

I am one of a large number of people opposed to the Ashland Canal Pipe Project. Repairing & maintaining the canal is the most sensible & economical way to stop the water losses caused by years of neglect & a lack of regular maintenance. Conserving water is at the top of our concerns.

Aside from the destruction of private property & disruption of neighborhoods adjacent to the canal, piping is a waste of precious taxpayer dollars. Repairing & maintaining the canal will achieve the same goals of water conservation for less money. 77% of the canal is presently in serviceable condition; to dig it up & throw it in a landfill is truly a waste of an important City asset. The 23% of the canal in need of replacement is approximately one-half mile or less. A local contractor, Left Coast Underground owned by Danny Beard, has inspected the canal & estimated that one-half mile of new reinforced concrete canal using the slip-form method will cost \$250K. So, this cost, plus any repairs to the remainder of the canal could certainly be done for well under \$500K, NOT over \$3M as the City has estimated their recently added #4 'repair option'.

No Environmental Impact Report is needed to repair & maintain the canal. The EIR plus additional engineering will add hundreds of thousands of dollars to the pipe project. Once digging starts, on site modifications required to handle underground water sources encountered on the hillsides, will add considerable costs. In our opinion, the City has grossly understated the cost of the Pipe Project in order to make it more 'appealing'.

While some call piping water a 'modern' solution, it is seldom used because it is expensive & very difficult to monitor. Future leaks or blockage of water are difficult to locate once a pipe is underground, while a canal allows simple visual inspection.

Just last week I encountered a public works crew using hi-tech camera equipment to inspect a length of water pipe under the street above SOU. The camera scope could not navigate a turn in the pipe preventing their crew from continuing forward. Such a turn in a canal is easily navigated ~ if the canal turns right, you turn right...and so on.

Simple is good. When you add inexpensive & effective, it's even better!

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND CONCERNS –

- Repairing the canal was not an option considered by the Pipe Project group. (Note title of Project)
- Pipe Project has artificially inflated cost to repair canal while underestimating cost of piping.
- Life span of options again is skewed. HDPE pipe has only been in use for 25 years. The 50-100 year life of pipe is an unknown factor.
- Reinforced concrete is known to last more than the 25 years quoted by pipe group. Our untended canal has already lasted 40 years.
- By repairing the existing canal and not needing an E.I.R., the money saved from that alone would fund most, if not all, canal repairs.
- The \$238K spent so far to research and promote piping project could have paid a major portion of a canal repair project.

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