

**From:** [Larry Purcell](#)  
**To:** [293-pchearingcomments](#); [Angelo, Philip](#); [Buijkema](#); [white@cawd.org](#); [rachel@cawd.org](#); [siegfried@cawd.org](#); [urquhart@cawd.org](#); [dambrosio@cawd.org](#); [Moore, Susan](#)  
**Cc:** [David Scopp](#); [Larry Purcell](#)  
**Subject:** Carmel Meadows Sewer Replacement Project Scheduled for Hearing Before the Planning Commission on July 12, 2023  
**Date:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 11:16:49 AM

---

[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ]

My name is Larry Purcell and I have been the Chairman of the Carmel Meadows Association Board for the past 7 years. My wife Chris and I have been owners of 2780 Ribera Road in the Meadows since 2000.

This letter, though, is coming from me as a concerned neighbor, to those whose properties are being negatively impacted by CAWD's proposed sewer project in Carmel Meadows.

I have been involved with the "Carmel Meadows Sewer Replacement Project" dating back to when it was brought up in a LUAC meeting. Up until that point CAWD claimed that (until we uncovered that Kennedy Jenks recommended replacement in kind) that the lift pump plan was the only feasible option! I also attended the CAWD meetings on May 25th and June 15th.

The more I heard about it, the more confused I got. My confusion does not concern engineering concepts, gravity flow, grinders or poison oak and ticks. But rather it deals more with common sense, or in this case, the lack thereof.

Let me begin with the presentation made by Rachel Lather in the meeting of the LUAC Board with many guests in attendance. After she was finished with her talk, she was greeted by many questions, both from the guests as well as Members of the Board. There was a constant back and forth bantering which was getting a bit heated. The one thought, which was paramount to me, was what the urgency was. With so many balls in the air and a great deal of unanswered questions lying on the floor, I asked Ms. Lather what the urgency was as she saw it. I added "The gravity line having only a few leaks, no need to do now items were in play, so why the urgency". The minutes of that LUAC Board Meeting will show her reply to be, "We need to do it now, because I am retiring next year!" To this day, I still fail to see that as a logical basis to plow forward.

The homeowners and a former Principal Engineer of CAWD all acknowledge that the current pipe has been functioning for some 60 years. And it is working without serious failings today. In 2013 a presentation was made that suggested a "replacement in kind" be made from an external party. In the meeting on June 15th the statement was made by the President of LUAC, that in those 60 years, materials and processes have certainly gotten better. And then he asked the question as to why not replace in kind with these more advanced materials and processes and eliminate the need to cause such great harm to the 6 homes involved in the current CAWD proposal.

The proposal to shift the responsibility for repair to the property owners is absurd. They would need to put that on their property documents, letting buyers know of this contractual burden, thus reducing the value of the homes. These are

expensive homes in a very desirable neighborhood.

The exposure to problems with the proposed Grinder process, when considering the tremendous numbers of power outages, is paramount, both to the homes and the environment.

<!--[if !supportLineBreakNewLine]-->  
<!--[endif]-->

The exchanging of information by the CAWD has been less than fair. 24 hours prior to the meeting on June 15, they sent us a 198 page report. They knew we would not have time to digest all of this information and prepare questions or rebuttals.

In that same meeting, Rachel Lather showed a movie which showed the area to me impacted as a total disaster. Not sure how long ago she had made this movie, but again, no time for us to gather our thoughts and make meaningful comments. Two of the "items" which make our replace in kind impossible was a huge poison oak plant which made it impossible for the workers to get to that area, with the other being a tick in the back of someone's hand, followed by the comment that this is what our employees will face in this most dangerous area. When the movie was over and questions were requested, my only thought was how absurd this movie was.

<!--[if !supportLineBreakNewLine]-->  
<!--[endif]-->

Without trying to beat a dead horse, and being concerned that perhaps the CAWD Board had not been informed as to how the first LUAC meeting went, I stood and related in detail as to the comment made by their Chief Engineer Rachel Lather. "We need do it now as I am retiring next year"!

I intend to be at the meeting on July 12. If anyone has any questions regarding my notes above, I will be happy to discuss.

Larry Purcell, Chairman CMA Board  
<!--[if !supportLineBreakNewLine]-->  
<!--[endif]-->