

Hello, my name is {Ron Tamarisk} and I am a director of the Circle Oaks County Water District. I speak on behalf of the entire board of directors:

The Circle Oaks Water District is the sole water supplier for approximately 500 people in the community of Circle Oaks. We have a responsibility and legal obligation to the residents who have depended upon this water source for 50 years. Our residents and families rely exclusively upon one vertical well and one spring water source supplied by several horizontal bores for drinking water and fire suppression.

Contrary to what has been said, there has been no reasonable attempt to contact us regarding our serious concerns about the impacts of the project on our community. As such our concerns were not registered during the drafting of the project studies. The water district has two employees, an answering machine, an email address, a website, and a physical office building within 50 yards of the main entrance to Walt Ranch.

The Draft EIR is inadequate and incomplete and fails to disclose the type and degree of water impacts on the project's neighboring water users.

The following represents some our concerns. These concerns will be detailed in our written comments on the DEIR.

Our first concern is water supply {and the cumulative impact of more and more vineyards}. In section 4.6 of the dEIR we find the one and only mention of the Circle Oaks Water District, as follows.... "COCWD may also have two wells and a spring water source located along the southern Walt Ranch property boundary". In appendix D, the pumping study did not include any assessment of the impact or recovery rates on our nearby wells of the Circle Oaks County Water District, including one only 2,000 feet from their proposed well # 4.

Our second major concern is groundwater quality. {The impact of all four of their wells as well as the four Circle S Ranch wells drawing at peak usage for an extended period in the summer is not properly assessed.} With 300 acres of new vineyards, what is the potential for increase in particulates, chemicals and pesticides into the aquifer and existing off-site wells? If the groundwater is drawn down, would boron or other contaminants increase to unacceptable levels?

Finally, what effect will this project have on our infrastructure? Our tanks are located on steep slopes below proposed oak woodland clear cuts. Our water delivery and sewage pipes lie underneath Circle Oaks Drive. These face potential disruption from prolonged traffic by heavy vehicles and by land slippage exacerbated by the massive vegetation changes proposed by this project.

Without a safe and reliable water supply, the Circle Oaks community is doomed. We urge the planning department to consider our comments on the deficiencies of the Walt Ranch DEIR with the utmost attention. We don't want yet another Napa County community with inadequate or absent water.

Thank you.

Circle Oaks County Water Board:

Jed Welsh, President

Christy Vough, Vice President

Leslie Ellison, Director

Ron Tamarisk, Director

Brian Douglas, Director