

Community Letter and Notice of Opposition to County Plans to Fluoridate Public Waters

April 12, 2013

Grant Davis, General Manager
Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Veronica Ferguson, County Administrator
County of Sonoma
575 Administration Drive, Suite 104-A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Bruce Goldstein, Counsel
County of Sonoma
Office of the County Counsel
575 Administration Drive, Suite 105-A
Santa Rosa, Ca 95403

Re: County Plans to Fluoridate Public Waters

Dear Mr. Davis, Ms. Ferguson and Mr. Goldstein;

The enclosed Notice under the Federal Clean Water Act is based on the admitted fact that if the County fluoridates its drinking water, fluoride chemical waste will enter waters of the United States causing a "man-made" or "man-induced" alteration of the chemical, physical or biological integrity of these jurisdictional waters.

The Community is also concerned about the long term effects of releasing fluoridated waste into ground and surface waters. Recent studies have proven there are superior cost effective alternatives which are more protective of the dental health of low-income children.

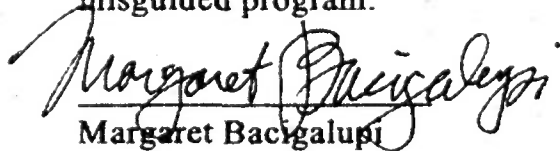
According to a February 21, 2013 Press Democrat article, the estimated initial cost of fluoridation in capital upgrades will be \$8.5 million, and the annual upkeep will start at nearly \$1 million per year. Actual costs are likely to be much higher. Inevitably an increase in rates will be necessary to pay for this program and its annual costs.

Community Letter and Notice of Opposition
To County Plans to Fluoridate Public Waters
Page 2

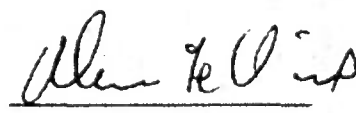
Scientific studies have shown that fluoride is more protective of dental health when applied topically, as with brushing, than when ingested. The stated target population is low income children. Pursuant to the Network of Care for Public Health Assessment and Wellness, as of 2011, 16.3% of children under the age of eighteen in Sonoma County are living below the federal poverty level. Therefore, the likely percentage of the target population is less than 3% of the total exposed population. Numerous studies have demonstrated that the dental health of this 3% can be better, and far more cost effectively protected, by public programs rather than exposing the entire population to unnecessary additional industrial chemicals.

For substantially less money, Sonoma County could implement a program through the public schools providing greater access to dental care, and education on dental hygiene which would also include provision of fluoride products to low income children. European countries have ceased fluoridation and seen equal if not greater reduction in cavities when children were given dental health education and toothpaste with fluoride.

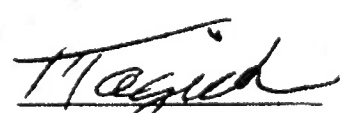
As indicated in the enclosed Notice, if the County proceeds with its plans to fluoridate 100% of the public's drinking water in order to "help" less than 3% of its residents, the noticing parties will file suit under the Clean Water Act seeking to enjoin such activities. The suit will not prevent the County from wasting millions in rate payer dollars in setting up the program, but might save the residents from continuing to fund a clearly wasteful and misguided program.




Margaret Bacigalupi
California River Watch



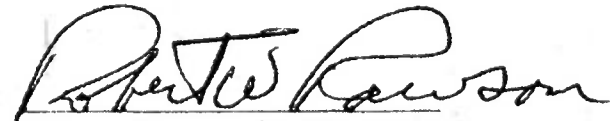
Alan Levine
Coast Action Group



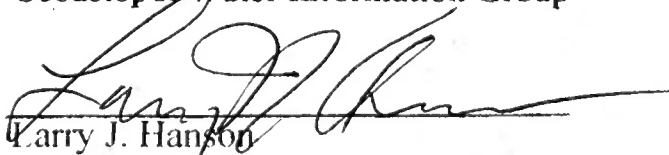
Magick
Laguna Lovers



Jane E. Nielson, Ph.D.
Sebastopol Water Information Group



Graton Community Projects
Forestville Citizens for Sensible Growth



Larry J. Hanson
Community Clean Water Institute