

November 24, 2001

Don Butow, Chairman
Members of the Board of Directors
Redwood Valley County Water District
Post Office Box 399
Redwood Valley, California 95479

Dear Chairman Butow & Members of the Board of Directors:

The Russian River Flood Control and Improvement District has been in the process, as I have noted in various newspaper reports over the past 1 ½ years, in demonstrating that all 8,000 acre feet of their allotment has been put to beneficial use.

In letters to the Redwood Valley County Water District, from the Russian River Flood Control District, they have advised you of the need to negotiate a contract with them to secure water for our District. The RVCWD has failed to negotiate a contract with the RRFCD. In addition, the Redwood Valley County Water District Board, also failed to proceed with annexation into the Russian River Flood Control District. (According to the Minutes of your July 6, 2000, board meeting, Attorney Paul Minasian was authorized by the Board to act as lead counsel for these annexation proceedings.)

Now, I wonder why Chairman Don Butow, without this item ever being on any Redwood Valley County Water District Meeting Agenda in the year 2001, (no minutes reflect that this issues was ever brought before the Board for a discussion or vote prior to the submission of these contracts to the RRFCD), has acted to secure contracts for approximately 25 Redwood Valley County Water District customers (these 25 individuals already are in the Russian River Flood Control District)? It also appears that Chairman Butow's own family is to benefit from his actions according to the North County Engineering Company Report on Water Allocations prepared for the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control District Board (Clara Orvis, Butow Trust 10 Acre Feet Allotment and Redwood Valley County Water District on behalf of private landowners 58 Acre Feet, November 2001).

Is the Redwood Valley County Water District going to "wheel" this water to Chairman Butow's family and these private owners and charge the expenses to all the other district's customers, or will each owner be billed for the expense of "wheeling" this water from the RRFCD? So far the Redwood Valley County Water District has paid Manager Tiemann, and possibly other staff members, and Attorney Paul Minasian for their work and expertise in this area without charging the 25 private landowners for any of these expenses. Did these private landowners approve of reimbursing the RVCWD for expenses the District has incurred so far, and future "wheeling" expenses?

Why are all the District's Customers being billed for these 25 private landowners who are already in the RRFCD and who could have requested their own contracts independently of the RRCWD? Under the California Public Records Act and the Brown Act I am formally requesting the names and copies of all of the contracts submitted by the RVCWD to the Russian River Flood Control District and the amount of time billed to the RVCWD for attorney's fees and District expenses for research, etc., for these 25 private landowners. In addition, did the RVCWD have permission from all 25 private landowners, in writing, to act in this matter on their behalf prior to this action by the RVCWD? Please provide copies of all authorizations submitted to the RVCWD between June 1, 2001, and November 26, 2001.

It appears, since the Russian River Flood Control Improvement District voted to notify the Redwood Valley County Water District that no surplus water will be available for the District to purchase in the future. The RVCWD will apparently now be unable to meet any of its Domestic

or Agricultural needs between approximately March and November each year. This will impact Frost protection in March (depending on river flows), and other customer usage between April and November each year. Where will the Redwood Valley County Water District get it water during this time frame in 2002, since RVCWD has no known current contract for water with any other entity at the present time?

Chairman Butow has apparently had the RVCWD act to protect 25 private landowners and his family. Why did the RVCWD acquiesce in allowing this action to take place? In addition, why wasn't the entire Board of Directors acting on behalf of all of their water customers in Redwood Valley? It appears that their intent has been to leave the rest of us "up a dry creek" and yet be saddled with all of the bills.

What about water next year? What actions is the RVCWD Board going to take at this time to secure a reliable source of water for our District? Should Chairman Butow resign from the Board of Directors due to his direct conflict of interest?

In my mind Chairman Butow, you and every member of the Board of Directors have acted irresponsibly. It is my feeling that you owe me and all the customers in the RVCWD an apology and an explanation for your actions in denying us a secure source of water for the future.

Sincerely,

Rosalind Peterson
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