

Janis Eckard - Improvements Meeting Comments - April 8, 2025

I'm here to set the record straight. Here are the facts:

Solos is not anti development. They stand for responsible development.

I'm not anti development, I'm anti running out of water and there's a big difference between the two.

The developers are not bad people. They are friends of many in this community and they deserve to be treated with respect.

Michael Fritsche told John Merchant and me, (quote) I wish I knew how many EDU's the developers need, because I am going to find water for their homes (unquote).

Michael Fritsche is not the only person who provided unachievable assumptions and inaccurate data. All CSD studies, 1990 on, are inaccurate. But, before we hang Michael and the CSD from the highest tree, there's plenty of blame to go around.

The early developers sued the CSD in 1989, over a the lack of water (which is what lead to this practice) and the CSD has been under threats of litigation ever since.

The current study - even with inaccuracies - states there is insufficient water for the proposed development.

It's important to note that the water shortfall is and remains outside of the CSD's control, for the following seven reasons:

1. Recent surveys show that there's significantly less water in our lakes than previously thought.
2. Rancho Murieta has not been developed, as originally planned. The 1973 Environmental Impact Report specifically states that at full buildout RM will have 53% undisturbed vegetation. That number is in addition to the lakes, golf courses, parks, etc. RM was designed for small homes on small lots, not large families with large adjacent lots and lots where residents landscaped outside their lot lines.
3. Drought conditions prevented CSD's ability to draw water from the Cosumnes River to fill the lakes, during the 1976-1977 pumping season.
4. The Emergency Back Up Water Plan failed during the 1976-1977 drought and RM has been without a back up supply, ever since.
5. The Earth's warming cycle has altered weather conditions and changed river flows.
6. Downstream over pumping of surface and ground water has decreased Cosumnes River flows.
7. Since the water shortfall was discovered, another viable/reliable water source has never been found.

It's also important to note, that In 2006 I exposed the water shortfall and CSD's inaccurate studies, PRIOR to any of the current developers purchasing their lands.

The person who previously represented the current developers was given copies of my research before they bought the properties. He was also on the 1989 CSD Board, when the water shortfall was made public and the developer litigation began. And he was still on the Board in 1990, when the Board made a decision to alter the study assumptions and data to end the developer litigation.

We can continue fighting, or we can correct the study and determine once and for all how many homes the existing water supply can safely support. That number cannot be determined without accurate data and achievable assumptions. A solution to the problem can only be found WHEN we know the truth. Once we have the bottom line, let's all work together to find that solution.