

May 16, 2022

RE: Agenda item 13 New Business:

May 12, 2022 I attended a community meeting at the Lucchesi Community Center. The meeting date was in the newspaper, but the location was not included until days before the meeting, why? The topic: Petaluma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Rate and Fee study. Supervisor Rabbit as the Chair of the Petaluma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency played an important role in explaining to rural residents why the fee structure for the Petaluma Basin would be more costly to rural residents vs. Sonoma Valley and Santa Rosa Basin. Rabbit's explanation for the high costs was to blame the City of Petaluma and the Petaluma City Council over and over again. The City of Petaluma representative, Council Member Healy was not present at the meeting. Coincidentally tonight the city of Petaluma has the same topic on their agenda. Both meetings separate those affected. Divide and conquer approach.

The meeting focused on language, The Sonoma County Water Agency (Supervisors) would raise Petaluma's fees and those fees would be passed on by a vote of a city council raising water and sewer rates.

As our city parks go brown, the city is selling our tertiary water to vintners in rural east Petaluma. We're subsidizing grapes at the expense of dairies and city parks.

Leadership style that pits rural residents against the City residents is not productive. I suggest the city council ask staff to set up a joint community meeting at the Lucchessi center to include our rural neighbors. We are all in this together.

Janice Cader Thompson