

July 27, 2010

The Honorable Kris Wang
Mayor of Cupertino
10300 Torre Avenue
Cupertino, CA 95014-3202

Subject: Response to Issues Raised at July 20, 2010, City Council Meeting

Dear Mayor Wang:

Director Kwok and I thank you for the opportunity to appear before the City Council on July 20, 2010, to speak on current issues of mutual interest. A couple of concerns were voiced by Council members that I promised to look into. These concerns related to the landscaping at the Santa Clara Valley Water District's (District) McClellan Groundwater Recharge Ponds at McClellan and Bubb Roads and water quality in surface water and groundwater.

LANDSCAPING AT MCCLELLAN GROUNDWATER RECHARGE FACILITY

Thank you for sharing the pictures of the small northerly recharge pond at McClellan and Bubb Roads. The site does appear barren and we agree that the installation of landscaping has taken a long time to come to fruition.

The site was planted with 152 young plants in the fall of 2008 along the banks of the pond. Space at the site is very limited for the planting of statuesque trees and shrubs, however, the species planted include several that will grow 10 to 15 feet tall and nearly as wide which will screen both the pond and the surrounding fencing. The plant list includes Matilija poppies, Mexican sage, redbuds, lavender, rosemary, ceanothus, and several tall grasses. These low water use plants were quite small when planted and were installed without an irrigation system. Hand watering will continue until the plants are established. The plants are growing quite successfully and, I expect, will look quite nice in a couple of years.

WATER QUALITY

Concerns were also voiced by Councilmember Barry Chang relative to water quality specifically as it relates to groundwater recharge at the McClellan Ponds and to activities at the Lehigh Cement plant.

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Water is delivered to the McClellan Ponds from the Stevens Creek Pipeline which conveys imported water from the delta. Releases from Stevens Creek Reservoir cannot be directed to the McClellan Ponds for recharge. However, a portion of the water released from Stevens Creek Reservoir does recharge the groundwater basin through Stevens Creek. The water as it percolates into the ground is naturally filtered as it slowly moves through the aquifer. Groundwater pumped from local aquifers for drinking water uses must meet specific quality standards required by the Department of Health Services and monitored by the local water retailers. Groundwater is typically of high quality and meets water quality standards without the need for treatment. I invite you to explore the District's website for additional information on water resources and the District's activities and commitment to assure high quality drinking water.

Lehigh Cement is located within the unincorporated area of Santa Clara County and within the Permanente Creek Watershed. Activities at the cement plant are regulated by Santa Clara County, and various state and federal agencies. Although the District shares the City's interest in water quality, I would encourage you to direct specific concerns with Lehigh Cement's operation to the County or to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address the City Council and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Director Kwok or me.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Santos
Chair/Board of Directors

cc: Mr. Dave Knapp, City of Cupertino
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