

Dear Council Member,

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Hawkins Delafield and Wood presented the contract for Fillmore's new Wastewater Treatment Plant. We have to date spent \$7,000,000 looking into our WWTP. We will be spending a minimum of \$42,782,000 more, in addition to \$1,219,569 in annual "service fee" costs for the next 20 years. The debt service on the bonds will be a burden on our city for years and years.

With that in mind, I had to let you know some new information that has just crossed my desk. Residents in Santa Paula and their City Engineer have been reviewing a new technology known as VERTEAT. This technology is a deep vault reactor that has many more advantages over the MBR technology that we've been exploring. Most importantly, it is an innovative, environmentally sound and economical solution.

This is a quote from the proposal that has been made to Santa Paula;

"During the week of November 6, this office, along with FOP and NORAM Engineering & Constructors Ltd., have reviewed the Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements put forth by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and developed a preliminary plan for meeting those requirements in a manner that is affordable and sustainable for the City of Santa Paula."

If this technology will be able to meet our requirements in an "affordable and sustainable" manner, we must not hesitate to consider this alternative.

These are some of the comments I have received about the VERTREAT system;

Deep Shaft Wastewater Treatment technology facts:

- Technology is over 20 years old
- Can be built in months – not years
- Costs substantially less to design and build
- The system is uncomplicated, easy to operate and maintain, and well suited to fully automated unattended operation
- The in-ground reactor ( vertical shaft 200-350 ft deep) is much less likely to sustain damage in an earthquake than aboveground reactors.
- Life span of shaft –100-125 years, no corrosion
- Solid waste handling is greatly reduced in volume and is less hazardous, making it easier to dispose of at a lesser cost (maybe even a profit)
- No serious disadvantages
- Energy efficient – even energy producing
- Produces Class A bio-solids which can go to Toland or other local site. Class B sludge must be transported to Arizona
- Class A bio-solids also produce higher energy in a gasification process- energy credits for gas produced
- Saves valuable land
- Electricity to run plant is 1/10th the cost of a membrane filter plant now being considered
- 100% odor free
- Footprint no more than 52 x 120 ft
- Takes spikes in water-flow easily
- Environmental "GREEN" grants available (see Thousand Oaks- received 110 million in green grants using solar power)
- Membrane filters in MBR plants get plugged up and they don't last 40 years. Must be replaced from time to time and they're not cheap. Potentially high maintenance costs

I am attaching a copy of the Santa Paula proposal for your review. I hope you will consider exploring this alternative wastewater treatment that will potentially save the ratepayers as well as the taxpayers millions of dollars. In an uncertain economy how are the ratepayers with the lowest

median income going to be able to pay for these sewer rate increases. How will the 21% of our citizens on fixed income disability payments pay for these increases? How can we as a city afford this?

You are being asked tonight to commit the public's limited resources to a project that is just the beginning of a long, expensive road to water and wastewater treatment.

The expense is so far beyond the realm of possibility for many residents that we're only getting the see a step by step increment of an ultimately two to three times more in total than what we are looking at today.

The selection of membrane bioreactor technology is perhaps the most reliable today. However, I believe that it is also very expensive to operate and maintain. It uses more energy and operating personnel than other technologies available, including Vertreat and Micromedia that might not have been included in preliminary options. Some of the benefits of the Vertreat system are lower operating costs and lower energy costs.

There are pluses and minuses in all technologies and none of them are perfect. I am only just learning all this so I'm trying to get up to speed and

This membrane bioreactor system is not going to bring us into compliance for chlorides or potential future requirements for pharmaceuticals or other constituents that have not had limits set. The future reverse osmosis chloride treatment will put us back in the same place we are now. Also, the clogging of membranes is an ongoing issue and expense.

This decision is so important and will have such an impact on our lives that it would be prudent to continue this decision so that these alternative technologies can be explored.

I would ask that this decision be postponed for another week or so to provide an opportunity to make sure that we have exhausted all efforts to look at alternatives.