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To Redwood City:

The survival of disease-producing organisms in tertiary-treated reclaimed water has now been scientifically proven and published in the Journal of Applied and Environmental Microbiology, August 2003 edition.

The tertiary treatment process plants tested were equivalent to that being proposed by Redwood City and use the same disinfection method. Citizens should be aware that any claim to the contrary is without foundation.

The number of these viable, infective Cryptosporidium organisms found in tertiary treated reclaimed water is 2,000 times the maximum permitted for drinking water

The number of these organisms needed to infect a person is between one and ten, according to published scientific data, and not the thousands that the staff report wrongly claimed, equating – falsely – all organisms with coliform types. A person need not drink vast amounts of water to become infected, as the staff report claimed. One glass with one organism can be sufficient.

These organisms survive on plants for one to two months and in soil from three to six months according to US EPA research.

Cryptosporidium, while normally causing mild illness, may cause serious illness in some cases and can be fatal to susceptible individuals.

The Redwood City staff report is fatally flawed and the opinion of the City's experts was based on incomplete knowledge and invalid suppositions.

These new scientific findings fully support the presentation and cautions that I made to Redwood City on June 9th.

The City cannot maintain its resolution that reclaimed water has been shown to be safe and, in the people's interest, must re-examine the report prepared by its staff and the opinions presented therein by local medical doctors, which were erroneously accepted as fact by Council members.

The whole episode of the July 28 hearing was so disgraceful that it is not worthy of discussion, excepting that it was so vicious that it cannot be overlooked.

I wish I could be present to address the Council and citizens personally but unfortunately my schedule and the distance precludes this. I will take the opportunity to address Redwood City in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martin Atkinson-Barr". The signature is written in black ink and is centered on the page.

Martin Atkinson-Barr