

Melissa Stone

**From:** Dhruv Khanna <dhruvkhanna2002@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2018 8:17 AM  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**Cc:** Erin Gil; Jess Brown; Janet Burback; Jan Garrod; Sherrie Kennedy; Paul Mirassou; Tim Chiala; Pete Aiello; Matthew Bissell FB; Don Hordness; Mike Wasserman; Kirk Girard; Rob Eastwood; Joseph Deviney; Alex Kennett; Russ Bonino; Cindy Chavez; Joe Simitian; Ken Yeager; Dave Cortese; Jack Foley  
**Subject:** Today's public hearing: My comments

I apologize for not being able to come to the Santa Clara Valley Water District until 3:45 p.m. today. Accordingly, please accept my brief written comments for today's hearing as set forth in this email below:

Honorable Water District Directors:

I'D LIKE TO MAKE FIVE INTRODUCTIONS TO YOU TODAY:

1. I'M DHRUV KHANNA – I WEAR TWO HATS: --A VINEYARD FARMER IN SOUTH COUNTY AND A RESIDENT OF PALO ALTO
2. NEXT, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA TO WHOM I HAVE JUST PAID PROPERTY TAXES FOR BOTH MY FARM AND MY HOME IN PALO ALTO; THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT MY PROPERTY TAXES IN PALO ALTO ARE MUCH GREATER PER ACRE THAN AT MY WINERY; **BUT MY 3 BD ROOM 2 BATH HOME TAKES UP MOST OF MY LOT IN PALO ALTO WHEREAS WELL-UNDER 10% OF MY 50-ACRE WINERY IN SOUTH COUNTY IS DEVELOPED**
3. THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT REQUIRES NO INTRODUCTION
4. MY FINAL INTRODUCTION IS TO A LITTLE KNOWN COMPANY IN SILICON VALLEY CALLED HP – HEWLETT PACKARD THAT IS WELL KNOWN FOR SELLING CHEAP COMPUTER PRINTERS AND CHARGING A LOT OF MONEY FOR INK. THE ANALOGY TODAY I'D LIKE TO DRAW IS THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA AS THE HP PRINTER DIVISION AND THE WATER DISTRICT, YOU, AS THE Hp's INK CARTRIDGE DIVISION.

THE COUNTY, IN EXCHANGE FOR EXACTING STRICT DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTIONS AND AFFIRMATIVE FARMING OBLIGATIONS, KEEPS OUR PROPERTY TAXES LOW WHILE YOUR STAFF WANTS YOU TO INCREASE OUR WATER RATES BY A WHOPPING 22% -- AN INCREASE THAT IS ELEVEN TIMES GREATER THAN THE AVERAGE WATER RATE INCREASE OVER THE 27-YEAR HISTORY OF THE OPEN SPACE CREDIT.

**NOTED**  
APR 10 2018

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE? **THE OPEN SPACE CREDIT IS FUNDED BY PROPERTY TAXES. IT IS NOT A SUBSIDY. IT IS A PART OF THE DEAL THAT GOES TO THE HEART AND SOUL OF COUNTY'S AND DISTRICT'S POLICIES FOR THE PAST SEVERAL DECADES. DEVELOPMENT V. FARMING. FARMING REQUIRES LAND AND WATER -- JUST LIKE A PRINTER TO FUNCTION REQUIRES A PRINTER AND AN INK CARTRIDGE.**

**FOR EVERY DOLLAR INCREASE IN OUR WATER RATE THE COUNTY MUST LOOSEN ITS DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTIONS ON US. THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO UPHOLD THE DEAL -- THIS MUST BE A 3-WAY CONVERSATION. PROPERTY TAXES, THE OPEN SPACE CREDIT, FARMING, DEVELOPMENT V. FARMING -- IT IS ALL ONE BALL OF WAX AND THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES -- THE POLICIES OF THE COUNTY, THE OPEN SPACE DISTRICT AND THE WATER DISTRICT -- SHOULD BE CONSISTENT. THE TRADE-OFFS BETWEEN OPEN SPACE CREDIT, WATER RATES AND PROPERTY TAXES AND FARMING V. DEVELOPMENT LAND USE RESTRICTIONS MUST BE MADE CONSISTENTLY.**

**NONE OF THIS IS ADDRESSED BY YOUR STAFF. STAFF WRONGLY CALLS THE OPEN SPACE CREDIT A SUBSIDY BECAUSE I DO NOT HAVE THE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AT MY WINERY THAT I DO IN PALO ALTO; AT MY WINERY, I MUST FARM, THAT'S MY ONLY CHOICE UNDER THE COUNTY'S REGULATIONS -- I CAN'T SUBDIVIDE AND BUILD 3, 4, 5, . . . 10 OR 20 HOMES ON MY 50 ACRES AT KIRIGIN CELLARS.**

**ALL OF YOUR STAFF'S PROJECTIONS ABOUT THE OPEN SPACE CREDIT ARE WRONG -- THEY WERE WRONG IN Nov 2013. Please take a look at the staff's projections of Nov 2013 on rates and the Open Space Credit. Today, on Page 13 of 14 in Exhibit 10, ONCE AGAIN, the actual data does not provide any basis for the trend --which consists of *wholly made up projections*. ON POLICY AND ON PROJECTIONS, YOUR STAFF IS WRONG AND ANY RATE INCREASE THAT IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE PAST 27 YEARS' AVERAGE OF \$0.50 PER YEAR INCREASE IS WRONG AND SHOULD NOT BE ADOPTED BY THE BOARD.**