

Bruce Cash

From: lazyb1@verizon.net
Sent: Friday, November 28, 2008 10:40 PM
To: Benida Robinson
Subject: RE: Comments made at 11-13-08 Blue ribbon committee mtg.

Enclosed is a summary of remarks I made at the 11-13-08 meeting that I was asked to e-mail to this panel.

My name is Blair Ball and I am a director of the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District. I wish to make a clarification to an answer Mr. Chuck Butcher gave at the 10-16-08 meeting. He stated that the directors of the Beaumont -Cherry Valley Water District approved the Wildermuth report titled Water Quality Impacts from OSWDS in the Cherry Valley COI at a joint meeting with the Beaumont City Council. Actually this is not correct. We did have a joint meeting with the council where Mr. Wildermuth made a presentation. Board approval occurred at the regular board meeting on 4-11-08. At that meeting 4 of the 5 directors stated that they had not had a chance to read the final report and desired to table the item to the next meeting. The fifth director did not say whether he had or had not read the report. At this point the general manager stated that he wanted a board decision in order to "move forward with the sewer project"(www.bcvwd.org minutes 4-11-08 p.3862). The board then proceeded to approve the final report by a 4-1 vote. I voted against the approval as I had not read the final report at that point.

Toward the end of the 10-16-08 meeting a member of the panel asked Mr. Butcher if the nitrate levels of well 16 had returned to normal levels or if they remained elevated. Mr. Butcher replied that he did not know and that the Wildermuth group would be the ones to answer that question. It surprised me that he would not be aware of the nitrate level in a well that had a history of high nitrates because if it remained at elevated levels the district would be required to test more frequently, blend the water with other wells, or take other action. I remember being shown a graph of the nitrate level of well 16 several years ago that showed a nitrate spike. It was retested and the results were at a normal level. I remember telling Mr. Butcher that it seemed to me that the sample was either contaminated or the lab had made an error as it appeared to be a one time event of elevated nitrate levels. It appears that from this single nitrate spike in well 16 we have moved through numerous meetings, studies, monies, a district wide sewerage vote and now a Riverside County Supervisor appointed panel to consider the nitrate level in the Beaumont Basin.

Following the blue ribbon panel meeting I spoke with the assistant general manager of the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District who confirmed that the nitrate levels of well 16 have tested in the mid to upper teens over the past several months.

Thank you,