

10/9/18 AGENDA, ITEM 6a - THE GREENBELT INFILTRATION PROJECT
SUPPLEMENTAL EMAIL FROM RACHEL BURGER SUBMITTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL
ON 10/9/18 AT 10:54 A.M.

From: Rachel Hess Burger <rachelhess@yahoo.com>

Date: October 9, 2018 at 10:54:42 AM PDT

To: "citycouncil@hermosabch.org" <citycouncil@hermosabch.org>, "edoerfling@hermosabch.org" <edoerfling@hermosabch.org>

Subject: Fw: Water Infiltration Project Comments and Concerns

Reply-To: Rachel Hess Burger <rachelhess@yahoo.com>

Please include the letter below as part of the official record, attached to the staff report

Dear City Council members,

I have spent some time reading the Staff Report dated October 9, 2018 regarding alternative locations for the Greenbelt infiltration project and have some concerns and questions about this project which I understand will be discussed at tonight's city council meeting.

RESPONSIBILITY

Hermosa Beach joined the EWMP group to collaborate with the other cities in the Beach Cities Watershed Management Group. Why then does Hermosa Beach seem to be taking on all the work and the risks of having this huge project in our densely populated city? Shouldn't our responsibility in the water infiltration project be proportional to the 10-15% of the storm runoff that we produce? Why is Redondo Beach not partnering to take the lead on this project when the Herondo Drain runs along their border as well?

SITE LOCATION

Per the staff report, site selection was a technical exercise that did not consider the proximity of the project to residential areas nor the impact on the community during construction, which I find to be unconscionable. Hermosa Beach is the most densely populated city of the cities in the Beach Cities Watershed Management Group. A project of this magnitude could potentially affect hundreds of households not just during construction but also during future maintenance.

SAFETY

I am concerned about the lack of land studies by a neutral third party and the fact that safety is not even mentioned as one of the prioritization factors in site selection. It is my understanding that Hermosa Beach has yet to do Environmental Impact Reports on the locations under consideration. Issues such as liquefaction and ground water levels need to be carefully considered in advance. If ground water is too high, public health could be affected in the event of contamination. If liquefaction is a concern, numerous buildings could be at risk not to mention property values. If there is ongoing noise or smells, quality of life could be affected. All these issues need to be carefully considered when choosing a site. We all want a cleaner ocean and to comply with the water quality requirements,

however despite the possibility of fines, we cannot ignore potential risks to the safety of our residents.

NEXT STEPS

Due to the fact that Hermosa Beach is the smallest and most densely populated of the cities in the the Beach Cities Watershed Management Group with the smallest contribution of storm runoff, I urge you to consider a site outside of Hermosa Beach. If a site within the city of Hermosa Beach is inevitable, please consider a smaller scale project and be careful to consider the impact on our residents.

Sincerely,

Rachel Burger
714 ½ Loma Drive