

From: [Jessica Raymond](#)
To: [Downstream Distribution Group](#)
Subject: Comment on Ejector Pump Policy
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023 9:00:32 AM

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To Barbara Buikema and the CAWD Board:

I am writing in reference to the CAWD Installed Ejector Pump Policy that is on the agenda for the board meeting today.

CAWD should always prioritize maintenance of gravity-based residential wastewater systems. This is good engineering practice. In the rare circumstance CAWD is considering converting an existing customer to an ejector pump system, the policy should seek to minimize inequity.

All properties with gravity flowing sewer systems in your service area were purchased with the reasonable expectation that wastewater services and infrastructure would be provided and funded by CAWD (via our taxes) on an ongoing basis. With that understanding factored into purchase decisions and home values, requiring a customer to move to an ejector pump system imposes unavoidable financial damages.

To minimize inequity among customers, all quantifiable impacts from such a decision should be borne by the District as a matter of policy. This would encompass full design and installation project costs (including for electrical upgrades and restoration of any damage to landscape and structures during install), all maintenance, repair/replacement and power costs for pumps in perpetuity, and provision of backup power when necessary with clear guidelines for the quality of service customers should expect.

CAWD should also recognize that there are harder-to-quantify costs to these households, including reduced enjoyment of backyards due to noise and noxious gases from pumps, erosion of privacy from access easements to pump locations, increased vigilance and anxiety around drain wastes (particularly with regard to guests or renters), and diminished property value. These factors should be taken very seriously in considering the best course of action for projects where ejector pumps are deemed to be a viable option.

To be clear, my position remains that Pescadero Rd should continue to be served by a downhill sewer line rather than convert to pumps for a number of reasons, principally feasibility, costs, and fire risks.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of input from the public.

Sincerely,
Jessica Raymond