

CORRESPONDENCE - 01/18/22
ITEM 5.0 - ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

From: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
To: [bod](#); [Emma Olin](#)
Cc: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
Subject: WHY DID SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT CAUSE THREE-DAY EVICTION AGAINST FOOD NOT BOMBS IN CITY LOT 27?
Date: Monday, January 17, 2022 5:22:05 PM

Dear Soquel Creek Water District Board of Directors,

I have been very troubled to recently learn that the reason the Food Not Bombs group was given only three days to remove their equipment used to provide free daily warm meals to the hungry in Santa Cruz City Lot 27 was to provide your District construction Project a staging location.

The City of Santa Cruz did not have to evict Food Not Bombs from Lot 27 last week in order to make room for your District's PureWater Soquel Project construction staging. The Project EIR, certified in 2018, stated the staging area would be the Mimi de Marta Dog Park, on the other side of the San Lorenzo River. Plans called for closing that Park for two years while construction for the large pipe carrying treated sewage water would get buried under the River, installing vaults 50' deep in the ground on both sides of the River levee as part of the five-mile pressurized pipeline to the Live Oak treatment plant.

However, when the State Regional Water Quality Control Board wanted information from the District about that plan, the District changed the Project design (again) to instead attach the pipe to the Laurel Street bridge. The District's CEQA response in 2018 had rejected that suggestion made by Mr. John Ricker, then -Santa Cruz County Water Resources Director in the Project's Draft EIR Comments.

See Comment #5 in Letter L-4 and District Response to the Comment on pages 3.6-4 and 3.6-5:

<https://www.soquelcreekwater.org/DocumentCenter/View/390/Responses-to-Comments-Document-PDF>

The real question is why the Soquel Creek Water District and the City felt it would be acceptable to give Food Not Bombs organizer Keith McHenry a mere three days to vacate public parking Lot 27, warning that anything not moved would be confiscated?

Keith told me he asked Larry Imwalle, the Santa Cruz City Homelessness Response Manager, why there could not be more time allowed to find suitable locations for the storage units holding equipment that helps make it possible to feed many, many hungry people in the downtown area? ***He also called District staff to plead for more time.***

Mr. Imwalle's answer was because the Project is "on a tight schedule".

When did the District decide that staging in the Mimi de Marta Dog Park area would not work? Surely, it was not a last-minute decision.

In my opinion, putting dogs higher on the priority list than feeding hungry people by kicking Food Not Bombs out of Lot 27 practically overnight is a true tragedy.

At the very least, the District should have given Food Not Bombs more time to leave Lot 27 but chose not to do so.

[Santa Cruz Threatens to Evict Food Not Bombs - accuracy.org](#)

[Santa Cruz tells Food Not Bombs it's time to go: Lot 27 being cleared by city to make room for construction](#)

Please respond. Thank you.

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Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner

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From: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
To: [bod](#); [Emma Olin](#)
Cc: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
Subject: When Will District Board Review Water Transfer Costs and Permits, as Requested by Director Jaffe?
Date: Monday, January 17, 2022 4:05:02 PM

Dear Soquel Creek Water District Board of Directors,
In reviewing your January 18, 2022 agenda packet, I note on page 23 that District staff has not yet responded to a request in 2020 by Director Jaffe for information about the costs and permitting related to the Surface Water Transfer Project with the City of Santa Cruz.

b. Water Transfer Pilot Project Purchase Price – Director Jaffe requested that staff present an approximate total cost of the purchased water from the City of Santa Cruz (including purchase price and staff and permitting costs), at a future Board Meeting. (Assigned August 18, 2020, Projected completion – to be determined)

When will this information be publicly presented to the Board?

Please acknowledge receipt of this message. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner