

WATER: Debate over recycling continues in city

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said, and scientists do not know how they could affect people.

"Why should anyone take these risks when there are other methods, like desalinization and water conservation?" asked Lofholm.

The "subtle, but persistent health risks" make using the water too problematic, he concluded.

One of the city's experts, David Spath, assured the council that recycled water in California goes through a number of treatments, referred to as a "multi-barrier concept."

"There are a number of fac-

tors that we have put in place based on good science," said Spath, who has a Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Cincinnati and has worked in the area of drinking water for the state health services department for 30 years.

Joseph Cotruvo, a public health consultant, agreed that California has very stringent regulations when it comes to recycled water. "The issue is whether the water ... is appropriate and safe for the intended use," he said. "History clearly tells us it is."

Even children accidentally consuming recycled water

would not consume nearly enough to pose a health risk, he said.

Most residents seemed unconvinced by the city's experts' assurances.

Both founders of the Safewater Coalition — Christina Lai and Ray Wang — expressed concern about the lack of good research that had been conducted. Wang believes the research up till now has not been acceptably reviewed and legitimized by the scientific community.

Redwood City resident Marilyn Velos said she came to the meeting with an open mind but became "quite alarmed" at

the possibility of her toddler being exposed to recycled water.

But Don Warren, one of the original developers of Redwood Shores, reminded the council that the city could face severe water shortages that could crimp new housing development on the housing-starved Peninsula.

The city is considering the use of recycled water for irrigation because it uses more water than it is allotted from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir system.

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