

September, 8, 2003

**RECEIVED**

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City Engineer of St. Helena  
Mike Praul  
1480 Main Street  
St. Helena, CA. 94574

**CITY OF ST. HELENA**

In response to the revised draft Environmental Impact Report regarding the Flood Control Project of St. Helena.

As proposed by the City, the process of flood control effecting Vineyard Valley, and other parts and facilities of the City, will be tied to the plans that encompass the flood control and other project for the entire City of St. Helena.

Consequently the flood control project will be delayed by the time element, and other relevant and incidental projects that are a part of the City's larger plans.

The City faces numerous obstacles to get to the point where the actual work can begin, and must overcome the following challenges:

Land Acquisition, Eminent Domain, Environmental Studies, Legal Property Rights, Lawyers and Lawsuits, Fish and Game, State of California, the Federal Government, protests by groups for whatever reason, Homeowners, Landowners, Environmentalist, and on, and on, and on. This is a very time consuming and unpredictable process.

It is statistical fact that, flood occurs in the interval of 8 to 10 years. The City of St. Helena has been flooded twice in the past 15 years. It is conceivable that we are due for another flooding in the foreseeable future.

The recently completed EIR list the "Minimum Plan" as one of the options to solve St. Helena's flood problem.

According to the City Engineer, Myke Praul, the "Minimum Plan" could be implemented a year ahead of the proposed "Alternative Plan". The years of time we could save, could very well prevent another flooding of the City of St. Helena.

Our main concern at this junction, is the time element that it will take to accomplish any forward movement, so we can get pass the talking stage and do some "Real Work".

I am not debating here which plan is a better plan to solve the flood problem. What I am saying is that, it is critical to select a solution that is the least time consuming and least complicated.

If we get flooded again the whole issue is mute.

cc: CM  
file

All the time, effort, and money that has been spent, will go down the drain, and we will have to start from scratch again, loosing millions of dollars, life, property, and hope that the food issue will ever be solved.

We will all lose complete trust and confidence in the political and bureaucratic system.

The flood problem has been debated for decades without any satisfactory result. That is the reason I am stressing the "TIME" element, because time is our greatest enemy.

Starting with the "Minimum Plan", and systematically proceeding with the rest of the "Larger Flood Control Plan", very well could prevent another disastrous flood.

**TIME – TIME – TIME**, is what we are up against.

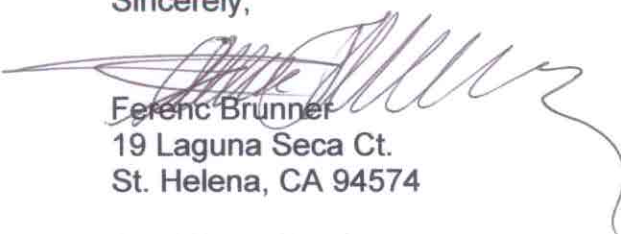
The other relevant issue that would reduce the danger of flooding is the cleaning of our Napa River (Clean – Maintain – Landscape, CML). This is critical to having a system in place, and a responsible body that will do the clean up, maintenance, and "landscaping" of the Napa River on a regular and ongoing basis.

The CML (Clean-Maintain-Landscape) process will greatly contribute to the safety of the City Of St. Helena, and the Vineyard Valley Community.

**The chances of flooding will be minimized.**

I trust that the people, officials, and offices responsible for the well being and future of our city, and its residents, will make wise decisions after thoroughly considering the various proposals.

Sincerely,



Ferenc Brunner  
19 Laguna Seca Ct.  
St. Helena, CA 94574

Cc: Mayor Ken Slavens  
City Council Members: Joe Potter, Bonnie Schoch, Eric Sklar  
City Manager, Bert Johansson  
Vineyard Valley Homeowners Association  
St. Helena Star