

July 31, 2011

City of Rio Dell

Ron Henrickson, City Manager

675 Wildwood Ave.

Rio Dell, CA 95562

Dear Mr. Henrickson:

Re. incomplete water infrastructure project

The recent capital budget update provided at the City Council meeting held on July 19th included a brief reference to 25 homes on Riverside in Rio Dell that were not provided new lateral connections to the new water main installed in 2005. The city is now having to budget \$25,000 from the already stretched thin budget to provide these connections rather than having them paid for out of the large grants that were specifically intended for exactly this purpose. During the budget update, I inquired as to the reasons why 25 homes in a major residential neighborhood were missed entirely and now requiring remedial action. Finance Director Stephanie Beauchaine was not able to provide the background information at that time and Randy Jensen from Public Works was not present at the time to answer the question. I would like information as to how 25 homes were skipped over and not provided the lateral connections that were a major goal of the project. Who signed off on the project's completion for the city despite this glaring hole? The project was believed to have been completed back in 2005, why has it taken so long to recognize the obvious problem? The financial outlook for the city is bleak, as per the recent Compensation Committee report, where will the \$25,000 come from? What homes specifically are affected by this glaring omission? If you are unable to provide the street addresses of affected properties, please provide the affected block or range of addresses.

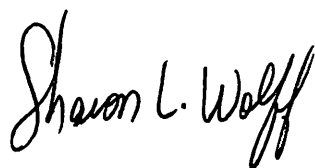
We have been very concerned about the way capital projects have been conducted in Rio Dell and this disclosure certainly doesn't lend itself to having any confidence in the city's ability to complete the critical infrastructure improvements that are so desperately needed. The water project in question was already used by the then Public Works Director to install an unmetered water line to their personal property in what can only be described as one of the worst kept secrets in town. The work crew

involved with the project had already provided information regarding the illegal water line, I would find it hard to believe that some of them didn't also mention the fact that 25 homes were not hooked up to the new water main. When did the city first become aware of the problem with unconnected homes and how did it learn about the problem? We are very interested in the answer to this question as the project was allegedly completed, signed off on by the city and the final payments were issued long ago.

On the subject of the water project, how were the valuable brass valves that were removed and replaced disposed of? What was the dollar value of the materials removed? How much money did the city receive from the scrap value of materials taken out during that project? If none, why? The scrap value of those fixtures is very high and would amount to a significant dollar value.

We look forward to receiving information as to the 25 homes that were left out of the most significant upgrade to the water infrastructure in Rio Dell since the city water system replaced individual wells. I would imagine that the homeowners would also like information as to how they were skipped over and why it has taken so long to recognize the problem.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon L. Wolff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon L. Wolff

3 Painter St.

Rio Dell, CA 95562