

January 26, 2012. Dominic Atian 914 Quail Court, Ione, CA 95640
WASTE WATER WORKSHOP – CITY OF IONE

There is a lack of trust between the rate payers and the City of Ione and until that trust is established no rate increase will pass prop. 218.

If there are no rate increases there will be no project and no project means the Regional Board will have failed in their duty to protect the waters of the State.

There are two reasons for lack of trust.

1. Money.
2. Operations.

Money: Our rates were significantly increased in 2002 in part to fund Capital Improvements. Connection fees were increased for the same reason.

There should be \$4.5 - \$7 million available for capital improvements from the past 10 years alone, which would have reduced or eliminated outside funding and allowed the city to fix it's problems in a timely manner.

Operations: As an operator and manager of our wastewater systems. The city has been incompetent and negligent. They have now contracted this out to PERC – a good thing. Any mistakes made will now be on the operator – not the rate payer.

Errors include: Illegal dumping of sludge, building of ponds, poor design of ponds (leaking/failed in 6 years) operation of ponds (using percolation to store raw sewage), destroying treatment pond liners, loading the system with AWA/ARSA water and not following CEQA or bid requirements. Add all the Regional Board issues – late reports, incomplete reports and the many CDO's.

I agree with the R.B. that the city has been given 10 years, time enough, but most if not all of the problems occurred between 2000 and 2006 when the violations happened and the city did nothing about it. 10 years would have been enough time for a competent city to resolve these problems. Ours was not.

For the past few years the city has worked hard to find a solution.

The city needs to review: finances regarding missing capital improvement funds (is the money there/not there, can it be recovered, is it erroneously transferred to a different fund, can the fund be made whole and when), options of plant design, options and costs of Short, Mid and Long-Term fixes and all need to be agreed to and approved by the ratepayers.

Since Sept 2011 the project and financing has changed, city finances have been found to be out of order and the past workshops have failed. More information has been given in the past 2 days than the past 6 months. The R.B. can see that this city has not been idle as in the past and is earnestly working toward a solution.

I will vote against any rate increase until these past Capital Improvement Funds are accounted for with mechanisms in place so that future raiding of these funds can not happen. I will also vote against a short term quick fix that ultimately may prove to be more costly without being given a comparative study.

I am respectfully requesting that given these recent developments and our poor past city performance that the Regional Board gives the city an additional 6 months so that this administration can do the work necessary to ensure a successful prop 218 vote.