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Alarm over Laguna drilling

Editor: I am very alarmed by the actions of the Sonoma County Water Agency regarding the current well drilling project. They have declared this project exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, with a notice quietly filed Nov. 21, 1997. This means an environmental impact report is not to be made, public input is not part of the process.

Active notification was not given to the nearby neighbors, who had requested notification in just these circumstances; the general public; nor neighboring municipalities. A very questionable well drainage hook up with an effluent line needs to be investigated.

They stated this project is a repair to three emergency wells, a minor adjustment. Their criteria is that it is not a new project, not controversial, and will not have a negative impact on the environment.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Clean Water has documentation of facts to the contrary. Connect with them through P.O. Box 484, Occidental, 94565; or 875-3855 phone and FAX. The county Board of Supervisors is the place to ask questions about this. Sebastopol City, Santa Rosa City, and the Sonoma County Water Agency need to be asking and answering questions of each other, and the public. This project looks like the first stages of their aquifer injection plan, which is highly controversial.

Citizens concerned about the environment and quality of life in the future want to know facts and have their opinions represented. What can citizens do? We can attend public meetings, if this isn't on the agenda, use the open comment time for non-agenda items to ask questions. We can get information, and alert others to the issue. The media can support our inquiry.

Meanwhile the drilling goes on 24 hours a day, I for one am honking as I drive by a site, to express my protest of the project proceeding without due process. Let's keep alert and active in protecting the care and use of our "water planet."

Susandra Spicer, Sebastopol