

Sheila de la Guerra

Public Comment-Group 4

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**From:** Lynn Carlisle <lynn@cvfrc.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 9, 2023 4:49 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Public comment regarding Agenda Item #1, 10/10/23, Opposing Harvard appeal to permit massive reservoirs in the Cuyama Valley

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**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Supervisors,

My name is Lynn Carlisle and I am the Executive Director of the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center. I have worked in the Cuyama Valley for the past 12 years. Our organization facilitates the Cuyama Valley Community Association (CVCA), which represents more than 100 residents and stakeholders who are invested in a positive future the valley.

Since 2014, we have been working to ensure equitable management of the Cuyama Valley's groundwater. Through the 2015 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) (on which two representatives from the Board of Supervisors serve), our organization has participated in every aspect of the public process to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Cuyama Basin. The Cuyama Basin is one of only 21 basins out of 550 basins in the state that is considered in critical overdraft. To bring the basin into balance, it is estimated that pumpers will need to reduce their water use by nearly 60% by 2040.

In developing the GSP, the GSA has incurred expenses of nearly \$10,000,000, the majority of which has been provided by grants from the state. We have participated in literally thousands of hours of meetings, workshops, document review and public comment to help strengthen a plan that is designed to reduce groundwater use in a chronically and critically overdrafted basin.

The massive reservoirs proposed by North Fork Vineyard/Brodiaea Inc, wholly owned by the Harvard Management Company, will actually **increase** groundwater pumping in one of most stressed basins in the state, which is counter to the County's years-long efforts to **reduce** pumping in the valley via its participation in the GSA. After investing the past nine years and \$10,000,000 in taxpayer dollars to find a way to achieve a sustainable groundwater basin in this severely disadvantaged community, it makes no sense to permit additional pumping at this scale now.

We urge the board to deny North Fork Vineyard/Brodiaea Inc's appeal and continue to support efforts to achieve sustainability in the Cuyama Valley.

Thank you,

**Lynn Carlisle**

Executive Director

Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center

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## Sheila de la Guerra

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**From:** Moto Pro <danotechnologies@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 9, 2023 4:54 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Opposition to Harvard's reservoir project and supporting the staff and Planning Commission's denial of the project

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Supervisors,

My name is Daniel "Dano" Pagenkopf, I am a Santa Barbara resident/homeowner, a Chemical Engineer employed by the University of California Santa Barbara and a land owner with property located 4 miles to the South West of the Harvard Endowment Fund's grape farm.

I strongly oppose the construction of Harvard's frost reservoirs. The following are my reasons in support of denying the construction of these mega ponds:

- 1) This is an impacted groundwater basin.
- 2) The Harvard Endowment Fund managed by the Harvard Management Corporation was valued at 50.9 billion dollars in 2022 making Harvard the richest University in the world. This endowment fund has one purpose, to make profits. They do not live or work here. They will continue to suck the basin dry until it is no longer profitable. Why have we given carte blanche to a corporation that is not even a part of our community?
- 3) These frost reservoirs have a flooding potential for the 166 hwy in the event of a levee break/structural failure or equipment malfunction.
- 4) This part of the valley happens to be the only place where there are still wetlands and riparian vegetation in the Cuyama River.
- 5) Sustained spray irrigation for frost mitigation does not work when winds are greater than 10 mph. According to a study by University of Michigan [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/using\\_sprinklers\\_to\\_protect\\_plants\\_from\\_spring\\_freezes](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/using_sprinklers_to_protect_plants_from_spring_freezes) if sprinkler frost mitigation is employed in conditions with greater than 10 mph winds, it will destroy the crops. My land that is 4 miles away constantly has winds greater than 10 mph. It is a known windy area.
- 6) If these reservoirs are built is there a guarantee that they will not sell their groundwater to other entities? The carrot growers a few miles east really want more water because they have sucked their own basin dry.
- 7) Hydrographs don't lie. The hydrograph from Harvard's well 841 shows a nearly 100ft drop in the water table over the last 8 years. They are already overdrafting our local groundwater.

Thank you for your consideration on this critical decision. I would really like to have water on my land for my family's future enjoyment. There are families, farmers and ranchers that will all be impacted by this. We cannot put an out of state endowment fund over the environment and livelihood of our own local residents.

