

**From:** [noreply@getstreamline.com](mailto:noreply@getstreamline.com)  
**To:** [Haley Dodson](#)  
**Subject:** New form submission assigned to you: Written Public Comment  
**Date:** Saturday, December 10, 2022 8:16:52 AM



## Written Public Comment

<b>First Name:</b>	Linda
<b>Last Name:</b>	Prentiss
<b>Address:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Written Public Comment:</b>	Please consider lowering by half Property Tax on land which owners are NOT CURRENTLY allowed to build..
<b>Written Comment to be read at::</b>	Policy Committee Meeting
<b>Written Comment to be read at::</b>	Board Meeting
<b>Written Comment to be read at::</b>	Finance Committee Meeting

[Reply / Manage](#)

**From:** [Crosby Swartz](#)  
**To:** [BoardComment](#); [Karen Dean](#); [Ray Dienzo](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment 12-15-22 Agenda Item 5.D Engineering Report  
**Date:** Thursday, December 15, 2022 11:40:42 AM

---

The Utilities/ Engineering Report on page 22 of the agenda package lists the Description and Status of the San Simeon Well Field Water Main and Effluent Main Replacement Projects. Please add a report on the impact of an unexpected failure of the Effluent Main on the District's ability to provide sewer service, water service and fire-fighting water. An emergency plan for a temporary effluent main and purchase of long-lead components should be considered.

**From:** [Christine Heinrichs](#)  
**To:** [BoardComment](#)  
**Subject:** December 15 meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 21, 2022 5:05:24 PM

---

Sorry I overlooked sending these for Written Comment! Can they still be included? They are what I spoke at the meeting..

Thanks.

Item 1D:

The public should be able to know whatever the board did about hiring or appointing an Interim General manager and advertising for a general manager. There's nothing confidential about taking action to fill those roles. After all, they involve advertising for candidates.

The job description, the members of the Search Committee, where advertisements will be placed, are all public. What is confidential about this? Why is the public being excluded?

Thank you

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

At Monday's Resources & Infrastructure Committee meeting, Mr. Dienzo reported that significant changes have been made in the procedure toward fulfilling the requirements for a Coastal Development Permit application. In April, the board approved a contract with Kevin Merk Associates to complete the work on the biological assessment, unfinished by Cindy Cleveland, for 632 hours of work at a cost of \$85,860 plus expenses. The contract included a calendar of when the work would be done. It was to begin in May and be completed in September, when the report would be submitted to the board.

In the event, Mr. Dienzo reported that this work has not even yet begun. He said that the Army Corps of Engineers would perform the biological assessment, and that this report was not needed to revise the Adaptive Management Plan.

This raises several questions: Why did Kevin Merk Associates not perform this work? Were they paid? Will they ever do this work? When? Will they give the money back?

Why did Mr. Dienzo fail to inform the board, and the public?

Most important, how can the Adaptive Management Plan be reliably revised in the absence of data on the actual status of the endangered species that are the focus and the reason for an Adaptive Management Plan, the steelhead, California Red-Legged Frogs, the Tidewater Gobies?

Since the EWS/SWF/WRF was constructed in Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area, the

impact of the plant on these endangered species is a significant issue. Mr. Dienzo raised the point at last week's board meeting, when he announced that an ESA issue had arisen in the CDP process. At the R&I Committee meeting, he seemed confused about that, unable to remember what he had referred to.

Protecting endangered species is not some accommodation to conservation. It's part of saving our own lives. As Michelle Nijhuis, author of *Beloved Beasts: Fighting for Life in an Age of Extinction*, writes in an op ed today, 15 December NYTimes, *Those Adorable Endangered Creatures Are Not the Point*

[https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/14/opinion/endangered-species-biodiversity-cop15.html?referringSource=articleShare:](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/14/opinion/endangered-species-biodiversity-cop15.html?referringSource=articleShare)

“When humans destroy forests, grasslands, swamps, coral reefs and other living systems, we are not only harming other species but also destroying our own food supplies, subjecting our homes to extreme weather and polluting our air and water. Though we treat conservation as an altruistic pursuit — a special interest championed by a passionate few — it's also a selfish cause. We should approach conservation not as an opportunity for heroics, but as an obligation to the relationships we depend on for survival.”

More than eight years overdue, the failure of this contractor to perform, and the lack of adequate communication about the biological assessment to the board and the public are troubling. I ask the board to pursue answers to these questions, and reliable, ground-truthed data on these endangered species.

Sent from my iPad