

Sept. 30, 2008

Mayor and Councilmembers

Bernicia Herald

Letter to the editor:

One of my concerns about the up-coming Seeno/Discovery Builders project is about what happens in the four watersheds currently on this property. In the Seeno project, these areas of naturally draining water are scheduled to be filled, with all existing native plant and animal life extinguished.

The environmental study on this project is inadequate and does not address this issue. Seeno/Discovery Builders is known for ignoring environmental guidelines. How can this effect Bernicia?

Where is this naturally draining water going to end up after Seeno/Discovery Builders eliminates its natural channels? Maybe into Lake Herman, Bernicia's drinking water supply. This issue has been ignored by Seeno/Discovery Builders. Mr. Seeno doesn't live here. We do. We drink the water. This project needs more study of it's environmental impacts.

Please urge our city councilmembers, before Oct. 7, 2008, to vote "no" on the current project and require a thorough environmental assessment on any project, thereby protecting our health.

Sue Johnson
153 Conline Place
745-9349

VIII-B-397

Anne Cardwell - Fwd: Forum Facts from Experts: for council packet

From: Charlie Knox
To: Anne Cardwell; Jayne York
Date: 9/30/2008 1:40 PM
Subject: Fwd: Forum Facts from Experts: for council packet

more from Marilyn

>>> Marilyn Bardet <mjbardet@sbcglobal.net> 9/30/2008 1:21 PM >>>

Charlie,

Here are 3 fact sheets I made, quoting basic info from our 3 main speakers at the Benicia First Forum, Sept 18.

I've also taken the City's land use map (1999) and drawn in the "zone of influence" which Dr. Tager describes as characterizing the outer range of traffic pollution's effects as demonstrated in the So-Cal Children's Health Study. I will be bringing this map in, for reproduction at smaller scale, and for use at the Oct 7th meeting. Meanwhile, here are the fact sheets.

-- Marilyn
for Benicia First

VIII-B-398

Facts from the Benicia First Forum

Air Quality & Children's Health

Sept. 18, 2008

From:

Dr Ira Tager, Md., Epidemiologist, Professor, Director, UC Berkeley School of Public Health
Prevention Research Center

“Lung sacs develop fully in the first 20 weeks of life.”

“Lung function is a better indicator of mortality—better than blood pressure.”

“The Southern California Children’s Health Study was conducted for 10+ years, between 1993 and 2001, and followed 5,500 children for chronic exposures to air pollution. Marker pollutants were diesel PM [particulate matter at 10 and 2.5 microns] and NOX₂. A sub-set of this study, conducted for 8 years involved 1,500 children. The main concern was traffic exposure’s affect on lung function and residential distance to freeways. . . For this study, the “zone of influence” that would characterize effects of traffic pollution was 500 meters from a freeway.”

“Hazards of traffic pollution include tire and brake fragments, tailpipe toxics (NOX, CO, Hydrocarbons and PM [particulate matter]. Allergens and other biological agents add to cumulative effects of roadway pollution.”

About health effects in children and adolescents:

“An 89% increase in asthma risk is associated to living close to a freeway.”

Facts from the Benicia First Forum

Air Quality & Children's Health

Sept. 18, 2008

From:

Dr. Paul Roberts, Phd., Exec Vice Pres. & Chief Scientific Officer, Sonoma Technologies Inc.

Dr. Roberts recently completed the "Mobile Source Air Toxics Study" in Las Vegas, Nevada, which was conducted for one year, monitoring air quality at three schools that are located adjacent to Highway 95. The research was funded by a U.S. 95 Settlement Agreement between the Sierra Club and the Nevada Dept. of Transportation and FHWA [Federal Highway Administration].

The required components of the study were:

- monitoring at the three school sites
- Filtration added to HVAC systems at schools
- Bus retrofit program
- Bus idling education
- FHWA gradient study (with EPA, ongoing research)

"At all three school sites, high black carbon concentrations are seen at low wind speeds regardless of direction."

"Morning concentrations dominate indoor and outdoor exposure (summer); overnight and morning concentrations dominate in winter."

"Low wind speeds often allow high pollutant concentrations on both sides of the roadway (with sound wall)."

"Wind conditions and time-of-day have a significant influence on near-roadway exposure."

Facts from the Benicia First Forum

Air Quality & Children's Health

Sept. 18, 2008

From:

Jenny Bard, Director of Regional Air Quality Programs, American Lung Association of California

“Lungs have 300 million avioi!—[if laid out] enough to fill a tennis court.”

“Livermore has the highest ozone level in the Bay Area.”

[Benicia also shows high levels of ozone, as monitored at the Tennys Drive monitoring station.]

“Ozone is made up of nitrogen oxides + volatile organic compounds (VOC's) especially when temperatures are high. With global warming, we can expect more smog, more days of exceedences of federal levels for ozone containment.”

“Wood burning is the greatest cause of particulate emissions (PM) in the Bay Area. Diesel emissions, including PM, are the most harmful emissions in the Bay Area.”

“Black soot on windowsills is likely diesel soot.” [black carbon].

“The smallest particles, PM 2.5 microns, are so tiny they by-pass airway defenses and are absorbed into the bloodstream.”

“We need to protect public health with adequate margin of safety.”

“The Lung Assoc. in California is supporting AB32, for getting greenhouse gas reductions associated to traffic. The secondary benefit to reducing traffic is the reduction of health risks posed by traffic emissions.”