

June 6, addition to Public Comments

Yvonne Baginski

Further investigation of the cause of the “toxic” soils (as alleged in the GIV documents submitted to LAFCO), has been difficult and stymied by due to American Canyon Recycled Water’s staff absences and lack of time. The questions/concerns remaining include:

1. What is the cause of the alleged oversalination of the soils? Have they always been poor soils?
2. The finger of blame has been pointed (by GIV lab analysis documents) to American Canyon Recycled Water plant. However this blame is factually unsubstantiated. Data supporting this claim is lacking. I have tried to locate GIV metered water usage, including a breakdown by months and years. As well as usage totals. Staff were unable to gather this information in time for this public hearing.
3. There is no salinity data on water exclusively used by GIV. Salinity sampling data is done “as a whole,” however...does the facility alert GIV at times when salinity levels are lower than other times? Salinity levels vary according to source of water, throughout the day/week?
4. Why does the facility have no salinity data on harm to soil? Why doesn’t the facility compare effluent analysis with other water recycling centers? In Sonoma County, for example, there are 58 vineyards watering with recycled water. There are no complaints of salinated soils or damaged crops. Several studies on recycled water also make claims that recycled water salinity is easily leached away from the topsoil after winter rains.
5. ACRW claims that all discharged effluent meets California effluent standards. However, they did not offer data to support this claim, or comment on whether effluent standards have been breached on occasion.
6. GIV believes that the alleged increased salinity in the effluent could be coming from the Mezzetta plant. Again, there’s no mention of this in the documents, and no substantiating data. If this is the case, why wasn’t something done about this? Why wasn’t Mezzetta treating water before discharge? Could this have been an easy fix? Should it be considered immediately since landscape use is also in jeopardy?
7. Has GIV been able to make an insurance claim on their now-toxic soil, and collect damages? Have they thought about taking action against ACRW or Mezzetta for damaging their business?
8. Is this property part of the Williamson Act?