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**PUBLIC COMMENTOR 260 - BEN MARCHAND, SEPTEMBER 24, 1996**

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Yeah.

**Mayor Wright:**

Hi Ben.

**BEN MARCHAND:**

Olivia, that was great. Thank you. I am one of those people who -- I didn't know any of these people before I walked in. I've never seen any of you before, and I'm speaking on my own behalf. I happen to be having a pump station put in my back yard, and my -- I live at 3680 pine flat road up in Alexander Valley, Healdsburg. And in their report -- which I just found out about -- for some reason I was out of the loop, and I just somehow got sent a thing saying "hey, your property's going to be adversely affected, we think you ought to know."

So some of you guys have been doing this for five years, and I just found out about maybe two months ago. Anyway, I have a small thing which you sent me. I'm not -- it's the draft. And there's quite a few statements in here that I think you guys might enjoy, because what happens is there's a lot of times where they say "this will be less than significant. This will be significant." And then in another part of the report they'll say it's less than significant, but in another part of the report it will say it's significant.

So they flip-flop back and forth, back and forth. And I might add, this is really well produced. A -- this is very slick. You know? It reeks of Madison Avenue. But it really has very poor scientific content, and I really want to reiterate, you guys paid a lot of money for a very slick thing which really bears no scientific basis in fact, okay?

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Let me go through this one by one. I'm at page 124, it says pipelines, okay? Pipelines will be buried and will generally follow public rights of way. Well, no, it's going to be on my property, okay? And this is a pipeline that will lift up -- lift water up 3300 feet, okay? And it will be 42 to 48 inches in diameter. Well, it just so happens that -- to move that amount of water, you're going to need a huge pump, okay? A huge pump.

Later on in the same report we'll see what they say about those huge pumps, and how less than significant they can be. Okay? They say a series of four high pressure pump stations will be required to transport the water about 35 miles to the geysers, north of Healdsburg. We continue, okay? I have to say that for me personally, I realize that a lot of people have spoken in favor or against this -- these issues, and you know, realistically, I think we all have good views, but for me, I'm talking about my back yard, and I wish you guys could take my view and say "wow, what if I had a 15,000 horsepower motor in my back yard," okay? Okay. Alternative four, this is page 131, geysers recharge will require conversion of public open space for a pump station located along pine flat road --

my house -- on properties for which the Sonoma County agricultural preservation and open space district holds conservation easements.

This impact can be mitigated to a level below significance. Sorry, that's my back yard. It cannot be mitigated to a level below significance. Do you understand that? It can't be done. Whether this report says it can or can't, I know it can't. It's my back yard. I'm sorry -- I'm not trying to make this funny. I'm trying to say -- we're talking about issues that somehow affect me personally. Okay? And somehow, they forgot about me, okay? Maybe they forgot about the river, and maybe they forgot about the aquifers, but they also forgot about me. Okay?

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On page 135, there's a thing that says "potential exposure to pathogenic organisms and to all chemicals except nitrate is less than significant for all alternatives." What did we just hear? It was -- they just said it was -- it can be -- it can be mitigated to a level of less than significant for all alternatives. Wait a second. Where did that come from? Somehow -- we're talking about polluting some water -- maybe just a little bit, but not to a -- less than significant, okay?

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I'm going to go back a little bit. Okay. Sorry to waste your time here -- but -- I have a piece of property. It's one of the smallest in Alexander Valley. And I happen to have a giant oak tree. I mean it is massive. It's one of those beautiful valley oaks. It must be about 100 feet tall and 100 feet round. And somehow that thing's going to get swallowed by this pump station. Never a mention of that in this report. Not a mention. It's like, you know, well, we'll get around it somehow.

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Okay. Noise. The increase in noise levels in rural areas will still be perceptible and will be an unavoidable adverse impact. Thank you for taking care of me, okay? It will be an unavoidable adverse impact. That's my house. My piece of mind. And you guys decide hey, it's unavoidable.

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Okay. Do I have any more time, or am I just about up?

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**Mayor Wright:**

Your time's up. Wrap up.

**BEN MARCHAND:**

Okay. Well, I just want you to know this thing's very contrary within itself. It says one thing and it says another, and they both don't lead to the same spot. Good luck to everybody. |

**Mayor Wright:**

Thanks, Ben. Roberta Walter. Followed by Rich Sherwood.