





Redway Community Services District  
P.O. Box 40  
Redway, CA 95560  
(707) 923-3101

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Rights  
Attn: Michael Meza  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

November 25, 2019

RE: Protest Application for Petition for Change for Water Right License 3404 (Application 9686) and Permit 20789 (Application 29981) of Garberville Sanitary District (GSD)

Dear Mr. Meza:

This letter is in response to notification from the State Water Resources Control Board regarding Petition for Change for Water Right License 3404 (Application 9686) and Permit 20789 (Application 29981) of Garberville Sanitary District. During the regularly scheduled business meeting on November 20, 2019 the Redway Community Services District (Redway CSD) Board of Directors directed staff to write a letter of protest to your office that includes some key points. This is that letter. The Protest Application form is enclosed.

The Southern Humboldt Community Park (Park) is a private non-profit, not a public agency. As such, the Board of Directors of the Park hold private meetings that are not open to the public. And therefore, the motivations of the Park are not clear to the general public and do not necessarily represent the public interest. Many members of the larger community of southern Humboldt County support the park and many do not. Those that do not support the Park and its activities cite the closed meetings and methods by which the Park has obtained property and financial support among other special interests.

During the application to the Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission (Humboldt LAFCo) comment period for this out of district service, Redway CSD wrote a letter to Humboldt LAFCo indicating that the Redway CSD Board of Directors has reservations about GSD providing this out of district connection to the Park because this connection may not be in the public interest. That letter was not included by GSD in their petition to the State Water Resources Control Board and the Redway CSD Board of Directors feels that it should have been for the sake of transparency. That letter to the Humboldt LAFCo is enclosed with this letter.

The Redway CSD Board of Directors feels that there are other ways to provide potable water to the Park. A formal annexation of the Park property to the GSD would require that the Park be subject to all of the ordinances of the GSD. Additionally, this would make the Park's activities more transparent to the public because building permits would be referred to GSD and their Board of Directors when the Park modifies land use, structures and other improvements. Another option would be for the Park to become a recreation district which would provide for public ownership and, therefore transparency.

The final comment that the Redway CSD Board of Directors would like communicated is that they support public space and that aspect of the Park's activities. That they do not support the private ownership and special interests of the Park or its Board of Directors and do not believe that this out of district connection is in the public interest.

Sincerely,

Terrence Williams  
General Manager

On Behalf of Redway Community Services District Board of Directors

Enclosures (2)



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Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission  
1125 16<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 202  
Arcata, CA 95521  
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August 28, 2019

RE: Garberville Sanitary District (GSD) Water Service Extension to Southern Humboldt Community Park (SHCP or Park)

Dear Mr. Williamson:

The Redway Community Services District (Redway CSD) Board of Directors (BOD) met on Wednesday August 21, 2019 for the regularly scheduled business meeting. One of the agenda items for that meeting was to discuss the Garberville Sanitary District's proposal to extend service to the Southern Humboldt Community Park. This letter summarizes that discussion and the comments and sentiment of the Redway CSD BOD.

The general consensus of the BOD is that they support the SHCP as an organization and as an outdoor and events space that is open to the community. Additionally, the general consensus is concern about volumetric expansion of the connection and the impact to downstream users of the river as a water source. The primary concern here is that the Park will exceed the allocated volumetric usage and GSD will not have a regulatory mechanism to enforce volumetric limits.

The Redway CSD BOD has mixed feelings about supporting this project. Several board members indicated that they support the concept of providing drinking water within the park. There are concerns about the length of the necessary pipe runs to reach individual drinking fountains. These long run dead end systems may have an adverse effect on water quality. One board member felt that pointing to water bottles as the primary reason for bringing GSD water to the Park is a weak argument. Many of us live, work and/or recreate in areas without potable water and so we pack it in and pack out our trash. The Park could require people to bring their own water in reusable containers.

There is concern that the Park will agree to a volumetric limit and then challenge that limit in the future. According to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, the South Fork of the Eel River is an impaired watershed for water quality, sedimentation and temperature. Additionally, during the late summer and early fall, Redway CSD must throttle intake pumps and extend pumping hours to keep up with demand because flows in the South Fork Eel are so low, even in wet years. The Redway CSD water treatment plant is designed to receive water from the river at 350 gallons per minute. The pumps are currently throttled to 250 gallons per minute and we are pumping 18 to 20 hours per day to keep up



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with demand. Redway CSD had to throttle the intake pumps beginning on August 15<sup>th</sup> of this year. If the river continues to drop, we will not be able to produce enough water to keep up with demand.

In a letter dated June 13, 2019, the SHCP indicates that they owe approximately \$475,000 to two lenders. In this same letter, the SHCP was requesting that Humboldt LAFCo waive the fees associated with this service extension and cited the debt as a financial hardship. Members of the Redway CSD BOD expressed speculative concern that the SHCP BOD may decide to develop real estate as a source of revenue.

Northern Humboldt County has an abundance of fresh water because of the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District. Southern Humboldt does not enjoy this luxury. The South Fork of the Eel River is a limited water source and, in order to provide water security to existing users, Redway CSD is considering a regional water storage project. Redway CSD feels that it would be irresponsible of us to significantly increase connections considering the impacts to the South Fork of the Eel River.

The Redway CSD BOD would like to see the process slowed down so that more time is spent considering the ramifications of this out of district connection. The Park has indicated that they could use considerably more water than the 2000 cubic feet that is currently being considered. This water would be used for irrigation of playing fields and for crop irrigation as well as future development. Additionally, the Park carries a significant amount of debt without a consistent and significant revenue stream. The main question is, what will happen if the Park re-organizes, uses more than the allocated water volume or tries to sell off land that is connected to the GSD system? Does GSD or LAFCo have ordinances in place to enforce the volumetric limits placed on the connection that will hold up in court?

We sincerely hope that Humboldt LAFCo will consider these comments when deciding whether to allow the SHCP to connect to the GSD water system

Regards,

Terrence Williams

General Manager