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Subject: Carmel Meadows Sewer Replacement Project
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June 23, 2023

Greetings CAWD Directors,

I am not directly affected by the Project, but I have been a resident of Carmel Meadows for twenty-seven years and have a vested interest in the neighborhood, so I'm adding my two cents to the conversation.

I must admit that I have not delved into the engineering details or the nitty gritty of the historical correspondence leading up to this project, but I did attend a few meetings, listened to some of the arguments, and watched the video presented by CAWD, so my comments are more general in nature.

It appears that the sewer line in question has been neglected to a point where it is no longer feasible to repair and must be replaced. It is interesting that the proposed Project replaces a simple gravity fed sewer line with a complex system run by electrical pumps in various locations, each of which will adversely affect specific Carmel Meadows homes and decrease their value.

There are two major problems with this scheme:

1. CAWD is unfairly delegating the operation, maintenance, and inherent risks of a portion of this system to homeowners, who, with their taxes, are already paying CAWD to provide these services.
2. The system's operation relies on a continuous supply of electrical power. Even though the developers of Carmel Meadows had the foresight to put our powerlines underground, the local grid that feeds them is antiquated and notoriously unreliable. Electrical malfunctions will expose the residents in the vicinity of the pumps to substantial risks to their health, safety, and well-being.

I'm sure there are reasons of which I'm not aware as to why this this Project was chosen over the replacement in kind option, but the ones that I have been made aware of are unconvincing.

The existing structure will need to be removed anyway, so it is hard to see where there would be a greater impact on the environment by replacing the structure in kind, as compared to the structure's removal and, in addition, installing a completely different system. Speaking of the environment, during my tenure at Carmel Meadows I watched the use of earth moving equipment and the planting of vegetation, as the old artichoke farm was converted into this new "environment". There is no reason that the site can't be restored and left in better condition than it exists today. The hillside may need to be stabilized in either scenario if it

affects the safety of the homes above it.

Safe employee access to the pipe, as well as nuisance hazards to employees like poison oak and crawling insects, can all be addressed by a simple catwalk running parallel to the pipe for inspection and maintenance, and by the removal of that decrepit old tree shown in the video.

During my working career, I have always been guided by the mantra of the “KISS” principle: Keep It Simple, Stupid! It has served me well, and a little of that in this situation may not hurt.

Sincerely,

Andy Popadiuk, P. E. (Ret)

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