

CITY OF SANTA ROSA

P.O. Box 1678
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DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Santa Rosa Subregional Long-Term Wastewater Project

Draft EIR/EIS -Questa Engineering -Irrigation

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Santa Rosa Subregional Long-Term Wastewater Project as we see it is an Urban Development Project and has nothing to do with enhancing agriculture in the West County. Following the primary objectives, the DEIR/DEIS mentions a secondary objective of reuse, stating that "an important purpose of the Project is to benefit agriculture, greenbelts, etc." through reclamation. We don't feel that the Project is interested in benefiting agriculture in the West County but only using Storage Reservoirs and Agriculture Irrigation as a means of disposing wastewater.

2.2 Land Classification Specifications

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2.2.1 Irrigation

Page 5 states that "irrigation suitability land classification is based on field appraisal of physical characteristics and on the interpretation of laboratory results." How valid is this classification when the Draft points out on the same page in the previous paragraphs that not all the land was surveyed. The Draft continues on the same page by saying "the characteristics considered in irrigation suitability land classification are soils, topography, and drainage as well the interrelationship of these with climatic conditions."

Questa Engineering points out on page 2 of its summary of findings that "an average

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annual irrigation water use of 23 inches per acre is estimated for the West County study area."

The disposal of wastewater by means of irrigation brings up several questions regarding the irrigation suitability characteristics of soil, soil compaction, and drainage. The primary question is however do the soils in the West County have the water capacity to absorb 23 inches per acre in addition to the normal rainfall? According to Soil Survey, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, the West County soils largely consist of The Steinbeck -Los Osos association. The water capacity for this type of loam and clay in the West County ranges

from 4 inches to 11 inches. Where is it substantiated that West County soils have the water capacity for 23 inches? |

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(cont.)

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