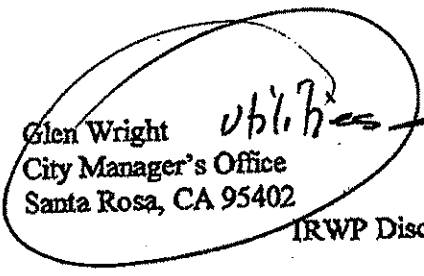


Ad Hoc Committee

P.O. Box 484
Occidental, CA 95465
707 874-3855 ph/FAX

To
Guy

Glen Wright
City Manager's Office
Santa Rosa, CA 95402



by FAX: 543-3030
IRWP Discharge Compliance NOP changes to alternatives

June 7, 2007

Dear Mr. Wright,

607-1

The multimillion dollar Discharge Compliance Project is based, as you know, on the fundamental problem of what to do with *polluted* water. By polluted water, we don't mean effluent. We mean the problem caused by polluting potable water *in the first place*. Sometimes, in problem solving, we need to begin at the beginning and look at our assumptions, like a geometry problem -- look at what is "given".

It is *given* that we defecate in water; *given* that we plumb all wastewater pipes together and attach all to the toilet; *given* that we bury wastewater in dark pipes underground and *given* that we transport wastewater in those pipes for miles to a central treatment facility.

So long as we do little to change any of those "given" parameters, we are stuck in the same old tiring dilemma of choosing between increasingly expensive options regarding what to do with billions of gallons of "treated wastewater" created every year.

Global warming? What about the impact of the worldwide proliferation of this wastewater creation and disposal scenario on algae blooms and increased temperatures in lakes and rivers that ultimately discharge into the oceans? The contribution of "tailwater" runoff from irrigated agricultural operations throughout the world? Industrial discharge of warmed water waste?

Is it possible that our *addiction to water and its use as a conduit for waste* is at the heart of the problem? That this is a cultural Achilles' heel that must be cured or it will be our downfall? Look at a parallel scenario in the dairy industry. For decades, ranchers *shoveled* manure onto covered piles adjacent to their pasture. They were advised to "modernize", to install sprinklers and clean out their barns with *water*. They created *ponds* filled with liquified manure which then began to seep nutrients from the manure into the groundwater, creeks and rivers. The manure pond crisis was abated because so many dairymen simply went out of business. Liquifying cow manure is not a sustainable technology. Is it possible that liquifying human manure isn't either?

607-2

Step outside the box and look at what we are doing. We spend millions to move fresh, potable water hundreds of miles for home use. We defecate in maybe ten gallons per person per day at the most. But because we plumb all household waters together, all 40-50 gallons used per person per day becomes manure water, or liquified manure. This liquid manure is pumped underground and mingled with liquified manure from hundreds of thousands of other households. Its volume

607-2
CONT

increases to five, in some places even ten times its original volume due to infiltration of groundwater into sewer pipes. This massive amount of liquified manure then must be treated and disposed of. The more hormones, drugs and assorted chemicals we ingest and excrete, the more we have to take out of the wastewater. Can we take them out? Can we detect them? We even comingle our manure with industrial chemicals, hospital waste and so on. The more you think about what goes in, the more you appreciate the effort to take it all out. But, is it sustainable? How long will it take before we are out of business as a society, like so many dairymen?

607-3

Hundreds of millions of dollars for Reverse Osmosis? So long as we insist on consuming and defecating *without restraint*, an array of chemicals and drugs into wastewater, there will be no end to the treatment treadmill. The end of all social addictions is societal collapse. *Why addiction?* It is irrational behavior that cannot rationally be stopped. We continue to indulge in the wastewater conduit even though it may ultimately lead to self-destruction.

We need to break the cycle or at least diminish it -- Take human waste out of wastewater. We believe the difficulty is that we were potty-trained *before the age of reason*, so naturally we find it nearly *impossible to reason* our way out of it. And because excrement is embarrassing and offensive, discussion of the topic is limited. We have comparative analysis of political systems, industrial technology, *even religion*. But a comparative analysis of waste disposal through history and across different contemporary cultures is nearly taboo.

We recommend that the City of Santa Rosa blaze a trail and take it on. It's high time to break the taboo and add to your scope:

- 607-4
1. Non-water waste disposal in other cultures, and other eras from the Egyptians to the Greeks, to Native Americans in dense populations like Aztecs and Incas and early cultural centers in the American midwest. Europeans were notorious for their propensity for polluting waterways with waste, a practice considered by native American peoples as foolish and foul, i.e., their advice to each other was *not to live downstream* from those people. What were native disposal practices?
 - 607-5
 2. Contemporary middle-eastern practice of dessication of human waste for fertilizer.
 - 607-6
 3. Asian and Indian subcontinent traditional (pre-western influence) waste disposal practices.
 4. Possible benefit of *adding bacteria* to "digesters" in the wastewater treatment train. Can bacteria found in the gut of animals (dogs, pigs, chickens, for example) that *naturally and normally* consume human waste (if allowed access to it) destroy human pathogens (digest them?) Can algae digest or break down pharmaceuticals?
 - 607-7
 5. Effectiveness of waterless toilets on pharmaceuticals? Compare incinerating toilets and composting models; no water versus the cup of water versions. (People imagine huge volumes of compost created by a composting toilet. In reality they produce a tablespoon of ash to be infrequently discarded).

It makes no sense to us to be arguing over what to do with the artificially created billions of gallons of treated wastewater, *without seriously considering separating our waste from water to begin with*. We are confident one day we will look back as a society and ask ourselves "What were we thinking? How could we do such a thing to potable water in the first place"?

Ann Maurice

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BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW,
CHAIR
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
HEALTH
HUMAN SERVICES
VETERANS AFFAIRS

California State Senate

SENATOR
WESLEY CHESBRO
SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT



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JOINT COMMITTEE ON
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CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY,
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& MENTAL HEALTH, CHAIR
METHAMPHETAMINE ABUSE
MOBILE & MANUFACTURED
HOMES
SUB COMMITTEE NO. 3
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
LABOR & VETERAN AFFAIRS

October 19, 2006

Mayor Jane Bender
City of Santa Rosa
P.O. Box 1678
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-1678

Re: Santa Rosa Discharge Compliance Project discharge location D1

Dear Mayor Bender:

I am writing you today to express my concern over the potential direct discharge facility location D1, which is owned by the State Wildlife Conservation Board, being included as an alternative in the Santa Rosa Discharge Compliance Project.

01-1

As you know, this property was purchased with public funds directed by the Department of Fish and Game to provide two uses:

- 1) The active use area known as Steelhead Beach Regional Park, part of Sonoma County Regional Park system;
- 2) To conserve and protect a largely natural riparian area in recognition of all the lost or degraded riparian areas on the lower Russian River. This second area is marked as parcel #082-130-029 and identified as Direct Discharge location D1 in section 5, page 22, in your DRAFT Engineering Report, Santa Rosa IRWP Discharge Compliance Project, and City of Santa Rosa.

101-2

I do not believe the proposed use of this state property as a discharge location for treated wastewater is compatible with its intended use as a riparian preserve and conservation area. I am concerned that locating this facility adjacent to Steelhead Beach Regional Park would degrade its value for public use.

101-3

I realize that you and the City Council are working hard to find viable and reasonable waste water alternatives until such time as the Geysers Pipeline is capable of handling the Sub Regional Systems capacities but I would respectfully ask you to remove this location from further consideration and seek a more appropriate alternative location.

101-4

Page 2

Thank you for all of your hard work on behalf of our mutual constituents. If I can be of service, please feel free to call me anytime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wesley Chesbro". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

WESLEY CHESBRO
State Senator, Second District

WC:jl

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SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
PH (707) 576-2526
FAX (707) 576-2297
104 WEST CHURCH STREET
UKIAH, CA 95482
PH (707) 463-5770
FAX (707) 463-5773
235 4TH STREET, SUITE C
EUREKA, CA 95501
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Assembly California Legislature



PATTY BERG
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

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HEALTH
WATER, PARKS & WILDLIFE
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SUSTAINABILITY, CHAIR
WINE

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2006
CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

October 24, 2006

Pat Fruiht, City Manager's Office
City of Santa Rosa
P.O. Box 1678
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-1678

RE: Santa Rosa Discharge Compliance Project discharge location D1

Dear Ms Fruiht,

I write to express my grave concern regarding the potential direct discharge facility location D1, which is owned by the state Wildlife Conservation Board, currently being considered as an alternative in the Santa Rosa Discharge Compliance Project.

This property was purchased with public funds directed by Department of Fish and Game to provide two uses. One is the active use area known as Steelhead Beach Regional Park, part of Sonoma County Regional Park system. The second part of this system is located just west of Steelhead Beach and was purchased expressly to conserve and protect a largely natural riparian area in recognition of all the lost or degraded riparian areas on the lower Russian River. This second area is marked as parcel #082-130-029 and identified as Direct Discharge location D1 in section 5, page 22 in your DRAFT Engineering Report, Santa Rosa IRWP Discharge Compliance Project, and City of Santa Rosa.

I do not believe use of this state property as a discharge location for treated wastewater is compatible with its intended use as a riparian preserve and conservation area. I further believe that locating this facility adjacent to Steelhead Beach Regional Park would greatly degrade its value to the public.

I urge you to drop this location from further consideration and seek a more appropriate alternative location.

102-1
102-2
102-3
7-2-4

If you have any questions please feel free to call Maddy Hirshfield, my Field Representative in my Sonoma County District Office at 707-576-2526.

Respectfully,



PATTY BERG
1st Assembly District

- cc: Don McEnhill, Russian Riverkeeper
- Mike Reilly, Sonoma County Supervisor
- Jim Leddy, District Director for Senator Wesley Chesbro
- Jim McCray, Park Manager Sonoma County Regional Parks

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 HUMAN SERVICES, CHAIR
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Assembly
 California Legislature



NOREEN EVANS
 ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

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 FAX (707) 258-8205

EMAIL: assemblymember.evans@assembly.ca.gov
 Website: democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/w07

December 4, 2006

Jane Bender
 Mayor, City of Santa Rosa
 100 Santa Rosa Avenue
 Santa Rosa, CA 95404
 Via Facsimile: (707) 543-3030

In Re: Santa Rosa Discharge Compliance Project, Discharge Location D1

Dear Mayor Bender:

I am writing to express concern over the consideration of Steelhead Beach as an alternative wastewater discharge location within the City of Santa Rosa's draft Engineering Report for the Santa Rosa Incremental Recycled Water Program Discharge Compliance Project.

Steelhead Beach is owned by the Wildlife Conservation Board and serves two purposes: public recreation and conservation of riparian habitat in the lower Russian River watershed. The habitat being conserved is found on land parcel #082-130-029, which is identified as Direct Discharge location D1 in the city's draft report.

Given the uses of this state property, it seems an implausible site for the city to consider for the purposes of wastewater disposal. In addition, according to Wildlife Conservation Board staff, there are no easements or exceptions to this property which would allow the city to dispose of its wastewater.

Furthermore, the disposal of wastewater in the immediate vicinity of this site would degrade the area's value to the public for recreation and habitat conservation. It would also send the wrong signal to the state about the seriousness that our community attaches to the receipt of scarce conservation dollars.

I urge you to abandon this location from further consideration and seek more appropriate alternatives. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours very truly,

NOREEN EVANS
 Assemblymember, 7th District

NE: am
 cc: Santa Rosa City Council