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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 95021

September 7th, 2005
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Luis Obispo, CA

Members of the Board,

As a resident of Hollister, California, I am writing to you at the request of many of my friends and neighbors, to voice our utmost concern, as well as our strongly felt disgust, at the request you will soon be receiving from the City Manager and the Hollister City Council. They intend to ask you, as a Board, to further indulge their procrastination and malfeasance as regards their continued delay in meeting the requirements and deadlines for improving and upgrading the wastewater treatment plant in our city.

The 43,000+ residents of Hollister have waited with considerable patience and restraint over the last three plus years, since the moratorium placement in 2002, as we were constantly "reassured" and otherwise placated by the City's Public Works Manager (now the City Manager, by default) that the upgrade to the plant was being engineered (and would be ready to go to bid for construction) on an ongoing basis since early in 2003. He refused to discuss specifics and give details of this progress whenever he was asked about it at Council meetings, but always insisted that it was under control, and that we just "trust him at his word" that this was the case. NOW, IN SEPTEMBER, 2005, a month from the deadline to report completion to you, he has the unmitigated gall to blithely and flippantly tell the residents that he intends to ask you for a TWO YEAR EXTENSION to your deadline, because he and the Public Works Dept. have been unable to make hardly any progress at all in even choosing the correct processing system and method they want to use in the construction addition to the present plant! I personally have had serious concerns that there was anyone in the Public Works Dept.(even including the present city manager who was running the P.W. Dept at the time of the plant failure) who was qualified to be reviewing and evaluating the various process methods available for our size plant. This is because Mr. Quilter is not a graduate Civil (or any other kind) Engineer, and certainly not schooled in Wastewater Treatment Processing by any means. It might be one thing to come in to a properly designed and constructed WWT plant(which Hollister's was not, according to what I've learned), and oversee its operation, especially with the contract help Hollister hired in Bracewell to actually operate the plant, but is another world entirely to have this individual be the supposed point man in over-seeing the design and implementation of a whole new process system for it, and I believe the majority of the delay in this entire 3 year process is because he is desperately trying to figure out what he needs to learn about sewer plant operating

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design, so he can understand what is involved, and what the options are. I absolutely don't believe we as citizens need to be underwriting this kind of on-the-job education, just to satisfy his own ego and career ambitions, and all the while the city is suffering the dire consequences of having no new residential construction take place, and until March of this year, no commercial construction as well. It is crystal clear that the council needs to engage competent, professional engineering talent, as quickly as possible, to take over this process and expedite its conclusion!

We implore the Board to NOT indulge the City of Hollister any longer! We ask you to require Mr. Quilter to give you a detailed and specific update of whatever the plans are he claims have been completed and approved, so you can satisfy for yourselves that this project which you directed the City to address and solve 3+ years ago has languished with little, if any, of the progress that you would have expected to see by now! After you determine this, we further ask you to require the City Council to retain appropriate qualified professional help in immediately taking over control of this project from Mr. Quilter. We further ask you to NOT to even consider giving the City another 2 year extension of the moratorium, as that would be the ultimate in oversight malfeasance on the Board's part. The City, and it's new project manager for the job, should now henceforth be required by the Board to furnish you quarterly reports on the future progress of the project, with severe penalties for not meeting certain progress standards and levels as set by the Board.

This is the only way, in my opinion, that the residents of Hollister will not be held further as hostages to the ineptness of the City Council and the City Manager, and on behalf of dozens of my fellow neighbors and residents who I have discussed this with and who feel as I have expressed here, we ask you to give this letter your utmost serious consideration for the actions we have suggested, in order to save our city from sliding into oblivion, or worse! (Please rest assured that we as residents and citizens do know and understand that we have culpability in this fiasco, to a certain degree, because we voted for the present Council members in the fall of 2002, based on promises they made to their constituents to bring this problem to a rapid successful conclusion. We now fully know who the people are that have been trying to work on pushing this project forward, and those who have not!. We will be showing our displeasure for those who have not done what they said they would do, at the upcoming election for determining who will be guiding our city in the future.)

In the mean time, we strongly and urgently request your help as we have stated above (and we ask you not be unduly influenced by the letter of support from the County Board of Supervisors, who themselves don't have a clue about the true status of this project because they have been as misled on it as the City Council, and additionally don't have any truly vested interest on the city's behalf, due to being embroiled in their own county-involved problems at the present time, which includes a fraudulently-elected Supervisor of various dubious qualifications and hidden agendas.)

Ken Price

Ken Price

A (very) concerned citizen and resident of Hollister, CA