

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2003

Editorials

The opinion of the
San Jose Mercury News

Recycled water presents hazards

Testimony at a June 9 study session in Redwood City made it clear that recycled wastewater has not been proven safe. Some experts overwhelmingly opposed its use where children would be exposed.

Advocates of recycled water admitted that the supporting research had never been scientifically reviewed and came from the water re-use industry itself.

Many on the Redwood City Council are committed to the idea of building

out the city into an urban center, and they need additional water to complete that vision. This cannot be achieved without the use of water reclaimed from sewage.

Martin Atkinson-Barr, a Southern California scientist, said that the council should deny the use of this water where children would be exposed, noting that small children cannot read the disclaimer warning signs and do not understand the need for hygienic precautions. Elementary schools are the greatest concern.

Christina Lai

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