

**From:** [Deborah Ju](#)  
**To:** [Buikema](#); [Angelo, Philip](#)  
**Subject:** Questions for CAWD relating to proposed project on Ribera Road  
**Date:** Monday, June 19, 2023 9:28:20 PM

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Dear CAWD,

We have previously expressed our strong opposition to having a grinder pump installed at our home at 2805 Ribera Road. As John Borelli, chairman of LUAC, said at the 6/15/23 CAWD Board meeting, the Replacement in Kind preferred option CAN be built without posing risks of spillage and environmental impacts thanks to advancements in engineering technology that have evolved since the existing system was built 60-70 years ago. It is also clear from the photos you showed of current conditions, that a substantial part of the spillage problem has been caused by CAWD's gross dereliction of duty in maintaining the easement and equipment. For example, the tree growing in the middle of the easement did not grow overnight and should have been removed when it first sprouted. While "replacement in place" may not be the cheapest or easiest solution for Staff, it is the RIGHT solution so that you do not destroy the quality of life and property values for tax-paying residents.

My neighbors and I have a few questions that we would appreciate your answering as soon as possible, and definitely well before the July 12th Planning Commission meeting.

- 1) The four homeowners in the "grinder pump" area have asked Staff several times for the addresses of any and all grinder pumps used within the wastewater district so that we can contact those homeowners to ask whether there are adverse issues we should be aware of. Staff promised on two occasions to give us this information, but we have never received it. Please give us these addresses now.
- 2) The options being considered were all drawn from the 2013 report by Kennedy Jenks. Have any new options been sought in the 10 years since 2013 that utilize the newest engineering technology to complete the Replacement in Kind preferred option in a way that would avoid any environmental concerns?
- 3) Have you conducted any study of possible health and safety impacts from grinder pumps on residential property, including but not limited to risks relating to noise and odor?
- 4) Have you conducted any study of the health and safety risks of spills or sewage backing up inside or outside of homes with grinder pumps due to a leak or malfunction?
- 5) Given the data shared with you about the frequency of power outages on Ribera Road (7 outages between September 2022 and January 2023, an extended outage of over 105 hours in March 2023, and another outage in June 2023), have you conducted any study to determine whether these frequent and extended power outages could increase the possibility of spills or sewage backing up inside or outside of the grinder pump properties?
- 6) Have you any study of possible health and safety impacts from generators run by gasoline or propane tanks in terms of fire risk?

7) Have you conducted any study of possible health and safety impacts from the proposed lift station on Mariposa to the residential properties in close proximity, including but not limited to risks relating to noise and odor?

8) Have you conducted any study of the health and safety risks of spills or sewage backing up inside or outside of homes located near the proposed lift station on Mariposa from a leak or malfunction?

9) Given the data shared with you about the frequency of power outages on Ribera Road (7 outages between September 2022 and January 2023, an extended outage of over 105 hours in March 2023, and another outage in June 2023), have you conducted any study to determine whether these frequent and extended power outages could increase the possibility of leak or spillage on and adjacent to the site of the proposed lift station on Mariposa?

10) Prior to this proposed project, have you ever required property owners in the wastewater district to be rerouted through a grinder pump when they had previously been served by the district without the need for a grinder pump?

11) Have you given consideration to the certain and substantial diminution in property values that you would be causing to the properties impacted by grinder pumps and to the properties in close proximity to the proposed life station due to noise, odors and visual impacts associated with this project?

We look forward to receiving your prompt responses. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Deborah and Werner Ju  
2805 Ribera Road  
Carmel, CA



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**From:** [Deborah Ju](#)  
**To:** [Buikema](#); [Angelo, Philip](#)  
**Subject:** My Statement read at the CAWD Board on 6/15/2023  
**Date:** Monday, June 19, 2023 9:03:25 AM

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Dear Ms. Buikema. This is the Statement I read at the 6/15/23. I was not able to complete my comments due to the 3 minute time limit. Please enter this Statement in the record for that meeting. Thank you.

Best regards,  
Deborah Ju  
2805 Ribera Road  
Carmel, CA 93923

Dear The CAWD Board member,

My husband and I reside at 2805 Ribera Road. We have owned this home since 2005. We are strongly opposed to the proposed CAWD Wastewater project that would require us to have a grinder pump on our property, as are the owners of all four properties that CAWD wants to force grinder pumps on.

We are opposed to any financial responsibility for the grinder pump which we adamantly do not want and which would be placed against our explicit opposition.

CAWD is tasked with providing wastewater services to the households within its jurisdiction. As a governmental entity, you are required to treat customers equally. Yet CAWD proposes to hold us responsible for the electric costs of running the system, in addition to maintenance, repair and replacement costs. The pumps themselves would restrict homeowners in how they could use dishwashers and other appliances on their property, and require them to perform flushing and other unpleasant tasks. Rather than spreading costs among the taxpayer base, a handful of homeowners would be expected to bear costs that other households are not subject to.

We pay exorbitant property taxes on this home and are entitled to the same wastewater services that other homeowners receive without extra charge over and above our property taxes. This is an unethical attempt to shift costs from CAWD to the affected homeowners.

The health and safety risks of this system are even more important to us than the costs. A wastewater system that relies on electricity is doomed to failure in our neighborhood. Our neighborhood loses electric power very frequently. My 2/22/23 email to you detailed seven different outages between 9/22/22 and 1/10/23. We later had a massive outage from 3/9 - 3/12, and again from 3/14-3/15 which was a total of 105 hours without electrical power over 6 days, and there was an even more recent outage on 6/1. Given these outages, a grinder pump CANNOT provide reliable wastewater services to our home. It would pose health and safety risks which no responsible wastewater management service should consider. Wastewater could back-up on the outside of our property and, possibly even inside our property, causing bad odors and even disease. These are not shanties we are speaking of. These are homes valued between two and three million dollars which were purchased with fully functioning

wastewater systems and were purchased in reliance of the same. Removing our homes from the general wastewater system and forcing grinder pumps onto our property would significantly damage our property values and our quality of life.

CAWD has proposed generators as a back-up system for outages, however we are not willing to have a generator on our property as we bought our home in large part to enjoy the quiet, serenity of nature and the loud sound of a generator would wreck that serenity.

We also oppose placement of a lift station in the cul-de-sac at Mariposa Road. These homes are in a rural setting that is quiet and peaceful. There would be visual, noise and smell impacts from a lift station which none of us would find acceptable if we had a home in that location.

Less than 24 hours before this hearing our neighborhood obtained a copy of the voluminous document, almost 200 pages, that CAWD submitted for this hearing. The timing of this was of course designed to keep us in the dark of recent developments so that we could not be prepared to address them in substance. I do note, however, that the recent Kennedy Jenkins letter refers to options that were never considered in their 2013 report due to higher cost, but we do not know what those options are. CAWD seems to suggest that the universe of options is what was considered in that 2013 study, which was ten years ago. If there are new factors, new solutions should be explored. I was at the LUAC hearing and it was clear that LUAC found the current proposal unacceptable. We clearly had the sense at your last Board meeting that you also had serious problems with it. Our neighbors are adamantly opposed to it and we will not and can not back down. We urge you to reject this plan and to require further study to find a solution that does not involve grinder pumps and does not involve a new lift station on Mariposa, and while you are at it, we hope you will instruct CAWD to act more considerately and less disdainfully towards affected neighbors. Thank you.



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