

# OURANIA RIDDLE

My name is Ourania Riddle, a Dixon resident, member of the Solano County Taxpayers Association, former grand juror and former director of the California Grand Jurors Association.

I appreciate the opportunity to address this commission.

I heard the list of the "stakeholders" named by the previous presenters. However, I did not hear the name of the stakeholders I represent, the taxpayers, the ones who are paying for all these mandates.

My experience has been with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board. In my opinion their goal and objective is to bankrupt every small community in California with their unreasonable and unscientific regulatory demands.

Several small communities such as the City of Williams, the City of Dixon, the City of Maxwell, just to name a few, have seen the wrath of their demands. Their arrogant ultimatums for cities to address "salinity" without providing scientific guidelines is absurd. As a citizen and taxpayer who is paying their salary I am deeply offended with the Regional Board and their staff disdainful and rude attitude.

I request the Little Hoover Commission to review the following issues:

1. It is common knowledge, and Mr. Longley pointed it out, that salt discharging water softeners contribute significantly to the salinity problem. However, these water softeners are protected by state law. Cities have no way to regulate their installation. We have requested legislation to be introduced that will give cities the tools needed to regulate them. Our Taxpayer group have met with our Legislators, Ms Wolk and Mr. Machado on this issue, however, I believe a request from you may expedite the process.

2. It is my understanding during the proposed Budget Act of 2008 that Budget Control language specific to the State Water Resources Control Board can be included. We have drafted a language which would either:

- A. Require any administrative civil fine to be deposited for credit back to the local agency for building supplemental capital projects. AND/OR

- B. The Executive Officers of any of the regional water control boards, when issuing a fine to report to the legislators the grounds or substantive basis for the issuance the administrative civil fine, the board's plan to assist the local agency

to rehabilitate or mitigate the water discharge concerns, and whether the board or executive director exhausted all reasonable attempts to assist the local agency before the administrative civil fine was issued; including following due process.

I strongly believe that the recently imposed fine of \$220,000 to the City of Dixon was a retaliation because the citizens of Dixon exercised their Constitutional right and repealed the tripling of the sewer fees that were imposed for a project that is not need it. There is scientific data, which this data oriented Regional Board does not recognize. This data indicates that Dixon is not polluting the ground water. The City of Dixon has done nothing to warrant the fine. In fact, when the Dixon stakeholders/ratepayers repealed the tripling of the sewer fees, the City of Dixon appointed a citizens committee who's charge is to recommend solutions addressing the Regional Board's concerns but also be acceptable by the stakeholders who will be paying for these solutions. As a member of this citizens committee, which has been meeting every Monday evening since March 2007, I am offended that a fine has been imposed to the city of Dixon for "doing nothing."

I request that you review the particulars of this fine and recommend that the Regional Board return our money plus interests.