

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION #3**

For Planning Commission Agenda of:  
December 17, 2020

- Consent Agenda Item
- Continued Hearing Item
- Public Hearing Item
- Department Report
- Old Business

**Re: Amendments to the Humboldt Bay Area Plan and Coastal Zoning Regulations to Allow the Samoa Peninsula Wastewater Project**

Record Number: PLN-2020-16642 - LCP  
Assessor Parcel Number: Various  
Samoa and Fairhaven Area

Attached for the Planning Commission's record and review is the following supplementary information item:

1. Comment Letter from Richard Spjut

## ATTACHMENT 1

### Comment Letter from Richard Spjut

Richard Spjut  
2651 Lincoln Ave.  
Fairhaven, CA 95564

December 17, 2020

Humboldt County Planning Commission  
**Subject: The Humboldt Bay Area Plan (HBAP) and the Coastal Zoning Regulations (CZR) are proposed to be amended to allow the Samoa Peninsula Wastewater Project (SPWP) to proceed.**

Dear Planning Commission and Public:

I am asking you to reject the proposed amendment to our HBAP and CZR.

If there are any currently failed on-site wastewater treatment systems, they can be repaired on-site.

A SPWP carries with it problems of higher costs and, even worse, unknown costs for failures in an even larger system.

We can point to dangerous, aerobic-pathogenic off-gassing of low-elevation, near-sea-level large sewer systems such as those in Arcata (around the marsh on extreme low-tides), Eureka (around 1st and 2nd St) or San Francisco (downtown sewer vents) as larger systems, similar to the proposed SPWP, where failures are not only inevitable but also so costly and complex that even rich cities have great, expensive difficulties in their repair.

Furthermore, we in Fairhaven are tired of our taxes, some levied without representation in the form of special fees and higher utility rates, going to special interests. The SPWP would place a significant burden of the cost of development in Samoa onto the current residents of Fairhaven! This offset reduction of cost for the developer comes out of the pockets of us, the residents!

The Samoa Projects (SP) have already brought more attention and congestion onto the peninsula. For example, there were thousands of people on the peninsula this July in stark contrast to previous years where there were only small gatherings of tens of people.

Further development on the Samoa Peninsula puts more people at risk in the tsunami zone.

The traffic in the town of Samoa is already reportedly worse, with the new arrival of 150 low-income, Section 8 residents. The new residents are driving 40 MPH along a residential street of speed-limit 15 MPH where children, people, pets, and other animals roam.

Furthermore, if an accident occurs on the bridges or they become damaged

beyond use in an earthquake, the routes of egress in case of an evacuation become even more problematic.

Also, around 5pm, the intersection of the 101 (4th and 5th street) and R St (where Myrtle becomes R St and then HWY 255 over the bridges) is already congested. Adding further traffic requirements to that intersection will add further problems on-top of an already existing planning problem. The long history of the intersection and its poor design has carried with it significant negative cultural impacts, along with many safety hazards.

Projects for low-income housing are best completed in places like Los Angeles county or the Bay Area, where there are more resources and experienced personnel for issues brought by low-income housing.

The addition of hundreds of new people to the community has already significantly, negatively effected the quality of life on the peninsula.

Our quality of life is getting worse because of SP.

The argument that there might be “water quality problems resulting from failed on-site wastewater treatment systems on the Samoa Peninsula” is a false-flag for special interests. This false-flag started with the first LAFCO meeting for CSD formation a few years back, when it was asked “Is there any evidence that on-site wastewater treatment systems cause environmental harm?” The answer was “No.” In addition, one politician said “No, but the de-facto assumption is that they do.” From this, some politicians were quoted in a local paper published within the next few days claiming the current on-site wastewater treatment cause problems. To be clear, this was stated by the same politicians who were present when the LAFCO board answered that, “No[, there is no evidence that properly maintained, well-designed on-site wastewater treatment systems cause environmental harm].” Thus, politicians on that LAFCO board and the ensuing press were sources of misinformation. Further dispersal of misinformation can easily be construed as disinformation spread by special interest groups.

The introduction of a larger population of people beholden to the SP also significantly, negatively effects the political balance on the Peninsula. It dilutes the votes of folks in Fairhaven who would vote against projects that are not in their interests.

In closing, when I signed up for a mortgage on my first and only home, I bought into a rural, working-class, unincorporated area of Humboldt county. The culture of working, honest, good-natured folks is one of the main reasons why I chose to live here. Significant recent changes due to the SP are unwanted and are harmful to our community! All for what purpose? To line the pockets of developers? We say NO!

So we ask again, dear Planning Commission, please **reject** the proposed amend-

ments to our HBAP and CZR which are intended to pave the way for a SPWP.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Richard Spjut