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Peter Berry, Chair
Acton Board of Selectmen
Acton Town Hall
Acton, MA 01720

Dear Chairman Berry,

Thank you again for conducting Monday night's Special Hearing in such a fair and orderly fashion. Along with other Acton residents, I appreciate the effort, patience and care that you and other Selectmen have expended on the important issues being considered in the Special Hearing. I am writing now to expand on a matter that was raised but not fully resolved at the Special Hearing.

During the hearing, Concord argued that it would be prohibitively expensive to move its treatment plant away from the shores of Nagog Pond, say to a site in Concord. The difficulty and expense, Concord explained, would come from Concord's having to build additional capacity to ship the processed water back to Acton customers along Great Road. That assertion made me wonder about the magnitude of Concord's water service to Acton customers.

For an answer, I consulted the minutes of Concord's Public Works Commission's meeting of February 3, 2016.¹ According to the minutes, the Commission discussed the plan to construct the new water treatment plant at Nagog Pond (item D4 in the minutes). During that discussion, Commissioner Arthur Fulman commented on the consequences that might follow a denial of Concord's proposal. Commissioner Fulman observed in such an event, Concord

"will be strapped with providing **14-20 Million Gallons annually** to Acton businesses and residents. This volume of water is currently being provided from Concord groundwater well resources and pumped back to Acton customers on Route 2A when the Nagog supply is offline. In my opinion this was not the intent of the 1884 Chapter 201 legislation which established Concord's right to Nagog Pond. This is not a situation we could continue to

¹ Minutes are available at <http://www.concordnet.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Minutes/02032016-3089>

accept given the pending Water Management Act regulations and the historical water demand experienced in Concord.” (**Boldface** emphasis mine)

Starting with the value at the upper range of Commissioner Fulman's numbers, 20 million gallons annually, I restated that value as a proportion of the water that the Acton Water District currently delivers daily. Twenty million gallons annually works out to 54,794.5 gallons daily. Yes, every drop of water is precious, particularly in this time of extreme drought, but that amount of water from Concord strikes this non-expert as modest relative to the overall operational capacities of the Acton Water District . According to the Acton Water District's website, in 2014 and 2015, the District delivered an average 1.7 million gallons per day. Therefore, Concord's service to Acton customers represents just 3.2 percent of the existing service by the Water District. Because of the Water District's careful stewardship of Acton's water resources, its yearly draw seems to be comfortably below its permitted limits. As a result, an additional 3.2 percent could likely be accommodated within the District's current permitted limits.

Of course, I cannot speak with authority about the ease with which the Water District could increase its service by 3.2 percent, and I do recognize that any increase in service would carry costs of money and time. However, I wonder if such an increase ought not be explored. After all, if that increase were feasible, Concord's argument against re-siting its proposed plant would be considerably weakened.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Sekuler

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