke to you? It was item 5 on the agenda. If you want to listen to it, Rene, it was on tape 2 of 3. And a little thing called project 7.

My friend don and I spoke about it. We described it. Dr. Robbins spoke about it. Said it would work. But they said it was beyond the scope. It's not beyond the scope. You're looking through the wrong end of the scope. You got the wrong end of the binoculars. When you call this thing the long-term wastewater project, that's an oxymoron. It isn't a long-term, it's a short-sighted solution that is just throwing money down the drain.

This little redwood tree can solve Santa Rosa's wastewater problem. Santa rosa, Sonoma county, is known as the redwood empire. It's not the 20 percent empire. It's not the aquifer injection empire. It's the redwood empire.

I got a copy of the minutes to the public utilities meeting from the 18th. And it's pretty amazing to see what happened. It's item 5. Miles Ferris introduced dr. Robbins. They described project 7 a little bit, includes zero discharge, reforestation, using wastewater to grow trees and they acted like it's -- already part of the long-term process. It hasn't been eliminated. Could be -- future considered. And many of the concepts and components of this alternative are very valid. Let me speak for a few minutes. Tried to describe what

was going on and was immediately cut off. Yielded to my friend don martin. He tried to speak for another few minutes and he was immediately cut off.

You wouldn't listen to us. And then -- in the process, don mentioned that now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Public Utilities directs the staff to include project 7 proposal as part of the environmental -- Santa Rosa's Subregional Long-Term Wastewater EIR/EIS for reasons stated forth.

Mayor Wright:

Dale, you need to summarize. Your time's up.

DALE WEBSTER:

You're in such a hurry -- you were in such a hurry to throw this out that you didn't even realize what you were voting for, board. You didn't even bother to read what you were voting for. You voted five yes, and at the end of all that I said "what does that MEAN?"

Mayor Wright:

Dale, if you have anything -- your time's up, thank you.

DALE WEBSTER:

You wouldn't answer me.

Mayor Wright:

Next we have Florence Griswold followed by Steve Klausner followed by Christine Leubrie. Christmas Leubrie. Florence?