

Email #1: Message to Cal Water (See below for San Mateo County)

Dawn Smithson, Cal Water Bear Gulch District Manager

Dear Ms. Smithson,

I am writing to request information about the water well station proposed for 503 Fifth Ave in Redwood City. After the pre-application workshop on October 25, 2023 people in North Fair Oaks (NFO) had many unanswered questions for Cal Water. I would appreciate it if you can provide clear answers so that I can understand how this project will affect me and my community.

Materials being requested:

1. All well site selection criteria and other properties considered.
2. Geospatial data used in site selection (shapefile, geospatial dataset, or tif format).
3. Safety measures to prevent leaks, chemical exposure, and other possible harms.
4. List of all chemicals used in treatment and the resulting chemical compounds.
5. Blueprints of the current plans for the facility and landscaping.
6. Examples of similar water plants in residential areas and residents' complaints.
7. Documentation being used to project the quantity of water to be pumped.
8. A detailed list of areas that will receive water from this specific well station.
9. Any data on property value changes after implementing a well station in Bay Area cities.

Questions that need answers:

1. What criteria were used to select this site over other places/areas or cities?
2. What benefits does this water well station bring to the North Fair Oaks community?
3. Why choose a residential property and demolish it instead of a non-residential site?
4. What would the drawn water be used for, and which cities/communities would it serve?
5. Could water, electricity, or property bills increase due to this well?
6. Are the chemicals to be stored and used at this facility safe for the environment and life?
7. How would chemicals be delivered and stored safely in the facility?
8. Would this facility increase traffic and parking problems in the surrounding areas?
9. Where would the excess water be discharged, and could it overwhelm our local drains?
10. If there is a problem or emergency with the well, how quick would the response be?
11. What would be the noise level during construction & operation during the day and night?
12. Why a vertical turbine pump over a quieter submersible pump for our residential area?
13. How often would large trucks or trucks with chemicals come to the facility?
14. What effects would drilling & water pumping have on the foundations of nearby homes?
15. Could the well station cause sinkholes, houses to sink, or other wells nearby to dry up?

Finally, the house you demolished in 2019 could be housing a NFO family. It is important for me to understand the impact of this project, especially given past environmental injustices in NFO. While I understand Cal Water's goal to improve water reliability, I want NFO to remain unharmed. I urge you to invite community participation in this project and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
[Your name and contact information]

Email #2: Message of Support to San Mateo County

Tiffany Gee, Project planner from San Mateo county
Summer Burlison, Senior planner from San Mateo county

Dear Ms. Gee and Ms. Burlison,

I am writing regarding the water well station proposed by Cal Water at 503 Fifth Ave in Redwood City (unincorporated North Fair Oaks). During the pre-application workshop on October 25, community members in North Fair Oaks voiced many questions for Cal Water but no answers have been provided. I urge San Mateo County to not approve this project. I would like to ensure that neither I nor my community is harmed in any way by this project.

I have sent a request to Cal Water for additional information and I am waiting for a response. Please see my request to Cal Water [here](#).

While I understand why Cal Water would like to carry out this project, I question why CalWater chose to purchase a house in livable conditions in North Fair Oaks, tear it down and then propose a water well station at that location, especially given the shortage of housing in North Fair Oaks and the entire peninsula. I also question why Cal Water is proposing to build a vertical turbine pump over a quieter submersible pump, especially in a residential area; and finally, I question why Cal Water did not select an industrial or light industrial zone where disruption to neighbors would be less likely.

In light of past environmental injustices in North Fair Oaks, it is important that this project does not cause harm to me or my community in any way. The implementation of this water well pump in the middle of our residential areas will disrupt the current peace and the environment, and it will likely be detrimental to the property values for the residents near this project.

Once again, I urge you to not approve this project until it has the full support of the North Fair Oaks community. Thank you very much for your support and understanding!

Sincerely,
[Your name and contact information]