

## Domine Barringer

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**From:** Barbara Buikema  
**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2023 4:13 PM  
**To:** Domine Barringer  
**Subject:** FW: Please reject CAWD Carmel Meadows Pipeline Replacement Project  
**Attachments:** CAWD letter 6.26.2023.docx

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**From:** Diane Guinta <diane.guinta@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2023 2:53 PM  
**To:** AngeloP@co.monterey.ca.us; Barbara Buikema <Buikema@cawd.org>; Ken White <White@cawd.org>; Michael Rachel <rachel@cawd.org>; Robert Siegfried <Siegfried@cawd.org>; Kevan Urquhart <urquhart@cawd.org>; Greg D'Ambrosio <DAmbrosio@cawd.org>; moores@co.monterey.ca.us  
**Cc:** Paul Goldstein <paulgoldsteinret@gmail.com>; David Scopp <dws Copp@gmail.com>; Charles R. Keller <ckeller@fentonkeller.com>; Deborah Ju <dsju371@gmail.com>; Larry Purcell <ldpurcell41@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Please reject CAWD Carmel Meadows Pipeline Replacement Project

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Dear Planning Commissioners, Associate Planner Phil Angelo, & Members of the CAWD Board,

Please find the attached letter requesting that the current CAWD proposal for the Carmel meadows Pipeline be rejected on the basis of public health concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Diane Guinta, PhD and Paul Goldstein

2730 Ribera Rd.

Carmel, CA 93923

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Diane Guinta  
[diane.guinta@gmail.com](mailto:diane.guinta@gmail.com)

Diane Guinta, Ph.D and Paul Goldstein

2730 Ribera Rd.

Carmel, C 93923

June 26, 2023

Dear Planning Commissioners, Associate Planner Phil Angelo, & Members of the CAWD Board,

We are writing to object to the proposed CAWD Carmel Meadows Pipeline Replacement Project to replace the gravity- driven system that is aging, but serves all neighbors. The proposed plan includes an electrified lift station behind Mariposa Rd. affecting two neighborhood homes directly and a connection to four neighborhood homes that will require electrified grinder pumps to remove their sewage from their properties. Our objections concern the health and safety of our neighbors and our neighborhood.

We are writing as residents of the Carmel Meadows neighborhood. We have owned our home at 2730 Ribera Rd. since 2014 and we value the natural beauty and close neighborhood ties we have found here. As you will notice, we are a community who sticks together and supports each other.

We are summarizing points that one of us made in a presentation at both the May 25 and June 15 CAWD meetings, which is in addition to signing the Carmel Meadows Neighborhood Association petition against this plan and a prior letter to the LUAC Board.

At both these meetings, I, Diane Guinta, Ph.D., made remarks based on my scientific background as a published author in the field of virology, having earned a Ph.D. in microbiology, and my long career in the pharmaceutical clinical development field involved in treating health conditions. Our public health concerns are as follows:

CAWD, and all water treatment facilities, provide a critical function in public health, reducing disease transmission in the developed world. In fact, the prime driver of increased lifespan in developed world compared with the third world is access to clean water and protection from waste in that water. A secondary benefit of this water treatment is to protect the wider environment from damage due to toxic materials in waste water. One of the best illustrations of this currently is the ability to measure SARS-CoV-2, a.k.a. the Covid virus, in waste water, enabling public health entities to predict outbreaks of the disease in the population. <sup>i</sup>, <sup>ii</sup> We are grateful for the work that CAWD, our local water treatment facility, does to keep our community safe.

The public health problem with the proposal is that it requires electricity to run the grinder pumps that will remove waste from the four homes. We experience long and frequent power failures in our neighborhood. This is a long-standing issue, we have regularly experienced power failures since 2014. Please refer to the multiple references to the frequent outages and their

durations in the multiple letters CAWD has received from Ms. Deborah and Dr. Werner Ju (recently 8 outages in less than one year, one as long as 106 hours). Many of these outages are due to weather-related events including storms and fires, some are due to statewide supply and demand issues<sup>iii</sup> and some are simply due to accidents. Indeed, please note that PG&E itself warns the public to be prepared for additional outages and delays in their being able to service large areas in the case of large outages.<sup>iii</sup>

Additionally, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts “hotter and hotter” temperatures, increased state power needs, increased frequency of climate-related disasters, and rising power costs due to extreme heat.<sup>iv</sup> Taken together, we should expect more and more expensive power disruptions.

How does this affect the neighborhood under the CAWD-proposed Carmel Meadows Pipeline Replacement project?

Effects on Grinder Pump Neighbors:

CAWD’s proposal requires unfairly that the homeowners take responsibility for the costs associated with grinder pump operation, including flushing after time away from home (water waste in the face of frequent droughts in California) and running the pump for daily use (requiring electricity). What CAWD fails to mention, *even after this point has been raised repeatedly*, is the effect of a power failure on such a system. Currently, all residents of the neighborhood may flush their toilets safely in a prolonged power failure because the system relies on gravity to remove water waste from their homes. That will not be the case for the homes with the grinder pumps.

CAWD does not propose a solution to this problem. Does CAWD believe that homeowners should also buy individual generators? In addition to being expensive, generators are also dangerous to the environment and the homeowners since they rely on a regular resupply of flammable fossil fuels which require transport and storage. Furthermore, access to resupplying these fuels may be difficult in a power failure when entire swaths of our area are without power (the nearby Crossroads shopping center was also without power for many days this year). I will add that some of the affected neighbors are senior citizens, like many of us in the neighborhood. Requiring these neighbors to run a generator to safely flush their waste, which is now removed by gravity, is absurd, not feasible and certainly not consistent with what their home ownership entitles them to expect.

Let’s assume that CAWD does install these systems, maintains them and provides back up power. There still remains an issue and that is grinder pump failure. This will inevitably cause back-ups, possibly into the house and will likely cause spills of waste water, waste and toilet paper onto the hillside. One need not imagine this scenario, a simple Google search of grinder pump failure will give you a good picture of this. This is neither consistent with the health and safety of the families nor the hillside and lagoon environment.

### Effects on the lift pump neighbors:

In a power failure such as the 106 hour recent failure, how will the *limited capacity* lift pump service the neighborhood? Will there be a large noisy generator placed at the base of the backyards of the Mariposa Ct. adjacent neighbors? Will the capacity of that lift pump be exceeded in a long power failure or storm? What happens when the limited capacity lift pump fills? We will have spills or back-ups into homes? Spills or back-ups into the lagoon area? Again, not taking advantage of gravity is problematic.

Of course, the alternative to this system is to replace the aging gravity-based system with a new gravity-based system for all of the neighbors. New materials and better engineering than were available 60 years ago are now available. Please see the most recent communication from Drew Lander, former CAWD Principal Engineer. Public health and safety demand that CAWD replace the old system with an equivalent or superior system, not an inferior one. Gravity will be around all day, every day for the life of the new system. CAWD should rely on it.

It is not clear to us why CAWD has not explored modern engineering approaches to the new or replaced system in good faith. We note this because CAWD has not responded to concerns honestly and nor has it had transparent discussions to address issues.

Finally, we would like to strongly object to the characterization of the neighbors as people who do not care about the environment or the safety of CAWD employees. This is simply bad faith from CAWD staff as evidenced by the staff presentation at the June 15, 2023 CAWD Board Meeting.<sup>v</sup>

- The most glaring example of this is slide #7 in the CAWD Board meeting slide show presentation by Ms. Rachel Lather, the CAWD project engineer. This slide shows a bare arm with a tick sticking out of it. We live in this neighborhood, that hillside is in our backyards. *No one* with any sense walks on that hill without light colored protective clothing, pants tucked into socks and long sleeves. Surely CAWD provides or requires protective clothing to their staff.
- That same slide demonstrates lack of good faith in showing large trees growing into the easement area. The easement should have been maintained and needs to be maintained more effectively by CAWD, regardless of what system is installed.
- The CAWD-written KENNEDY/JENKS 2023 letter quote on Slide 10 which stated:
  - “KENNEDY/JENKS 2023 letter substantiates this. “As CAWD started the permitting process, it became apparent that permitting heavy construction in the sensitive lagoon area was extremely challenging....time limitations and monitoring requirements in particular made the work difficult if not unfeasible within the boundaries of the permitting process.” “
  - The notion that this project compares in any way with the scope of what will be done in the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (CR FREE) project is absurd. In fact, CREE will be undertaking substantial revegetation after construction in the area and the hillside should not be treated differently.

Please reject this inadequate CAWD proposal and ask CAWD to find better solutions to the replacement of the Carmel Meadows Pipeline Replacement Project. Please encourage them to rely on gravity for all homeowners. The impending large CR FREE project provides a perfect opportunity for coordinated work that protects the community as well as the environment that is so dear to us all.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Diane Guinta, Ph.D and Paul Goldstein

cc: Mr. Larry Purcell, Carmel Meadows Association

Mr. David Scopp

Ms. Deborah Ju

Mr. Chuck Keller

Ms. Rachel Lather, CAWD

Ms. Barbara Buikema, CAWD

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<sup>i</sup> <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#wastewater-surveillance> 6/22/2023

<sup>ii</sup> [https://www.cawd.org/files/3a389a596/6-19-23-Facility-Influent\\_KitID\\_10309-E.pdf](https://www.cawd.org/files/3a389a596/6-19-23-Facility-Influent_KitID_10309-E.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> [https://www.pge.com/en\\_US/residential/outages/planning-and-preparedness/safety-and-preparedness/find\\_your-rotating-outage-block/find-your-rotating-block.page](https://www.pge.com/en_US/residential/outages/planning-and-preparedness/safety-and-preparedness/find_your-rotating-outage-block/find-your-rotating-block.page) 6/22/2023

<sup>iv</sup> <https://coast.noaa.gov/states/fast-facts/climate-change.html#:~:text=Higher%20Temperatures,over%2090%20degrees%20each%20year>. 6/22/2023

<sup>v</sup> [https://www.cawd.org/files/cd0c2a00a/Carmel+Meadows+Gravity+Sewer\\_Special+Meeting+Presentation.pdf](https://www.cawd.org/files/cd0c2a00a/Carmel+Meadows+Gravity+Sewer_Special+Meeting+Presentation.pdf)

**From:** [Barbara Buikema](#)  
**To:** [Domine Barringer](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please reject CAWD Carmel Meadows Pipeline Replacement Project  
**Date:** Monday, June 26, 2023 4:16:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [CAWD letter 6.26.2023.docx](#)

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**Cc:** Paul Goldstein <paulgoldsteinret@gmail.com>; David Scopp <dws Copp@gmail.com>; Charles R. Keller <ckeller@fentonkeller.com>; Deborah Ju <dsju371@gmail.com>; Larry Purcell <ldpurcell41@gmail.com>  
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