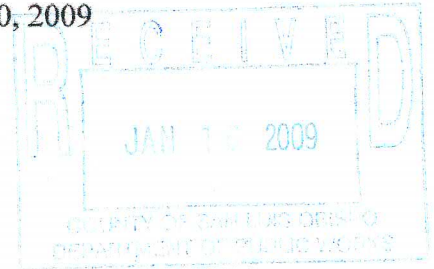


Tom Weinschenk
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January 10, 2009



To: Mr. Mark Hutchinson, SLO County Department of Public Works
Supervisor Adam Hill
Supervisor Jim Patterson

Re: the proposed Turri Road Sewer Solution

Dear Mr. Hutchinson, Supervisor Hill and Supervisor Patterson,

I am writing to question the County's proposed sewer project off of Turri Road. It's hard to imagine that buying up a family farm of 620 acres, converting a large portion of it into a sewer treatment plant, and spraying the environs with effluent that hails from the other side of South Bay Boulevard can be the "environmentally superior" project. It may indeed be the most politically convenient proposal, but in my opinion the environment and heritage of the farms on Turri Road will be the big losers with this proposal.

There is perhaps no more pristine stretch of country than that which can be seen from Turri Road. Avid bicyclists will tell you that Turri Road is one of their favorite locations, because it takes them back in time to a striking beauty and simplicity found seldom on SLO County roads. The negative visual impact, smell and noise of the sewage plant will be a huge disappointment to cyclists and tourists who have enjoyed the scenery for generations. But it is not just these aspects of the sewage plant that I am concerned about. If this proposal is approved, a 620 acre family farm will be lost forever, and considering the other developments on ag land in this county, this is cause for great concern. Other farms will be affected as well. The Turri family farm - which for over 100 years has farmed a variety of crops, from flowers to garbanzo beans - is directly adjacent to the proposed site. The Turri family is rightly concerned about the proposal to spray effluent which could stray onto their property. This effluent will be treated above ground, and as it evaporates and is subject to the strong winds we are all familiar with in the area, airborne particles may reach neighboring farms, potentially affecting the air quality and food these farms grow. The Turri family, as well as others nearby, have maintained pristine ag land on their property for generations. We, as citizens of SLO County, should be grateful to them for how they have preserved the land. Instead, this proposal would change their way of life forever.

Clearly, the number of people directly affected by this proposal is less than other proposals. There is, however, an ethical question here. Why should family farms and residents of Turri Road be responsible for solving a problem which they had nothing to do with? Should the solution not lie within the community where the problem first arose?

Unfortunately, the pristine countryside of Turri Road does not have much political clout. It is, however, one of the most valuable resources we have in our County, and I hope you will do whatever you can to preserve it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom Weinschenk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" being the most prominent.

Tom Weinschenk,
SLO County resident