

April 17, 2020

SWRCB - DWR  
20 APR 24 AM 11:21

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS  
ATTN: MICHAEL MEZA  
PO Box 2000  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95812-2000

RE: PROTEST OF PETITIONS FOR CHANGE FOR WATER RIGHT LICENSE 3404 AND PERMIT 20789 (APPLICATIONS 9686 and 29981) OF GARBERVILLE SANITARY DISTRICT, SOUTH FORK EEL RIVER IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY

DEAR MR. MEZA,

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND.

I AM PUZZLED AND CONFUSED BY THE LETTER FROM THE GARBERVILLE SANITARY DISTRICT (GSD) DATED FEB. 10, 2020. THEY HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO MY CONCERNS AND SEEM TO QUESTION MY RIGHT TO EXPRESS THEM.

I THINK I HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY AS A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC AND LONG-TIME RESIDENT DOWNSTREAM FROM THIS PROJECT TO QUESTION AND ASK FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY WHEN IT COMES

TO WATER ALLOCATION AND WATER USAGE IN THIS SOUTHERN HUMBOLDT AREA WHERE MANY RELY ON A VERY FINITE WATER SOURCE: THE SOUTH FORK OF THE EEL RIVER, A WILD AND SCENIC RIVER AT BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS. THIS RIVER, AN ALREADY WELL-DOCUMENTED IMPAIRED RIVER, HAS GONE UNDERGROUND (ALSO DOCUMENTED) A NUMBER OF TIMES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

IT SEEMS OBVIOUS TO ME THAT IF YOU UNDERSTAND THIS RIVER IS IMPAIRED, YOU WOULD ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT LOCAL USAGE, LEGAL AND ILLEGAL, ALREADY IS HAVING A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE BENEFICIAL USES DESIGNATED BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND THAT WITHOUT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION MAY FURTHER IMPACT SERVICES TO RATEPAYERS IN LOCAL SPECIAL DISTRICTS. FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, COLLECTIVELY, ALL USAGE CONTRIBUTES TO AND IS CUMULATIVE IN THE ONGOING IMPAIRMENT OF THIS VITAL RIVER.

By "piecemealing" this proposal, GSD HAS NOT FOLLOWED CEQA. THE HUMBOLDT

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION HAS IGNORED THE CORTESI-KNOX-HERTZBERG LAW THEREBY ENABLING GSD TO PROVIDE WATER TO 17 ACRES IN THE PARK THAT ARE ZONED FOR HIGH USE PUBLIC FACILITIES. THIS OPENS THE DOOR FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THOSE AREAS.

WHILE GSD REITERATES THAT THIS IS A "SMALL" AREA, THE REPERCUSSIONS FROM NEW AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN 17 ACRES ARE ENORMOUS WHEN THE SOURCE FOR WATER IS AN IMPAIRED RIVER.

I AM REQUESTING THE FOLLOWING DISMISSAL CONDITIONS:

- 1). GSD PROVIDES WATER ONLY FOR THE TWO EXISTING RESIDENCES AS PREVIOUSLY STATED IN THE 2013 ANNEXATION IS/MND. IF EITHER OF THE RESIDENCES IS REPURPOSED FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT, THE GSD WATER CONNECTION WILL BE TERMINATED. NO GSD WATER WILL BE USED FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER PARK PROJECTS AS STATED IN THE 2013 ANNEXATION IS/MND. IF THIS OCCURS

THE CONNECTION WILL BE TERMINATED.

2). GSD WILL PROVIDE ONGOING PUBLIC DOCUMENTATION BY REPORTING MONTHLY WATER USAGE BY THE PARK AT REGULAR BUSINESS MEETINGS.

I APPRECIATE YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION. I REMAIN HOPEFUL MY CONCERNS FOR THIS VITAL RIVER WILL BE ANSWERED.

SINCERELY,

Linda Sutton

LINDA SUTTON

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