

Public Comment
Strategic Plan Update
Deadline: 6/20/08 by 12 p.m.

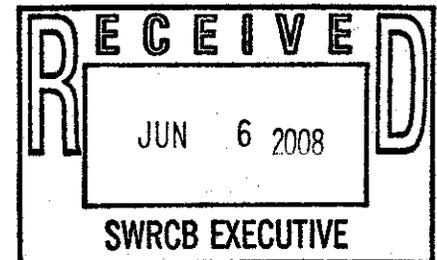
>>> "Gayle Washburn" <gaylewashburn@sbcglobal.net> Friday, June 06, 2008 11:15:42 PM >>>
Dear Secretary Adams,

Some additional thoughts on my previous comments suggesting some technical advisory services...

The State has the ability to compile data on treatment processes and effectiveness of those processes. A university research project could be implemented to give agencies data on cost, effectiveness and energy usage of all systems. When we tried to do this type of research for our community it was very difficult to get cost comparisons. This would have been so helpful and saved us millions.

Sincere Regards,

Jeffrey and Gayle Washburn
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Dear Secretary Adams,

We are requesting that these issues be discussed regarding the new Strategic Plan.

* First, the issue of economics in regards to small communities needs to be addressed. Our small community is very concerned about water quality and we have made efforts to comply with all laws. We are currently in the process of building an \$80 million dollar treatment plant and our current sewer rates are \$72 per month. What we have experienced in our community has been a devastating and costly process that has divided the community and will ultimately remove hundreds of millions of discretionary (and not so discretionary) income. The draft Plan states that "Most of the actions in the plan will be implemented in a watershed framework that stakeholders identified as the most effective approach to manage and protect the State's water resources. Healthy watersheds, or drainage basins, that provide clean and adequate surface water and groundwater, and support healthy riparian and wetland habitat, are essential to support the State's resources and economic future." The City of Fillmore has lots its ability to have any positive economic future. Multiply what has happened here to many other small California communities and the State's economic future is also diminished.

* The draft also doesn't include any discussion of energy. Energy and

water are both limited resources and you must use high rates of energy to produce treated water. Which resource will be depleted first? Peak Oil is here. There are processes that can be operated with much lower energy usage but in our experience, the more expensive technologies produced a higher profit margin for engineering consulting services, so were never selected.

* Part of the Plan should also include some type of technical advisory services. Small cities do not have the technical expertise to ensure the process is done in an economically feasible manner. They are dependent on large corporate interests that are guiding them into unnecessarily expensive processes. (Our City is a victim of this - the consultant driven RFQ/RFP process excluded California companies that could have provided lower cost solutions) Billions of California taxpayer money is being wasted this way. Public private partnerships are NOT benefitting taxpayers!

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Strategic Plan.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey and Gayle Washburn

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