

Attachment to 3-10-22 minutes

Re: Town Water System

Public Comment

Jessica Stull-Otto <j.stullotto@gmail.com>

Thu 3/10/2022 8:45 AM

To: Covelo CSD <covelocsd@hotmail.com>

Hi Dane,

I thought I'd add send my thoughts on this to you as the CCSD manager. As a resident living within the District, I think it best to put our limited resources into expanding sewer capacity and providing emergency water for fire suppression as the vital pieces needed for being able to build anything new in town that would expand the customer base of the CCSD. If these first two are in place and allow for development of the downtown, then that expanded customer base could potentially allow for development of a town drinking water system, if the need arose in the future. Though I understand that developing any kind of water system would require expanding the scope of what the CCSD can work on.

I also think that any kind of drinking water system should only be developed if the need is shown through water resource analysis. Without this clearly demonstrated need, then we risk raising the costs of living in town, through higher taxes to pay for the system and forcing people to pay for water that they already have access to for free, could in fact limit development further and harm low-income households in town. Increased costs to residents would have to be very clearly demonstrated as needed for the public good and shown that the results would benefit the community enough to balance the increased costs. I also think that this would need to be put to the residents within the District for a vote, not be pushed by entities that are outside the district boundaries that will not face the increased cost of living associated with the cost of developing and maintaining a town water system.

Lastly, in addition to expansion of sewer services and the development of an emergency fire suppression water system in town, I also support the CCSD and/or Water District developing an emergency drinking water storage system, for times of extreme drought, to assure that people have access to drinking water. This could also help meet the need for drinking water during longer term power outages due to PSPS or emergency events as well.

Thanks for taking my thoughts on the matter,

Jessica