

ATTACHMENT B

Public Hearing Transcript

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CITY OF HOLLISTER

PROPOSED NEW
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

AUGUST 15, 2006, 6:00 P.M.

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING
649 SAN BENITO STREET
HOLLISTER, CALIFORNIA

1 HOLLISTER, CALIFORNIA, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2006, 6:00 P.M.

2 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: . . .will this new plant
3 produce any hazardous material, and if so, how will they
4 dispose of it and where? That's one of my questions.

5 MR. FERRIS: There's several ways hazardous materials
6 would be used and produced. The operation of our treatment
7 plant will use some chemicals, such as sodium hydrochloride
8 and some other things -- I mean, that's chlorine -- and
9 they're going to have some fuel -- some diesel fuel
10 generators, that sort of thing. These are really minor
11 amounts.

12 The other thing that's going to be produced is
13 sludge, and that's going to be dried out and it's going to
14 be -- it can be recycled as a soil amendment, or not --

15 MR. JONES: She was asking about hazardous waste,
16 right?

17 MR. FERRIS: That could be considered a hazardous
18 waste. Generally, it's not because it's so inert. It's been
19 broken down in the chain of processes.

20 MR. JONES: Many times, the hazardous waste will
21 come from an industrial waste water treatment plant that
22 deals with processing chemicals, but I can't think of an
23 instance in the United States where a municipal domestic
24 waste water plant is considered hazardous.

25 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: Is all the bacteria out of

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that sludge, then?

MR. JONES: It's processed, going for Class B, so all the pathogens are basically neutralized. But it's disposed of in a way that there's no -- like, for example, in this case -- what's, for example, the sludge now in the city?

MR. WITTRY: It's the same thing. We store it right now, and roughly -- on an every-ten-year basis, we take it out of the sludge ponds and store it in a large facility.

If you look behind Dave's head, there's two large ponds.

MR. JONES: The two ponds right here.

MR. WITTRY: The sludge will -- at the point in time that it reaches its maximum minimum, it will be hauled off and disposed of in an appropriate landfill or appropriate manner.

MR. JONES: So it will go to a typical municipal solid waste landfill, because, by that time, after storage over a period of months, all the pathogens are killed. And then it goes off to a landfill, or sometimes it goes into land spreading where, when they plant hay or alfalfa, it's used as a soil amendment. And that's all per the USEPA regulations.

MR. WITTRY: Before we take it out of the pond, we test it and determine where it can go. Whatever it tests for, that's where it goes.

1 MR. ZUNIGA: Does anybody go over here?

2 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: It's a little bit of a
3 thing, like, you're going to put it out for hay, or something
4 like that. It's the same thing as when the cows were eating
5 their own stuff. That's what made the cows mad cows and all
6 the stuff that came over into people.

7 That's the only worry I have is that it's going to
8 be pure enough not to pass any disease on.

9 MR. JONES: By storing it in this basin for months,
10 it will eliminate the pathogens. What the cows were eating
11 doesn't have the processing this will have.

12 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: But they will be eating the
13 hay that's grown in the dirt. If you throw the sludge into
14 the dirt...

15 MR. JONES: But this will be totally inactive.

16 MR. WITTRY: Just to answer his question, there are
17 no, that I know of, licensed facilities in the area that
18 would take it. It has to be a licensed facility to take it.
19 You can't just say, "Hey, Joe, is there any vacant land out
20 there?" The City of Hollister owns the waste.

21 MR. ZUNIGA: One question -- it doesn't pertain to
22 the issue, but are there any other facilities that are
23 state-of-the-art in the general area?

24 MR. FERRIS: Yeah, the City of American Canyon has
25 one. I don't -- do you --

1 MR. JONES: The MBR technology -- the membrane
2 bioreactor technology -- has been around and used for the
3 past, probably three years. So just about all the plants
4 that are being designed now use that because it's such a
5 great technology.

6 The membrane technologies, it's one of the new
7 areas of research that have blossomed and helped it in terms
8 of treatment plant technology. So, for example, we are -- my
9 firm -- and I'm trying to think of where we have about three
10 or four of these going in in Southern California. So -- are
11 you thinking about maybe visiting one?

12 MR. ZUNIGA: I'm thinking about it, if there are
13 some close.

14 MR. JONES: I'm thinking about where to visit them.
15 There's American Canyon, but that's not close, and it's
16 inside the area, so you have to watch yourself there. City
17 of Tracy isn't going with this technology -- is not going
18 with this technology.

19 MR. WITTRY: The casino, they've utilized it for
20 the casino.

21 MR. JONES: All right. So nothing real close.
22 Nothing that's real close.

23 MR. ZUNIGA: One more question.

24 MR. JONES: Sure.

25 MR. ZUNIGA: What type of facilities do we have,

1 say, in Gilroy, Watsonville, Morgan Hill, or Salinas?

2 Anything like we did?

3 MR. JONES: That's a good question. They're using
4 the existing preactivated sludge technology with activated
5 sludge clarifiers that have been in there for a period of
6 time. If they had to, they would convert over like we're
7 doing.

8 The old system, the old pond treatment system needs
9 to be eliminated entirely to meet the new state regulations.
10 So in our situation, we're not even able to add onto what we
11 have. We have to sort of, you know, change what we have. So
12 that's part of why the plant costs are a little higher than
13 other communities that can just add on.

14 And so I'm trying to think. In Gilroy, I think
15 there's a --

16 MR. WITTRY: It's an oxidation ditch.

17 MR. JONES: Yeah, an oxidation ditch. At Monterey
18 Regional, it's activated sludge. They've been operating
19 there for quite some time, so they're on older technology.

20 But I can safely say, if they had to go ahead, and,
21 you know, expand new or upgrade, I'm sure that they would be
22 looking at the membrane bioreactor technology rather than the
23 old stuff, because of less concrete.

24 MR. WITTRY: If you look at the footprint of the
25 new facility -- it's hard to see back here. The entire

1 facility will fit into one portion of our existing plan.

2 When the plan was designed, the two large ponds
3 were the two treatment plants, were the main treatment plant.
4 At the concrete structure where the new plant is going, we
5 have what we call "the racetrack." It was kind of a thesis,
6 experimental, and it took lots of grants to go into an algae
7 process which didn't work out too well, and it became a
8 storage pond.
9

10 But aside from the two ponds, everything out there
11 is percolation. The new facility -- just for scale, that
12 serpentine racetrack, if you will, that's about ten acres.

13 MR. ZUNIGA: That's pretty small.

14 MR. WITTRY: The new plant fits in half of that.

15 The new ponds are -- when the plan was first built in the
16 '70s, we needed upwards of 30 acres just for the treatment
17 aspect of it. Now we're down to five.

18 That's another reason why the technology is -- is
19 advancing. And folks, like -- you know, municipal people like
20 it because of its small footprint. If you had to put it in a
21 new place, it's less land and it makes sense.

22 MR. ZUNIGA: The next question is on the spray
23 fields: How far from the plant are they located and are they
24 in just specific locations that were picked for certain
25 reasons?

 MR. WITTRY: That's this map over here. I'll just

1 let Josh talk. He's the man.

2 MR. FERRIS: Here's the location where the domestic
3 plant will be constructed. And you have the Hollister Airport
4 that's been identified for spray fields. We've also
5 identified the San Luis Golf Club as a user of the treated
6 water. These are about three miles away from the plant. Those
7 are the only really specific sites.

8 There are -- there have been some sites that -- you
9 know, of interest, but nothing specific, no agreements, no
10 detailed site analysis. So eventually, the plant has to
11 develop a few more spray fields kind of within this dotted
12 area.

13
14 The closer to the waste water treatment they are,
15 the cheaper it will be to build them and the more likely they
16 will be to be constructed. Eventually the plant is to move
17 away from the spray fields and use the spray effluent in the
18 agricultural fields within the Prentice Road area, this green
19 area, and eventually all the San Juan Valley.

20 That's the goal, to replace water use and -- CVP
21 water use, to replace its use as well as a way to get rid of
22 treated water. That will occur once the Salt Management
23 Program brings the salt level in the effluent down.

24 So once they get down to 500 to 700 GPS, that's
25 when the irrigation uses for agriculture are really going to
take off. Spray fields will -- really will be abandoned in

1 some cases, and in some cases, like urban uses, they would
2 still be used.

3 MR. JONES: Yeah. For example, San Juan Oaks would
4 be the eventual user of the spray fields outside of the turf?

5 MR. FERRIS: No.

6 MR. JONES: The spray fields, where will they be?

7 MR. FERRIS: To use the spray fields broadly, it is
8 basically an existing golf course, and they are also planning
9 expansion nearby. It would be basically, right now, what to
10 do, they have a pond out there, and they use 80 percent CVP
11 water for ground water, and they apply it to the fields, the
12 greens and the fairways.

13 So basically, what we would be doing is providing a
14 source -- another source of blending into that pond, and they
15 would be using that for the greens.

16 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: Are they going to pay you
17 for some of that water?

18 MR. WITTRY: Financial considerations for the sale
19 of the water haven't been determined yet. We don't know. If
20 we have to, we'll give it to them to get rid of it because we
21 need it.

22 For the existing golf course, they have water
23 rights that serve the new facility. They are planning on
24 building a second golf course, maybe even a third golf course
25 out there, and some homes out there.

1 Into that development agreement, there is a
2 stipulation that they have to use a percentage of recycled
3 water. The calculations show, even if they treat their own
4 water on site, they don't have enough water to support the
5 new golf courses. So they have to use recycled water from
6 somewhere, and that's the City of Hollister.

7 The timelines are a little bit up in the air,
8 depending on user demands. As they come closer to fruition,
9 that's when they come to the table and start talking about
10 arrangements for water.

11 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: If you realize they're going
12 to need the water, then you don't need to make a
13 consideration for them to get it for nothing.

14 MR. WITTRY: Depends on what stage they need the
15 water and at what stage we need to get rid of the water.

16 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: But the stage where they
17 start needing the water is where we need to say, "Okay. This
18 is what you need to do." We can't justify giving it away
19 again.

20 MR. JONES: That's a good point. And what Josh was
21 talking about, further down the road when we get the PDS down
22 and the salt down, that's when the water becomes valuable and
23 we can sell it. Right now, it's pretty high in salt, and
24 it's not valuable to salt bottom. It's a killer.

25 MR. WITTRY: You can't get the same yields out of

1 it. One of the things with this water is through PCP water
2 that runs through the blue area.

3 If it's a drought such that the water supply is
4 subject to being curtailed, waste water coming out of the
5 facility is constant, day in, day out. Right now, we get 1.8
6 million gallons. Tomorrow we get 2.7 million gallons.

7 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: Unless we get a drought and
8 people need to start using that water.

9 MR. WITTRY: Not unless we see -- PCP water is
10 subject to loss of demand in agricultural areas, and there
11 can be reductions of 30 to 40 percent. We can reduce the use
12 of water, but we're not going to reduce the flow going to the
13 plant. That's just not going to happen.

14 The water becomes more valuable because it's much
15 more reliable. And if you can have a farmer under contract
16 to get X amount of the water at a reliable rate, it's worth
17 more money because of the reliability factor.

18 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: We, the City, have to sit
19 there and say, "No mercy. You need the water and we need the
20 money."

21 MR. ZUNIGA: One more question: On the spray fields
22 at the airport, will there be any problem there, because I
23 know that they said the water table there is pretty high,
24 higher than most areas -- or it used to be. I don't know if
25 it still is. Will the spray field affect that?

1
2 MR. WITTRY: Basically what's going to be happening
3 out there, if spray fields are built in that area, the
4 determination of where the extra disposal will go is, say,
5 San Juan Oaks or some other areas.

6 Josh was talking about two projects that have made
7 the project level: The San Juan Airport and the golf course.
8 Some work may identify other areas, but we haven't gotten too
9 far with other areas.

10 If we go to the airport, we have certain monetary
11 requirements. We would want to be sure we are not having an
12 effect on ground water out there. We would have, one, to
13 sample for anything that comes out of the water -- some
14 byproduct, you know, from a farming operation that happens
15 out there; and two would be for level, to see if it's
16 affecting the ground water level in the surroundings area.

17 And Josh, shut me up if you want to, if I talk too
18 much.

19 We have a municipal well on Fallon Road, which is
20 labeled to the right there. If we're seeing -- if we're seeing
21 elevated water levels because of the spray fields, one of the
22 things that we could do is increase the capacity of that well.
23 And when I say "increase the capacity," I don't mean we have
24 to put a new well in there. Right now, that well's used at
25 about 15 percent of its capacity because of where it's at.

1 When the park does grow, we will have more need on
2 it. The size is commensurate with the projected future
3 development of that park, so the well could pump more water
4 than it is on an annual basis now.

5 If monitoring wells indicates we might have an
6 issue, we can pump more water out of the well to bring the
7 water table down. So there's some hope.

8 MR. FERRIS: The other thing we considered in the
9 operation of the spray fields, it's presently evaporative and
10 transpiration -- it's lost to the atmosphere -- and only
11 about ten percent percolates into the ground water. So we do
12 have a little bit more percolation than you would normally
13 because you have wet soils that come from the rain that does
14 fall, you know. So that percolates a little bit and you get
15 more percolation in that area, but the natural water that's
16 disposed there, it's basically evaporated off.

17
18 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: What are you going to grow
19 on those fields?

20 MR. FERRIS: It will be grasses in the spray
21 fields, so -- grasses that are selected.

22 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: Like alfalfa?

23 MR. FERRIS: Probably not alfalfa, but there are
24 different grasses that are suited to -- that are actually
25 very salt tolerant, way beyond --

 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: Can you bale it and sell it?

1 MR. FERRIS: You might be able to do that.

2 MR. WITTRY: The City is talking to a farmer right
3 now to go out there and cut the dry wheat, plus he maintains
4 the weed control and he gets the crop for nothing. We don't
5 pay him any money; he comes out there and does it. We are
6 having cursory discussions with him.

7 We don't know if it's going to go out there any
8 more than, if we have a grass problem, we have two or three
9 harvests of grass on an annual basis. If a farmer can get
10 two crops and not have to pay for water, there will be some
11 value.

12 So, again, I hear what you're saying. It's not
13 going to be given for nothing; however, we have to realize
14 that a farming operation out there does cost money as well.
15 So we do need to come up with an appropriate -- I hear what
16 you're saying. We have to be sure he's not getting it for
17 free and we're getting something from the land.

18 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: Because the farmer who grows
19 the hay is paying for the hay plus the water.

20 MR. WITTRY: Exactly.

21 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: I'm sitting here saying,
22 "Let's not give away anymore." Let's start thinking of how
23 we can do this or this or this to make money so that the
24 people of Hollister are not paying. You know, if this guy's
25 going to benefit from the crop, he needs to put money into

1 the kitty for the people of Hollister.

2 MR. WITTRY: Right, we understand.

3 MR. JONES: One more: Where are the storage tanks
4 going to be located, and how many and how big?

5 MR. FERRIS: Okay. Capacity --

6 MR. JONES: That would be over here, the storage
7 ponds.

8 MR. ZUNIGA: Yeah, the storage tank where they're
9 going to put the water when they don't use it in the winter.

10 MR. WITTRY: It's probably where Dave's hand is.

11 MR. JONES: These are going to be converted over
12 because they're going to be made deeper. And there will be,
13 instead of -- I don't know how many are in here now --
14 several, just basically three, maybe four.

15 We haven't designed the final, but this is where
16 we're going to store the water in the wet season, in the
17 wintertime. They'll be pumped down as soon as spring comes,
18 and then they will be pretty much emptied out. When the wet
19 weather comes back --

20 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: Will the water have a bad
21 smell like it does now?

22 MR. JONES: This is a newly treated water.

23 MR. WITTRY: The new plant will treat to a much
24 higher quality than the old one. We had one of these
25 meetings --

1 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: I wouldn't want to be living
2 on that end of town.

3 MR. WITTRY: It's nice to move. You can actually see
4 the difference. It's very clear when the water comes out of a
5 tertiary plant versus what comes out of this plant. It's not
6 very clear to see the tertiary water versus the potable.

7 MR. JONES: They are identical.

8 MR. WITTRY: Just about. You -- maybe at some
9 point, we'll do that in one of our meetings. We'll bring
10 three bottles of water from out, there just to let you see
11 the difference.

12 The first bottle is what comes out of the facility
13 now, and the other two bottles is what a tertiary plant
14 produces, and then tap water. And when you look, smell,
15 they're -- you really have a tough time distinguishing the
16 tertiary water from tap water, especially our tap water.

17 MR. MACHADO: Especially in Gilroy, where they say,
18 "You can't drink our tap water."

19 MR. WITTRY: There's no way you can make it
20 possible under California guidelines to drink that water.
21 However, if you're dying, it's not going to be an issue.

22 MR. MACHADO: It smells a little chlorinated. Your
23 should take a tour of Gilroy out there at the San Jose plant.
24 It doesn't smell bad at all. It's more of a chlorinated
25

smell, like a pool, maybe a little stronger.

1 There's always a mist of air around it when they
2 let it out into the ponds, but when you get downwind, you can
3 smell it. It's not bad, it's not strong, but it's not a sewer
4 smell.

5 MR. JONES: Yes.

6 MR. MACHADO: And it's pretty clean. And they use
7 it in all the water trucks in all the projects in San Jose
8 that they've built from Silver Creek for dust control. We
9 have a two-million-gallon water tank at Silver Creek.

10 It's a pond that they've lined, and they haul it
11 from the San Jose Water Treatment Plant out there, and that's
12 what they use for all the dust control. The ponds stay there
13 until the very completion of the project, which was 54
14 million yards of dirt moved. It's been used for some good
15 stuff.

16 I know around here, they would probably be able to
17 do the same thing once they start construction. I know they
18 sold the water, too. I'm not sure of the price, but I think
19 it was less than \$5,000 for a load, and that's 4,000 gallons,
20 so they did charge them.

21 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: They did charge them.

22 MR. ZUNIGA: One more question.

23 MR. JONES: Sure.

24 MR. ZUNIGA: I know they said, before this process
25

1 all started, there was problems with the percolation ponds
2 contaminating the aquifer in the San Juan Valley. How long
3 will it take before they can see a change in that area that
4 definitely will improve it?

5 MR. FERRIS: Yeah. There's a couple different
6 changes that are going to occur. One of those is quantity,
7 fairly soon out of the box. When the spray fields are
8 developed, it will remove some of the water that's actually
9 being percolated in there, so that's going to reduce the
10 volume of water.

11 Secondly, as soon as the plant's operating, it's
12 going to be improved quality. Nitrates, in particular, are
13 going to go down. There's still going to be salts initially,
14 and that's what the salt management program's there for. And
15 eventually, you know, within, you know -- by 2015, the -- the
16 objective to meet 500-700 PBS is going to significantly
17 improve the water that's percolated into there.

18 So the background levels are over a thousand,
19 roughly; then it's going to be a noticeable improvement to
20 the San Juan Valley. So it's going to be a process to
21 ameliorate the present situation.

22 MR. JONES: But it will be an improvement?

23 MR. WITTRY: Over time. You won't -- it comes on
24 line in 2008, it will -- you know, it will be over the course
25 of time.

1 MR. FERRIS: Because you have so much water coming
2 through here, ground water. There's so much ground water
3 there already, it's going to take time. But as far as the
4 detrimental effects of disposing of the water, you know, it's
5 going to be really important. Please, go ahead.

6 MR. WITTRY: Don't say "one more question" anymore!

7 MR. ZUNIGA: They talk about two phases, Phase I,
8 Phase II. When does Phase II kick in, and what's it supposed
9 to accomplish?

10 MR. FERRIS: Well, Phase I really is the initial
11 building of a plant at 4 MGDF as well as the development of
12 spray fields. Phase II really comes in when the water
13 quality is improved to 500-700.

14 And then Phase II really is phasing out the spray
15 fields and really increasing the irrigation, agricultural
16 irrigation. That's really Phase II. It's kind of getting
17 the salts down to 500-700 PDS and then going for the
18 agriculture.

19 MR. JONES: What was the time frame?

20 MR. FERRIS: The target for getting down to 500-700
21 is about 2015. The Salt Management Program, it's got, like,
22 a water softener ordinance which will help reduce some of the
23 salts that are entering into the water from water softeners.

24 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: How can you check that?

25 MR. FERRIS: How can you check that? It will be --

1 under the ordinance, you're not going to have, you know,
2 people going out there inspecting, but I'm not really sure
3 how.

4 MR. WITTRY: For the salt water ordinance, what
5 it's going to basically do, as near as we can tell now --
6 it's difficult for us to tell a homeowner that they have to
7 take their unit out and replace it with a non-regenerative
8 process. There's legislation that makes it very difficult.

9 We have programs to do it voluntarily by making
10 existing ones -- making it very difficult when the new
11 construction comes in. The new construction can be bound by
12 rules. And through the inspection process, as the homes are
13 built, we can be able to verify it if they have the softeners
14 in it, so that they can be --

15 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: Can we make it so they have
16 to put that kind of a new unit in?

17 MR. WITTRY: Not for existing, but for new ones. MS.

18 PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: For new ones, can that be a
19 requirement?

20 MR. WITTRY: My understanding is yes.

21 MR. MACHADO: You're talking reverse osmosis rather
22 than --

23 MR. WITTRY: Capture, where it's not flushed into
24 the waste water system.

25 MR. FERRIS: That's going to help. It's not going

1 to solve the situation. To dissolve the salts, it's up to
2 demineralization.

3 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: It will help us a lot if all
4 the new homes that go in would have that. It would take away
5 the burden of the salt going in.

6 MR. FERRIS: It's solving the problem before it
7 gets into the water, which is, you know, a benefit to the
8 homeowners as well as everyone else. It's really going to
9 hit that target of 500 to 700. Right now, it's around 1250.
10 Remember, it's a long way to go, and to get there, you need
11 to demineralize, and that's reverse osmosis.

12 That would either need to be done at the well head
13 or before the water from the ground water gets into your
14 home, and you're going to have much softer water that way.

15 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: Which I really hope for.

16 MR. FERRIS: The other way is to do it at the end,
17 at the waste water treatment plant. So that will be added
18 onto the facility, that would be constructed at the facility,
19 at the waste water plant or at the well head.

20 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: What's it cost to put it at
21 the well head?

22 MR. WITTRY: What's happening is, there is another
23 group, another study group going on. It's called the Urban
24 Water and Waste Water Master Plan, I believe. It's a group
25 that's being -- basically, it's got components of the City,

1 County and Water District.

2 They've hired a firm called HDR to do a master plan
3 for how the water -- either with reverse osmosis or some other
4 treatment, well head treatment -- as to how the water's going
5 to get to that level.

6 That study's underway right now, and it's supposed
7 to come back either January or February this coming year. So
8 right now, there's no answer for how much it's going to cost,
9 but the report will give us a good answer of what it's going
10 to cost and how we will get there.

11 MR. FERRIS: The demineralization will basically be
12 the Phase II.

13 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: So why was this not done
14 sooner?

15 MR. FERRIS: Why demineralization wasn't done
16 sooner?

17 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: Why didn't somebody address
18 this years ago, to get the salt or the minerals out before it
19 came to the consumer so we didn't end up with all this salt in
20 the water?

21 MR. WITTRY: One of the things we have to realize
22 is that the politics of the area don't allow us to solve
23 problems that are intergovernmental in nature.

24 In the last two, three years, there have been a lot
25 of strides made in getting involvement between the City, the

1 County and the Water District, to get them to come to the
2 same table, much less come together to work on a project.
3 That's the way it is in the area. And we're getting people
4 together and trying to solve it the best we can.

5 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: We're working on it.

6 MR. WITTRY: We do have a partnership --

7 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: This is what we need to do
8 is really be serious about making it work. It hasn't worked
9 before, and now we have to make it work.

10 MR. WITTRY: From my point, all the agencies we
11 work with see that, and we have a level of cohesiveness with
12 the County and the Water District that we haven't seen in --
13 I've been here for the city nine years, and it's getting
14 better year-to-year. But it's something that didn't exist
15 when I first got here.

16 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: Because there's a lot of
17 old-timers that don't want to believe in moderate --
18 modernization.

19 MR. MACHADO: With the County, they still have --
20 you can burn anything that comes out of your house, and
21 there's still people all over the county that burn trash
22 everywhere. If you live in a rural area, you don't have to
23 have garbage.

24 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: They don't have to have a
25 burn permit?

1 MR. MACHADO: You just put in a barrel. I'm not
2 sure on the burn permit. I know you probably should, but on
3 the burn permits, it has something about a permit.

4 MR. FERRIS: Now in the County, you have to get a
5 permit, and the County's redoing their fire safety manuals
6 and what people can do. The County's changed a lot.

7 MR. WITTRY: One of the things to realize is we're
8 still a rural county; we don't have a lot of population.
9 We're behind a lot of years in a lot of places, but that's
10 just part of our charm.

11 MR. FERRIS: Did that answer your question?

12 MR. ZUNIGA: Yes, it did.

13 MR. MACHADO: Do they have a plan to sell some of
14 that treated water to some -- like, the high school fields
15 and industrial complexes to use that?

16 MR. FERRIS: It's definitely --

17 MR. MACHADO: I know in San Jose, all the high
18 schools get treated water. Gunderson and San Jose High,
19 they're watering their fields with that.

20 MR. FERRIS: That's a possibility.

21 MR. MACHADO: It's an interesting and expensive
22 thing. It's just lately going into all their newer schools.

23 MR. WITTRY: One of the things we have in all of our
24 parks, particularly out in Valley View, all of the new parks
25 and public areas of any business is required to be done

1 with purple piping. That's for treated water.

2 The new parks, whether we get the water system now
3 or sometime in the future, the investment of getting those
4 parks available, to be ready to use that water is being
5 taken.

6 MR. MACHADO: And they're actually installing the
7 purple pipe now?

8 MR. WITTRY: Like I said, right now.

9 MR. MACHADO: That's the first step.

10 MR. WITTRY: The very first step. At Valley View
11 Park, it has a disconnect from the potable system, and
12 there's the field that has a disconnect area. At one point,
13 you disconnect it in one place and connect it at another and
14 you're ready to go.

15 MR. MACHADO: That's great.

16 MR. JONES: Do you have anymore questions?

17 MS. PEDRAZZI-MENKEEL: No, I'm fine.

18 MR. ZUNIGA: I have one more. When you talk about
19 the demineralization, does the State set the standard for the
20 cities and counties?

21 MR. JONES: For salt content?

22 MR. ZUNIGA: Yes.

23 MR. JONES: The drinking water standard for -- it's
24 not a health standard, it's more of a case of -- they call it
25 an aesthetic standard. It's 500 milligrams per liter, so you

1 can actually drink water that's saltier than 500. You're not
2 going -- there won't be a health problem, but it won't taste
3 very good.

4 So they have what they call a secondary standard of
5 500 for drinking, and then for -- again, for agricultural
6 purposes, you can go much higher, depending on what you're
7 doing.

8 MR. FERRIS: It's a federal standard. It's EPA. MR. ZUNIGA: How
9 are the surrounding areas? I'm
10 just curious. Gilroy, Morgan Hill, how are they treating it?

11 MR. FERRIS: Their water?

12 MR. ZUNIGA: The water, to get the minerals out.
13 Is it the same or different?

14 MR. JONES: They're blessed with better geology
15 than the Hollister basin. And probably -- Steve, you know
16 that better than me, but as I understand, the minerals that
17 are upstream in a river add a lot of salt to the water as it
18 comes down.

19 MR. WITTRY: A lot of water that ends up in our
20 city comes from the San Benito River channel, which has a
21 large tributary area back in the South County. It comes
22 through the hills, goes into the ground and comes in through
23 that -- that conduit in the area.

24 As it makes that long trip, it picks up minerals as
25 it passes through the soil. We have the blessing of being

1 basically where that water comes down. Different areas in
2 the city have different levels. As you get towards the
3 Ridgemark area, they have a higher TDS in the drinking water
4 than, say, the downtown area. It's primarily a matter of
5 geology and time that the water's spent in the ground.

6 MR. ZUNIGA: Okay. That answers the question. I
7 don't have anymore questions.

8 MR. WITTRY: C'mon! You've got one more coming.

9 MR. ZUNIGA: I probably do, but that's enough.

10 MR. FERRIS: We appreciate your questions. Any
11 other questions? Environmental? No? All right.

12 Well, I think we will conclude. And everybody
13 freeze -- unless anyone has other questions -- so the
14 reporter can get your names.

15 (End of record, 7:46 p.m.)

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