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City of Sebastopol

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March 10, 1988

Mr. Robert W. Sharp
Chairman, Laguna Advisory Committee
12900 Fiori Lane
Sebastopol, California 95472

Dear Mr. Sharp:

I was in attendance at the Planning Committee Study Session yesterday, and would like to add my thanks to you and the other committee members, both for your attendance at that meeting, and also for your fine effort in doing the study itself.

Some questions have arisen concerning the following paragraph, which appears in Section 3.3 ("Fill") of your Report:

"Based upon the fact that 1 cubic foot of fill displaces 7 1/2 gallons of water, any fill in the Laguna flood plain approved by Sebastopol, has definite and possibly detrimental effects upon the surrounding areas in time of flooding. According to the Sonoma County Water Agency, (Bob Morrow and Dave Allen, personal communication), there is a concern that the effects of the 1986 flood may be more likely to reoccur. The uniqueness of that flood was that the high water level did not come from the Russian River backing into the Laguna Basin, but from the runoff due to the development of the cities surrounding the Basin. The cumulative effects of fill and development are unknown. The conclusion has been drawn, however, that the flood elevation level will be raised in the future. This means that the 100-year flood level of 76' would be increased to a higher level".

THOMAS F. MILLER, MAYOR

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GWEN A. ANDERSON
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WILLIAM L. ROVENTINE

CITY MANAGER
MELVIN K. DAVIS

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Prior to the upcoming Planning Commission Hearing on March 22, 1988, I would greatly appreciate your response to the following questions:

1. What factual information (oral or written) did the Committee rely on in arriving at the conclusion that "any fill in the Laguna Flood Plane" would have "definite and possibly detrimental effects upon the surrounding areas in time of flooding".?
2. What particular geographic areas are thought to be affected as indicated above?
3. What factual information (oral or written) did the Committee rely on in arriving at the conclusion that development of the cities surrounding the Laguna Basin contributed to the 1986 flooding in the Russian River area?
4. What factual information (oral or written) did the Committee rely on in arriving at the conclusion "that the flood elevation level will be raised in the future".?
5. Were there any contrary points of view or information received by the Committee with regard to the above, and, if so, could you identify those persons or documents.

Your comments on these matters will be very helpful to the City.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence W. McLaughlin
; City Attorney

LWM:ff
cc: Melvin K. Davis, City Manager