
PUBLIC COMMENTOR 249 - FLORENCE GRISWOLD, SEPTEMBER 24, 1996

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Good evening City Council and members of the Board of Public Utilities. My name is Florence Griswold. I reside at 771 adobe drive in Santa Rosa. I'm a member of the Sonoma County Alliance, and I'm also past president of Sonoma County taxpayers association. But tonight, I am representing another group of which I am a member, and that is the senior citizens of this county.

Since I came back to Sonoma County in 1982, the topic of wastewater has constantly been in the headlines and on the lips of the citizens.

First, there was the spill. Which caused great distress to those residing in West County and also to the City Council of Santa Rosa. Then there was the effort of the City to correct the problem. That was followed by threats of suits and then the actuality of suits against the City. Since that time, Santa Rosa has spent millions of dollars to build the best wastewater treatment plant in Northern California. The equivalent of those used by cities five times this size.

From that treatment plant now comes not wastewater, but treated water.

Mayor Wright:

Excuse me, she has the floor. We listen to all the speakers.

FLORENCE GRISWOLD:

My mother always gave me lots of advice, and one of the things she told me was to be careful what I ask for, because I might get it.

I would say to those of you who are part of that suit that you could have used that advice. You asked for a study for all of the various methods of treating the wastewater to find out what the best possible method could be used. You got it.

The taxpayers and particularly the citizens -- senior citizens were appalled by the money spent in exploring every possible method of using this valuable water. Twelve million dollars? How much time was spent? God only knows. How many meetings was held? This EIR couldn't have been more thorough. Those of you who are really interested in the solution to this disposal of this water -- yes, that is what it is -- when it has gone through this treatment plant -- not wastewater, but water. Clean water -- will have had a chance to go through at least the summary of the report of the many experts who were hired to do this EIR. You asked them to find the best possible method of handling this clean water, and they did.

You asked them to find the one that would have the least impact on the environment, and they did. You got what you asked for. And in getting the best possible solution with the

least impact on the environment, you also got the least costly to the senior citizens and the other rate payers.

You're definitely getting a big upgrade on the quality of the water in the river. But at least cost. I honestly hope –

Mayor Wright:

Excuse me, but the speaker has the floor. Would you please keep your comments to yourself?

FLORENCE GRISWOLD:

I honestly hope that as good a solution to the wastewater problems can be found for those residents along the Russian River whose leaking septic tanks are now polluting the river -

Mayor Wright:

Excuse me.

FLORENCE GRISWOLD:

- one more thing I would add. And you haven't considered. Currently, Orange County is using clean treated water for drinking, and San Diego is now in the process of building a treatment plant similar to Santa Rosa because they need clean drinking water. I beg you in behalf of the senior citizens of Santa Rosa to address the cost and accept this EIR.

Mayor Wright:

Thank you. The next speaker is Steve Klausner followed by Christmas Leubrie. Is Steve here? Okay. Is Christmas Leubrie here? No. Dale Wright. Yes, sir. Hi, Mr. Wright. I like your name.