

CORRESPONDENCE - 12/07/21
ITEM 5.0 - ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

From: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
To: [bod](#); [Emma Olin](#); [Mike Wilson](#)
Cc: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
Subject: Public Comment on 1,2,3-TCP Treatment Project at 251 Baltrusol Drive in Seascap
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 7:18:08 PM

Dear Board,

Thank you for holding a Public Hearing on this important large treatment plant that will be in the middle of a residential neighborhood in Seascap.

It has always disturbed me that the District chose to keep the Country Club Well in production for so long, knowing that the 1,2,3-TCP levels were high, and simply notifying the County Board of Supervisors by a letter every three years that you were selling the contaminated water.

While I am glad that the Well is now only on emergency stand-by status, I question why the District has not chosen to abandon the well, rather than spend hundreds of thousands of ratepayer dollars to try to treat and rehabilitate the well and the contaminated water it produces.

Rather than abandon the Country Club Well in Seascap, which is polluted with a carcinogen, the Board approved on December 15, 2020, spending \$600,000 for environmental analysis and design of the 1.2.3-TCP Treatment Plant at 251 Baltrusol and drill a new well, in the same contaminated location. Engineering Director, Taj Dufour admitted this will be a multi-million project but the District has no money to build anything. See plans on pages 147-148:
https://www.soquelcreekwater.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_12152020-205?packet=true

Why not just abandon the Country Club Well and drill in another area not plagued by this carcinogenic contamination and not in the middle of a residential neighborhood? This is the only well contaminated with the carcinogen.

I have the following comments on the Project Mitigated Negative Declaration analysis:

1) There is no Project Alternative considered that would include the actions discussed above.

2) Page 20 of the MND: How many trees would be cut down? HOW

*"Although the project would be required to obtain a **significant tree removal permit**, this permit does not specifically relate to scenic quality. Although the removal of trees along Baltusrol Drive would eliminate the current vegetative screening of the project site from the roadway, the project would include landscaping that would prioritize vegetative screening around the perimeter of the site."*

3) Impacts of light do not analyze impacts of the plant during operation, only the construction and new well-drilling phase.

page 20:

"In addition, 24-hour well drilling would be temporary and would last for three non-consecutive weeks. Furthermore, the location of the well would be at least 40 feet away from the nearest residences on all sides."

4) *Because of the noise and intense light of the 24/7 three-week well drilling operation, there should be sound walls on all sides of this site during those times. Residents should be offered alternate housing accommodation for the period of the 24/7 well drilling activity because of the disturbance to the residential neighborhood.*

5) Did the District consider alternate sites that do not have a history of agricultural production that could be the source of the 1,2,3-TCP?

page 22

"Although the project site was historically used for agricultural purposes, residential development in the

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surrounding community was built as early as 1953. By 1958, residential development surrounded the project site, and the greater residential community was fully built-out by 1982 (Appendix D). "

6) Schools within 0.25 mile must be notified in writing 30 days in advance of the Board's consideration of the Final MND and Project approval.

I reserve the right to submit further comment.

Please acknowledge receipt
Becky Steinbruner

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From: [Michael Wilson](#)
To: john@aptoschamber.com
Cc: [Ron Duncan](#); [Customer Service Distribution List](#); [bod](#)
Subject: RE: Country Club Replacement Well and 1,2,3-Trichloropropane Removal Water Treatment Plant Initial Study
Date: Monday, November 29, 2021 1:20:07 PM

Thanks for your input John. And I get it; I think you're right on the money concerning the economics. But it does come back to finding a place that works for us as well as the seller of a property and their neighbors, not to mention any other private well owners that might be in the vicinity of such a lot. It gets more complicated for us with all of those other factors.

I will send your comments to our consultant for response. I believe we will try to combine comments such as yours into one comprehensive response.

Thanks,

Michael J. Wilson, P.E. | Associate Engineer
Soquel Creek Water District | 5180 Soquel Dr., Soquel CA 95073 | www.soquelcreekwater.org
direct 831-475-8501 x122 | main 831-475-8500 | cell 831-706-6216

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From: John Hibble <john@aptoschamber.com>
Sent: Monday, November 29, 2021 12:15 PM
To: Michael Wilson <michaelw@soquelcreekwater.org>
Cc: Ron Duncan <RonD@soquelcreekwater.org>; [Customer Service Distribution List](#) <custserv@soquelcreekwater.org>; [bod](#) <bod@soquelcreekwater.org>
Subject: RE: Country Club Replacement Well and 1,2,3-Trichloropropane Removal Water Treatment Plant Initial Study

Hi Michael,

I can appreciate how difficult it is to find appropriate well locations. Have you calculated the long term expenses associated with the treatment of the country club well. The income from the sale of the Baltusrol property and the expense of purchasing a new property would probably be a push. The cost to drill a new well at either property would be similar. The expense associated with building the treatment plant and the long term expenses associated with treating the Baltusrol well should be key toward the decision to go ahead with this project or not. With the expenses associated with the Pure Water Soquel project, long term expenses such as the Baltusrol well should be carefully considered on behalf of the rate paying customers of the district. Thanks for listening.

John Hibble

From: Michael Wilson <michaelw@soquelcreekwater.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 4:36 PM
To: john@aptoschamber.com
Subject: RE: Country Club Replacement Well and 1,2,3-Trichloropropane Removal Water Treatment

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Plant Initial Study

Hi John,

I will add this comment to our project. But we've found that finding an adequate lot to put a well on that will fit the hydraulics of our water system is a lot harder than people think. I don't know if you remember Laura Brown, but we worked with her to find locations for wells for our well replacement master plan and it was slim pickings. She would get so frustrated. One problem is there are many places where septic systems are predominate, which eliminates a lot of locations.

Anyway, thanks for your comment and have a good day.

Best Regards,

Michael J. Wilson, P.E. | Associate Engineer
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 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: John Hibble <john@aptoschamber.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 4:02 PM

To: Michael Wilson <michaelw@soquelcreekwater.org>

Subject: Country Club Replacement Well and 1,2,3-Trichloropropane Removal Water Treatment Plant Initial Study

Regarding the proposed Country Club Replacement Well located at 251 Baltusrol Drive.

Since the existing well is polluted with 1,2,3-Trichloropropane and is anticipated to need replacement in the future, It would make more sense financially to cap the polluted well, sell the parcel for residential construction and drill a new well in an area that is not polluted. A new well in an unpolluted location would not require infinite treatment expenses associated with a new well in the same location as the existing polluted well. Also, the proposed installation is not in keeping with the existing residential neighborhood.

John Hibble
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