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From: jooligr1 <jooligr1@aol.com>
To: commentletter <commentletter@waterboards.ca.gov>
Sent: Thu, Mar 12, 2015 9:59 am
Subject: 3-17 18/15 Board Meeting

Re: Consideration of a proposed Resolution to approve Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Programming Financing for the Hi Desert Water District Wastewater Treatment and Water Reclamation Facility Project CWSRF Project No C-06-5295-110

I would like to request that the SWRCB not pass the resolution for Yucca Valley because to do so will destroy the town of Yucca Valley.

The people in this town know nothing except what they are told by Hi Desert Water District and the water board has withheld information from the people for years. No one in this town knows there were nitrate removal facilities constructed, they know nothing about the California water policy and honestly, very few people even know what OSWTS means. When the Regional Water Board adopted the amendment to the Septic Tank Ban in September of 2013 the town was never told. A decision was made between HDWD and the Yucca Valley Town Council to keep silent.

Allowing the Sewer assessment to take place puts the whole town in jeopardy because we have been told it was mandated by the State. The words State mandate are printed in not only the local paper but in newspapers as far away as San Bernardino. Candidates running for office used the words State mandate, bloggers use it, it is in letters to the editor. State mandate has been ingrained in the minds of the entire town. People have been told that if the assessment does not pass the Regional Water board will choose property owners at random who will be sent cease and desist letters, forced to stop using their septic tanks and threatened with fines of up to \$1000 per day. In addition they are still being told the the nitrate contamination will only get worse if there is no sewer system. The entire town believes that the water quality in Yucca Valley is impaired.

There is no public opposition to the Sewer System. Anyone who has spoken out has been censored by the local papers, criticized publicly by Water Board members and others have just given up. I attended a meeting just last night, March 11th and I was one of only four people in attendance. It was announced on the radio that it was a Special meeting with a Sewer System update. It was only last night that people (all four of us) were told of the State Board Meeting taking place on the 17th, leaving no time for anyone to comment, if they even realized they could. From what I can tell there is almost no one in the town that realizes the State Water Resources Control Board has such an informative website.

Allowing Hi Desert Water District to go forward with the assessment while allowing the people to think the Sewer System is mandated by the State tramples the rights of all the people. The people cannot make an informed decision unless they are told the truth. Hi Desert Water is dishonest and the Yucca Valley Town Council has remained entirely silent. They will say nothing at all except that they support the efforts of HDWD to obtain financing.

Yucca Valley is the kind of town where people can own homes and still live in poverty and there is a large amount of poverty with the majority being in Phase 1. The financial security of those who can least afford it is being put in jeopardy.

The true purpose of the Sewer System is to raise the value of properties for developers. The same developers that did not do their research and bought property years ago under the assumption that the town could grow. It hasn't and never will and the developers have been trying to sell their land for more than a decade. The developers who have built homes have had them stand empty for many years, even when the real estate market was high. The people of this town are being asked to sacrifice so the developers can sell their land. The people will be left paying for the profits of the developers.

Hi Desert Water and Yucca Valley Town Council have used a provision in the State Budget that relieves local governments from posting agendas and disclosing actions taken in closed session as required by the Ralph M Brown Act. HDWD and Yucca Valley Town Council have made all the decisions without regard for and without the knowledge of the people.

The chances are good that many people will vote no faith due to the feelings that the Board of Directors at Hi Desert Water are highly incompetent to manage a project such as the Sewer system and Water Reclamation Plant. If the town learns the truth I feel strongly that there will be a total recall of the board as those words have been spoken by people in the community already.

Thank you for your consideration and again, please don't allow Hi Desert Water to destroy the town by approving this resolution.

Donna Russell
Yucca Valley, CA
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