

Question and Answers Following Water Options Power Point

October 2011

1. Could we split our irrigation water from our household water and treat the household water using a whole house reverse osmosis unit? Isn't the California Department of Public Health exploring new regulations to allow this?

Answer- The state does not allow for "point of entry" or "point of use" systems. There is no mechanism to regulate and monitor such systems. Assembly Bill No. 2515 allows these types of systems until January 1, 2014 for a public water system that serves a severely disadvantaged community.

2. Is the aquifer big enough to handle the gallons per minute of the pumps?

Answer- Yes, it should be according to the information provided by Larry Ernst. A monitoring well will be drilled prior to drilling to verify quality and flow.

3. If we are talking about replumbing, why do we need two wells?

Answer- Because the state requires our water supply to be redundant

4. Is there a study using the golf course well that involves treating nitrates and hexavalent chromium?

Answer- There is an experiment that is being done in conjunction with UC Davis, to test treating the water for nitrates. Dr. Jeannie Darby, from UD Davis, has confirmed that nitrates will be treated. Chromium will be tested for, but not treated. The system produces minimal brine.

5. If we have enough water for fire flow, do we need redundancy for drinking water?

Answer- Yes, we need to meet the redundancy requirement that has been set for us at 411 gpm for two sources.

6. If we replumb, could we put the irrigation pipes in the ditches that we use for drainage and use the existing pipes for drinking water?

Answer- We are looking into this. North Davis Meadows II neighbor, Bruce Thompson, has volunteered to investigate this possibility.

7. How many homes are necessary to constitute the need for a “public water supply”?

Answer- A public water system is any water supply that serves water to at least 25 people for at least 60 days out of the year or that serves domestic water to 15 or more service connections.

8. Why did NDM I have only one well, when the neighborhood was first built?

Answer- Standards have changed. In the past, the golf course well was allowed to be manually connected to the NDM I system for back up purposes.

9. How do we know that standards won't change?

Answer- We don't. The arsenic standard dropped from 50ppb to 10ppb a couple of years ago.

10. What is the price for two new small wells?

Answer- The estimated price for an eight inch diameter well is \$440,000. Two wells would cost approximately \$880,000. Given that we would have four wells with his option, a major electrical upgrade would probably be necessary.

11. Do the nitrates in a well increase, if it is not being used?

Answer- Not usually, but they do for the well with the inflatable packer, however. When this well is being heavily pumped during the summer the nitrates typically are in the upper 20's to low 30's. During the winter months nitrates in this well are in the 40's. This appears to be due to how well the packer is able to seal off the upper aquifer.

12. Will individual wells satisfy Environmental Health?

Answer- It has not been determined if all neighbors will be able to drill individual wells due to requirement that wells need to be 100 feet from septic systems/leach fields. As such, this option is not recommended by the water subcommittee.

13. What do “higher quality materials” consist of?

Answer- Stainless steel would be used for the wells and would also be sealed to 600 feet as opposed to the current 50 foot seals.

14. What are the standards for individual wells?

Answer- The construction of the wells would be up to each individual owner. It would be up to each owner to monitor the quality of their water and treat it accordingly. Individual wells would be tapping into aquifers known to have high nitrates.

15. What is the time frame that we are looking at?

Answer- We hope to have a neighborhood survey regarding options completed in November. Engineering design and cost estimate to completed in December/January and a 218 election to be conducted in January/February.

16. When could fines kick in for not meeting the compliancy order to have all improvements to the water quality and redundancy issues completed by December 1, 2010?

Answer- Regina Espinoza reported that Environmental Health has discretion. It is important to show that progress is being made toward a solution. It will probably be 9-10 months after any critical decision on funding has been made before a new system is in place.

17. Could we look into installing the fiber optics needed for internet, if we dig trenches to replumb the neighborhood?

Answer- yes, this could be investigated.