

**From:** [Jacob Patterson](#)  
**To:** [Lemos, June](#); [Munoz, Cristal](#)  
**Cc:** [Miller, Tabatha](#); [Smith, John](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- 8/30/21 Special City Council Meeting, Item No. 2B  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 8:25:34 AM

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City Council,

This is a much more thoughtful contract that clearly got the attention of appropriate legal counsel since it addresses the specific concerns I raised in my prior public comments. At least these revisions address the City's, and particularly the school district's legal exposure concerns, not any concerns about the potential or likely impacts to nearby residents. I am a little concerned that the City is almost acknowledging that this new water source for the City, albeit temporary, could cause legal problems for the City because it could very well have significant impacts to the neighboring wells. Perhaps these issues formed the basis for one of the recent closed sessions about the City's significant exposure to litigation that didn't have any public information about the parties or claims. The school district is at least being protected from costs associated with any potential challenge, which makes sense, but that also means the City's water rate-payers are potentially footing the bill for any legal challenges. By asserting an exemption from further environmental review, the City's self-created drought emergency--self-created due to lack of adequate planning--is being used as an excuse to potentially harm others who have been planning ahead, which remains a concern even with these revisions.

By relying on the CEQA exemption of a declared emergency--the same exemption I thought about when this first came forward--the City is proceeding with this project without studying any risks to the neighboring residential property owners and residents associated with having a very large water user tapping into an existing water well that will likely far outpace the prior water diversions when the school district was the only user. That is, this looks like the City thinks its water users are more important than the private water users who live in the areas around the school district's well even though those residents do not have other water sources (not even water haulers until the City reopens outside sales). This provides a compelling reason to continue doing what the current city council has recently approved: allowing extra-territorial connections to the City's water system for properties that are close to the incorporated boundaries.

Anyway, I am mostly writing to say I appreciate the City taking the extra time to make sure the legal review of projects and contracts is thoughtful and thorough but also to say that these are not just legal concerns, they are practical and ethical concerns because the City's lack of planning for foreseeable drought conditions is now being used as an excuse to potentially harm other people and property that did plan ahead by tapping into the water source they rely upon but which the City is now taking for itself. I mean, Ukiah has extra water because it had the foresight to not just dump its treated wastewater and started reusing it through its purple pipe system.

The City and County are now going to create massive greenhouse gas emission increases due to the stream of water trucks going back and forth between Ukiah and Fort Bragg when the City is just dumping 500,000 gallons a day of treated wastewater into the ocean. The cost of the water hauling would have better been invested in our own system to pipe our treated wastewater back up to the water treatment plant. Since this is likely the new normal and not some anomaly, we should probably invest in planning this new pipeline that could go up Oak

or Cedar Streets so we can tap into an additional water source that won't involve sapping the groundwater that also supplies the water wells of numerous property owners and residents just outside of the City limits.

Thanks,

--Jacob

**From:** [Jenny Shattuck](#)  
**To:** [Lemos, June](#)  
**Subject:** 2B and 3B public comment  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 12:00:49 PM

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I am concerned about neighboring wells that are not on city water should the pumping extra from the schools lower or drain the water table. Will the city provide free trucked water to those who are affected should this happen? I ask this because it's a declared water emergency and there is wording to indemnify the school district, perhaps if this does indeed happen. Let's hope it doesn't but is there a plan if it does? I have family on wells in this area and it is very concerning.

Jenny Shattuck