

ATTACHMENT 3

Mendocino County Water Agency Response

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Patrick Ford - Fwd: Questions for Agencies and revised 9111 outline

From: Roland Sanford
To: Patrick Ford
Date: 5/28/2009 5:17 PM
Subject: Fwd: Questions for Agencies and revised 9111 outline
CC: Nash Gonzalez; Tom Mitchell
Attachments: Fwd: Questions for Agencies and revised 9111 outline

Hi Patrick:

As discussed earlier today - I don't believe there is enough publically available information to say much about the adequacy of the proposed Masonite development water supply - or if there is sufficient information, I haven't seen it. In my opinion the key issues are: (1) is Well 6 drawing percolating groundwater or underflow, and (2) what is the backup water supply, in the event that it is determined that Well 6 is underflow.

From what little I have seen and heard it seems to be fairly well established that Well 6 can produce a significant water supply - but will the State Water Resources Control Board staff concede that it is percolating groundwater? At least for now the SWRCB is holding on to their argument that all "groundwater" in the Ukiah Valley is underflow. I don't agree with them but its not the Water Agency's call. If it is underflow then DDR/Millview will most likely need to file an appropriative water right, which could theoretically be granted for a portion of the year, but probably not for year-round diversions. During the summer and fall the Russian River is already fully appropriated. One solution would be to pump underflow during the winter, when you would most likely be authorized to do so, and store a portion of that water for use in the summer and fall. The other solution is to find an alternative water supply for the summer and fall. As we discussed, the likely source would be an existing Ag operation that has a contract with RRFC.

Given the uncertainty surrounding the Masonite water supply it would seem to be at least prudent if not essential that DDR/Millview either receive written assurances from the SWRCB that well 6 is drawing percolating groundwater, or come up with an alternative/backup source. As we discussed, there are a number of options - but nearly all involving the redirection of an existing supply from an existing user.

Roland

>>> Tom Mitchell 5/22/2009 1:32 PM >>>
Good afternoon,

Please make your response to Planning & Building and cc me. It is critical that we get answers next week.

Thank you.

Tom Mitchell
Chief Executive Officer
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

707.463.4441 Office
707.463-5649 Fax

County Website:

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