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**DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Mayor Wright, Council persons, Board members and I live in Sebastopol and am a member of the Stakeholders Consensus on Reuse (SCOR). Thank you for allowing us to speak before you on this very important issue and your commitment to the public process. Water is so basic that everyone has a stake in the outcome of your deliberations.

My name is Rue Furch, 001

Thank you and City staff for providing time and information

SCOR includes over 20 representatives from business, agriculture, the environment, and ratepayers from North, South, East and Western Sonoma County who have met every other week for the last 16 months. Each of us has something to gain or lose as a result of your decision. Today, ~~eight~~ ^{eight} of us will attempt to summarize our areas of agreement. Given the diversity of the group, you will understand that we agree to disagree on a number of things, but in areas where we have found agreement, we are strengthened in our resolve and commitment.

Our commitment has been to find a solution that is environmentally sensitive, economically responsible, technically feasible, and politically viable. A win/win!

Today, we want to raise points to be absolutely sure that they are included in this EIR.

Santa Rosa has done a very good job of increasing water conservation, and we commend you on that effort. Decreasing the amount of waste water is a very simple part of a long term solution and we urge you to explore expanding your efforts and looking for emergency conservation plans to reduce discharge to the river, just as is done during droughts.]

From an economic perspective, agricultural reuse is the only alternative that creates revenues.] Discharge to the Russian River represents a net cost with no benefits, and is contrary to the primary objective of reuse and reclamation.] We therefore call upon the City to affirm, not abandon its long standing commitment to reclamation. Demand exceeds the supply of water available. In the years ahead, for farmland to remain in viable and productive use, farmers will need the flexibility to produce more or grow crops of higher value. Wastewater is one part of building that diversity. The reclaimed water has economic value to both the irrigators and users of the subregional system. Maintaining the City's commitment to acquiring storage or irrigation acreage only from willing sellers will ensure the support of agriculture and the demand for reclaimed water. 002 003 004

Selecting a project must account for long term benefits as well as costs. A project should be based on a broadly comprehensive cost-benefit perspective that accounts for all regional and long-term benefits and costs.]

Your current interim solution includes expanding storage and irrigation acres incrementally. We support your efforts and see a greater value in continuing to phase expanded irrigation and storage. A "pay as you grow" solution. Debt service for a large expensive project drives costs up and if growth does not occur as projected, costs will shift from developers to ratepayers. Debt payments should be kept at a minimum as they constitute nearly half of the costs of the long-term project. A phased reuse project could provide expandability, flexibility and savings. 005

Given the money to be made, partnerships can be a part of the solution. Developers, agriculturalists and municipalities are all possible players. They each bring different opportunities for funding and solutions to the table. It is the way things must work in the future, if they are to work at all.] 005 (cont.)

[The concept of a system of buffers to remove the necessity for over-engineering the perfect project and to address the issue of weather independence must be explored in the EIR. 006

Ed Grossi from Grossi Farms will get us started. . .]

[Summary: 007

Resource should not be thrown away, has real economic value

Project should be phasable to eliminate engineering risk and high front end costs.

Should have room for public private partnership and development rather than be approached as a giant and expensive public work

Needs to be environmentally responsible.

We want to be sure that these points are covered by this EIR in order to ensure the potential for a win/win solution. Thank you for your consideration.]

