

Bush Moves to Martial Law

By Clive Leeman

Last October, President Bush surreptitiously signed into law new security legislation, which allows him to declare martial law at any time. Nobody in the mainstream media seems to have noticed this law, which supersedes the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, the only U.S. criminal statute to outlaw military operations directed against the American people.

The new John Warner Defense Authorization Act allows the President to declare a "public emergency" and station troops anywhere in America and take control of state-based National Guard units without the consent of the governor or local authorities, in order to "suppress public disorder."

Detention camps for citizens rounded up as "undesirables" are already being constructed by Halliburton and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, according to the Journal of Counterterrorism & Homeland Security International.

This law in effect opens the way to dictatorship. Only one more piece of legislation would have secured an absolute dictatorship: a clause abolishing the 22nd Amendment, which prohibits the President from serving more than two terms. But so many Amendments (habeas corpus, for example) have already been suspended since the passing of the Patriot Act and other anti-terror legislation, why not another one? A state of emergency can justify anything.

The oldest democracy in the world may soon be no more. Where are you, Paul Revere?

Supervisor Reilly's Greatest Failure

By Tom Krukshank

It's Baaaack; this was the title of an email I sent to as many west county folks as I could think of as well as our Supervisor, Mike Reilly on 8/16 of last year after I received my Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an EIR named the "Irrigation Reliability and Beneficial Reuse Project". In that email I challenged Mike to be at the planned scoping sessions but he didn't show.

But I am ahead a little, we need a little history. In 1995 the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) proposed to link all the west county communities together with pipelines that were planned along almost the exact same routes that appear in the new NOP. The plan was to gather all the sewage in Guerneville, treat it there and dispose of it along the routes essentially planned in the new NOP. Well, this incredibly expensive plan did not sit well with the residents and rate payers as well as many others who would be affected by the

proposal. So a call to arms went out and a core group of about 20 activists started meeting monthly to plan a response in an attempt to waylay this "pipe dream". One of the most interesting aspects of these meetings was the attendance of one unusual attendee, candidate Mike Reilly. Most of us were very leery of this politician wannabe but we tolerated him and eventually, uneasily embraced his participation.

To make a long story short, eventually we forced the Board of Supervisors hand and pressured them to meet us on our own turf. Although they would not make it all the way to the Russian River County Sanitation District (RRCSD) in Guerneville, they did actually meet with us at the Forestville School Multi-purpose room, a first and probably last in the annals of county history. First SCWA put on their dog and pony show, complete with slick PowerPoint presentations and trumped up reasons for this goldbrick project. Then it was our turn. Speaker after speaker stood up and lambasted the proposal. Two of the most eloquent detractors were the two candidates for the Supervisor seat, Eric Koenigshofer and Mike Reilly. However, it was Mike, who had attended many of our meetings and knew what we wanted to hear, who spoke so very forcefully in that deep baritone against the project. This stance and speech that evening may have been the deciding factor in a close race that propelled him into the Supervisor seat. Supervisor Carpenter was gung-ho for the project in the hopes of "solving" the west county sewer woes. He wanted to leave his mark. However, the Supervisors got the message and in the end they shot the project down!!!

So, how has Mike let us down?

- We explained how we didn't want a regional solution but wanted local control of the various systems, yet here we are 12 years later and the RRCSD doesn't even have a local advisory board. Still ruled by the engineers at SCWA and their high priced whims.

- We explained that the problems at the RRCSD could be solved by conservation measures and to take steps to reduce flood waters from entering the system. So where are the mandatory conservation measures? The low flow fixture mandates and exchange programs? Non-existent. Where is the improved collection system to reduce inflow? Non-existent. Where is the mandatory lateral inspection ordinance to again reduce inflow. Non-existent.

- Where are the many other suggestions we proffered to help with these problems? Mike was on the inside of all these discussions, yet NOTHING since his election. To his credit he has tried to work out solutions in the nether lands of the county and has had some moderate movement. But the only real success he can point to is that he did

help some with getting local control for the Graton CSD. No, Mike, Monte Rio is still just a plan (questionable at that); we don't see any solution. Your score on the biggest issue in the west county is dismal and this is the issue you rode into office.

Now, here we are 12 years later and Mike has thrown in the towel and wants to go practice his golf swing on his fat County retirement pay from his villa in Baja. As his parting gift he has become Ernie and wants to saddle us with this current monstrosity. Behind the scenes are some of the same players as 12 years ago, Randy Poole, SCWA General Manager and Agency engineer, Mike Thompson.

Gee, with such a nice sounding name, who could be against this project. I mean, it is so fashionable to be in favor of "beneficial reuse". The reason given to drive this 32 mile pipeline project are that the RRCSD experienced a one-time violation of 200,000 gallons of runoff during the reclamation season when no discharge is allowed to the Russian River. Since that time, this issue has been already solved by expansions at the sewer plant and its storage capacity so it is curious that SCWA is using this straw man for a *raison d'être*. Should you mention the project to Supervisor Reilly, he won't even pay lip service to this crock of shit, but instead will launch into the need for solving the sewage problems in Camp Meeker and Occidental, another dodge in my opinion. Now, is it right to ask the rate payers of the RRCSD to pay for a very expensive EIR to solve the problems of other communities that do not pay rates to the RRCSD? No, it is not and is probably illegal. LET'S BE CLEAR HERE: the current plant uses less than 100 acres of land to irrigate it's waste water and has done so every year before and since the 1996 violation, including flood years, without the problem re-occurring. ONLY 80 ACRES!! Why does the district need 32 miles of pipelines, at the cost of 10s OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, to find perhaps another 80 acres which would build in more than sufficient expansion room for the system? We are talking of accessing square miles of land, not the picayune amount that they say is needed. ABSURD. I personally know of a piece of land of over 100 acres that abuts the current irrigation site that is for sale. The 2500 acre Bohemian Grove abuts the current irrigation property; has the SCWA seriously tried to access this property for irrigation with the carrots of enormous fire protection and increased timber growth? Or perhaps the cudgel of eminent domain? I doubt it! Why? Because I do not think that the purported disposal excuse is serious at all. So what is the real agenda here? Randy and the Board of Supervisors aren't saying. So, let's speculate:

- GROWTH!! The RRCSD operates at well below its design capacity. There

are already plans to further expand storage and upgrade this capacity. With a massive distribution area, the RRCSD could annex new areas and perhaps add more than 2000 dwelling units to the system. WOW, smells like money to me.

- GROWTH AGAIN! Sonoma County is under the gun from a State organization called ABAG that dictates that X number of new housing units be built in the county each year. Every year the county struggles to meet this state mandated allocation. Expanding the RRCSD will take some pressure off the County for a while. Of course, the rate payers will be picking up the tab. At the Supervisors meeting on Tuesday morning, there were at least 9 SCWA employees all billing their time to the RRCSD for this boondoggle.

- WATER!! Water is Randy's bailiwick and it all means \$\$ to him. By providing waste water to agriculture, it frees up fresh water that can then be used for other purposes...like feeding the GROWTH ENGINE!

- At the meeting on Tuesday, SCWA trotted out a couple of "suits" from other agencies to bolster this blarney. One from the State Water Resources Board spoke of the State need and support for all water reuse projects. The other from the National Marine Fisheries spoke of how the water could theoretically help offset water that is being drawn from the Green Valley watershed and thus help save endangered salmon. Now, both of these aims are admirable and I will be the first to support them. However, is it in the interest of the RRCSD ratepayer to pay for these aims? No it is not. If these agencies want to pay for the pipelines and then pay the RRCSD for its valuable water, then let them do so; but do not force them to do it when there is no need for them to do so. No, these two guys were just trotted out to make it look like this was something good and needed.

- Then there are conspiracy theories that Supervisors must make political payback to their fat-cat donors by supplying free irrigation water...well, not free for the RRCSD ratepayer. Or that this enormous project will be a full-employment act for the SCWA engineers and other engineering firms around the county, again payback to fat-cat, growth-engine, Supervisor owners. Now, these are flights of fancy, but don't be too quick to discount them.

Well, this should be good grist for starters. One thing is clear, it is time again to get 400 or more people yelling loud and clear that the regional solution is not a solution at all, but would just price many homeowners out of the district and threaten many watersheds with the specter of broken waste water lines polluting their drinking water supplies.