

Fresno council OKs Fancher Creek project

By Russell Clemings

[The Fresno Bee, Wednesday, May 18, 2005](#)

More than five years of often-heated debate ended with unanimity Tuesday night as the City Council voted 6-0 to approve the Fancher Creek development in southeast Fresno.

Preceding the vote were four hours of debate, during which opponents again objected that the project's traffic and air pollution impacts were not adequately considered. At least one lawsuit appears likely.

But the project by longtime Fresno developers Ed Kashian and Tom Richards also won praise. Leading the cheers was Council President Mike Dages, whose district includes the project site, roughly bounded by Clovis, Belmont and Armstrong avenues and Kings Canyon Road.

"There will be a shopping center that will rival River Park, a technology center that will rival Palm Bluffs and a planned housing community that will rival the Dominion," Dages beamed. "This is long overdue in southeast Fresno."

Patience Milrod, an attorney representing the opposition group Medical Advocates for Healthy Air, said her clients did not really expect to block the 424-acre project. But she implored the commission to re-examine its air and traffic impacts using newly developed computer software. "You can't have good data if you don't use good tools. The best tools were not used," said Milrod. Outside of the meeting, she said her group is "seriously considering" a court challenge.

The tools at issue are computer "growth-response" models developed under a state planning grant last year -- too late for use in reviewing the Fancher Creek project, according to the city's staff.

"While the staff is excited about the promise of the growth-response tools," planning manager Darrell Unruh said, "they were not available for the preparation of this environmental impact report."

The council also heard objections from a group of doctors who own 75% interest in 52 acres along Clovis at Tulare Avenue. Kashian and Richards own the remaining 25% of that land, as well as 43 acres just to the north.

A major street would run from the northern property, through the doctors' land, to another Fancher Creek parcel. One of the doctors, Arnold Gazarian, asked the council not to condemn land for that street, but rather to require Kashian and Richards to negotiate the purchase.

"This is a dispute between partners, and it is something that the city should not get involved in," Gazarian said.

The council instead opted to require the Fancher Creek partners to take "reasonable steps" to negotiate a purchase before asking the city to use its condemnation power.

The council also approved a list of other requirements. One makes the developers indemnify the city against litigation. Another requires the developers to install or upgrade four traffic signals at nearby intersections during the first phase of construction, and agree to do seven more when traffic levels warrant.

One council member, Jerry Duncan, excused himself from the discussion and vote because of a conflict of interest involving his ownership of nearby property.

Air cleaners flunk ozone safety tests

[In the Modesto Bee, Wednesday, May 18, 2005, from Consumer Reports](#)

In the upper atmosphere, ozone gas helps shield us from damaging ultraviolet rays.

Near ground level, however, ozone is an irritant that can worsen asthma and decrease lung function. While most indoor ozone comes from the outside, we recently found that significant amounts can be emitted by some air cleaners that do little to clean the air.

Back in 2003, our tests of ionizing room air cleaners showed that models like Sharper Image's Ionic Breeze did a poor job removing dust and smoke from the air. (Sharper Image sued after we judged the company's Ionic Breeze Quadra "ineffective." Last year, a U.S. District Court dismissed the suit, ruling that Sharper Image had not shown our findings to be false.)

Now, our latest tests of these products show that some of the poorest-performing ionizing models also can expose you to potentially harmful levels of ozone.

Ionizing air cleaners impart an electrical charge to the air, creating charged molecules (known as ions) that are supposed to cling to airborne particles. Ionizing models that are also electrostatic precipitators (like those we tested) add an oppositely charged collection plate designed to attract the particles. Ozone is produced as a byproduct when high voltage near the charging wires converts oxygen. The ozone then exits the machine and flows into the room, where some people mistake its sweet smell for a sign of cleaner air.

Although some manufacturers' ads imply health benefits, air cleaners are not medical devices, and the Food and Drug Administration doesn't regulate their ozone output. Still, manufacturers often submit their products to a voluntary industry standard test that includes a test to see whether they produce more than 50 parts per billion (ppb) ozone -- the FDA threshold for medical devices.

When we tested five ionizing models in accordance with Underwriters Laboratories' (UL) standard for ozone emissions from electrostatic air cleaners, all failed by producing more than 50 ppb -- as measured in a sealed polyethylene room at the specified 2 inches from each machine's discharge.

Yet people don't live in sealed plastic rooms, so we additionally tested these machines in an open, well-ventilated lab. Since ozone becomes diluted and rapidly dissipates indoors as it reacts with carpet, upholstery and other surfaces, we also measured levels 3 feet away from the source.

In these open-lab tests, two models -- the IonizAir P4620 and the Surround Air XJ-2000 -- emitted more than 150 and 300 ppb, respectively, 2 inches from the machine. The other models -- the Sharper Image Professional Series Ionic Breeze Quadra S1737 SNX, the Ionic Pro CL-369, and the now-discontinued Brookstone Pure-Ion -- emitted less than 50 ppb.

At 3 feet, none of the five models emitted more than 28 ppb ozone.

While few people are likely to sit 2 inches from a machine's air discharge, you could be exposed to higher levels than those we measured at 3 feet if you take a cue from manufacturers. The IonizAir's box, for example, shows it on a desk near a keyboard and on a nightstand near a sleeping woman. The Ionic Pro CL-369 is shown next to a sofa. And the Surround Air's manual suggests placing it "nearby those suffering from breathing or other health problems."

We recommend you avoid these five ionizers -- both because they emitted significant amounts of ozone in our tests and because they performed poorly in separate tests of air-cleaning ability.

We further advise thinking twice about buying any air cleaner before following a few simple, low- or no-cost cleaning methods. Among them: Reduce indoor air pollutants by banning smoking, and minimizing candles, incense and wood-burning fires.

Keep your home well-ventilated. Use outdoor-venting exhaust fans in kitchen, bath, and laundry areas to reduce moisture and airborne particles that can breed respiratory irritants.

Tree cuts way to prune budget

Letting trees wither without water, be decked with mistletoe proposed

By TODD MILBOURN BEE STAFF WRITER

[Modesto Bee, Wednesday, May 18, 2005](#)

Money doesn't grow on trees, but they are a pretty good investment.

By providing shade, they lower energy costs. By absorbing water, there is less storm water to treat. Trees filter ozone and particulate pollution and, generally speaking, also raise property values.

"Trees pay us back," said Jim Gieger, spokesman for the Center for Urban Forest Research in Davis. "We invest a dollar, they generally return two to five to six times that much in benefits."

That's worth keeping in mind, Gieger said, as the city of Modesto considers major cuts to the upkeep of city trees, from stopping the watering of city trees downtown to eliminating mistletoe abatement except in extreme cases.

Modesto, a Tree City USA for 25 years, boasts one of the best urban forests in the nation. But some tree supporters worry that budget cuts over the past decade have placed that distinction in jeopardy.

"The city of Modesto's reputation didn't just happen," said Chuck Gilstrap, former president of the Greater Modesto Tree Foundation. "That happened because there was leadership that supported trees, even during the Great Depression. If they cut back on pruning and tree maintenance you will see an immediate effect. But five, 10, 15 years from now the forest could be in such a condition that it won't recover."

Trees were a hot topic Tuesday during the Modesto City Council's budget workshop, which covered the public works, information technology, personnel and finance departments.

All week, the city finance committee is considering how to trim general fund expenditures, which are outpacing revenues by about \$8 million, in an effort to balance the budget in two years.

The panel will pick up the discussion at 1 p.m. today in the basement chambers of Tenth Street Place. Officials will debate cutting positions and funds for the fire and police departments.

The committee will make its recommendation Thursday, with a vote by the full council expected June 7. The budget workshops are open to the public.

The council is facing an array of difficult choices, especially when it comes to programs and services that have faced reductions in recent years.

Among the tree-related proposals on the chopping block:

No longer watering city trees downtown and along McHenry Avenue, which will likely result in the death of smaller trees in the summertime.

Eliminating the abatement of mistletoe, except in extreme cases.

Ending city removal of trees except in emergency cases and possibly asking citizens to pick up the tab, either by paying a fee to city crews or a city-approved private firm.

Pruning trees only when they pose a direct traffic problem, which could leave branches to grow down onto sidewalks.

Canceling the Arbor Day celebration.

The cuts would save the city about \$530,000. But Gilstrap said the higher price might be neglecting the urban forest that is one of the best things Modesto has.

"The citizens of Modesto support tree programs -- there's no doubt about that," said Gilstrap. "I only wish the leadership would step up and do the same."

State Senate OKs sludge restrictions bill

By Seth Nidever, Sentinel Reporter

[Hanford Sentinel, Tuesday, May 17, 2005](#)

HANFORD - A bill that would give Kern County the right to keep other counties' sewage sludge off its turf cleared the state Senate Monday over the objections of sludge industry associations and powerful Southland sanitation districts.

SB 926, sponsored by State Sen. Dean Florez, D-Shafter, passed on a 26-9 vote.

"Over two-thirds of the Senators voting today said 'no' to the sludge industry and 'yes' to protecting California's groundwater. It is a victory for small communities all over the state," Florez said in a press release.

The bill applies only to the Kern County Board of Supervisors.

On May 10, the board voted to consider an all-out ban.

SB 926, if it becomes law, would provide supervisors with legal cover to do just that.

The bill's language asserts that the health threats of sludge are unknown and states that counties should find ways to dispose or reuse their own sewage sludge "so that no county is unfairly burdened with another county's sewage waste."

Sludge importation contracts in existence before the bill becomes law -- if it ever does -- would be exempt from the requirements.

Florez, who also represents Kings County, said the law was linked to a separate bill, SB 120, that would establish and enforce standards for the industrial pollutants contained in human sewage sludge.

The sludge gets mixed with industrial waste at wastewater treatment plants and contains 100,000 or so chemicals. It is used as fertilizer on fields.

Kings County, beginning in 2006, will allow only Class EQ composted waste, said Supervisor Tony Oliveira. Currently, both EQ composted waste and Class A sludge are allowed.

Kings County supervisors say the composted sludge is safe for application to crop land and have given the green light to County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County - a sludge association representing 78 Southland cities - to build a sludge composting plant in Kings County.

Opponents say unknown health threats lurk in the muck - composted or not. Westlake Farms, which has already sold land for the plant to the sludge producer, intends to use it as fertilizer on 12,000 acres of soil.

The proposal is currently facing a court appeal from two non-profit groups. Oliveira, a leading local supporter of sludge composting, was critical of SB 926. He predicted that an all-out ban on land-applied sludge wouldn't survive a constitutional challenge.

Kern County Supervisor Michael Rubio, who supports a total ban, acknowledged that lawsuits would rain down on Kern if it heads in that direction.

"(SB 926) helps in the legal battle in that it sends a message from the state legislature ... that the county of Kern should be able to ban the land application of biosolids," he said.

Agriculture burn goes awry, sets Mtn. View home ablaze

By Jeremy Rue, Enterprise Staff Writer

[Selma Enterprise, Wednesday, May 18, 2005](#)

Hot embers from a near-by controlled agricultural burn were reported to be the cause of a house fire on Mountain View Avenue near Highway 43 on May 11.

Hatam Salama and her three children lost almost all of their possessions in the blaze, which Fresno County fire investigators estimated caused over \$100,000 worth of damage.

The fire began while Salama and two of her children were home. The family heard the smoke detector beeping and her youngest son began shouting, "I see red, I see red!"

Salama attempted to call the fire department but rushed her children out of the house. Her daughter, Rana Salama, 14, ran to the next door neighbor's house to get help.

"We tried telling them to call the fire department, but they only spoke Spanish and didn't understand us," Rana said.

Acting frantically, Rana pulled the neighbor outside to show him the house and he immediately phoned authorities. Also, local resident Ricardo Lopez, who was driving by, noticed the fire and stopped to offer assistance.

Fire Captain Specialist Darrel Day, who is investigating the incident, said those responsible for the controlled burn near the home did have the proper permits, and the burn was conducted on a specified

burn day. However, Day says those holding the burn may be still be held liable pending a complete investigation.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District regulations prohibits agricultural burning on windy days, and requires that fires be extinguished should conditions become too windy. It also requires burning locations to be attended at all times.

For now, Hatam is just glad that her children were unharmed. "I thank God for my kids were not hurt," Hatam said. "It hurts to see your kids hurt, and when they lose their things."

The family says they lost nearly 90 percent of their belongings in the blaze. The Fresno Madera-area American Red Cross put the family up in a motel for the following nights, and offered coupons for clothing and supplies.

The family had no insurance, said Captain Day, and getting back on their feet may be tough. Hatam said most of her children are staying with friends for the time being, and she is working to recover as much as she can from the tattered remains of her home.

Already, some have pitched in to help out. Some of Rana's school friends were driving a few blocks away and noticed the smoke.

"We thought it was just a brush fire at first since it was white smoke," said Michelle Ritchie. "But then it got darker and darker, so I told my mom, 'we have to go over there to look, because it might be Rana's house.'"

The Ritchies, who are family friends, were able to take Rana in and look after her the days following the fire. Tina Ritchie, Michelle's mother, says it has been tough for the young girl. Rana had been working on several projects at school, and didn't realize that all of her homework, notes and books were lost in the fire until later that evening.

Hatam Salama, who has lived in the house for the past eight years, is originally from Tel Aviv.

"How would I feel if I was in another country and I lost everything," Tina Ritchie said.

Monetary donations can be made at the Educational Employee's Credit Union, located on High Street between North and First.

Kaweah mine vote postponed

By Denny Boyles

[Fresno Bee, Wednesday, May 18, 2005](#)

VISALIA - A local rock company will have to wait at least one more week to find out if its proposal to build a 280-acre surface mine near Woodlake will gain approval.

Kaweah River Rock Co., which currently operates a slightly smaller mine near the proposed project, wants to create a new site between the Kaweah River and Avenue 332, about one mile south of Woodlake.

Company officials say the proposed site contains enough gravel, sand and silt to supply local builders for 30 years. After the mine is tapped out, it will be used as a water recharge basin.

Tuesday, after hearing from supporters and those opposing the project, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors decided to delay its decision one week so it could modify a resolution relating to the project.

But it was the proposed mine's effect on current water supplies that was at the heart of residents' opposition. Valley Citizens for Water filed an appeal of the Tulare County Planning Commission's approval of the project. Del Strange, a spokesman for the group, said he did not think the company would be able to protect water supplies for residents and the Visalia area.

"We believe our water tables have already dropped by a third because of the current mining operation," Strange said.

Strange also said that concerns shared by neighbors of the proposed mine were not being heard by Tulare County officials.

"The county has clearly not made a good-faith effort to respond to our comments," he said. "We've also not been given adequate time to digest the information on the project. The county staff had six weeks to prepare the document, and we just had a few days to digest it."

Supervisor Phil Cox told Strange that neighbors' concerns were being addressed and that everyone had gotten the information at the same time.

"I just got this report Thursday, and I've had time to read through it and understand it," Cox said.

Mine supporters, including Bruce George, general manager of the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District, say the project not only will supply needed construction materials, but will be useful as a water reclamation site once mining operations stop.

"If this district could afford to build this project solely as benefit for water resources, we would," George said. "We believe the project provides protection for water resources today and will add a future benefit."

Though the Board of Supervisors has not made a decision, residents did appear to have received at least one concession from Kaweah River Rock. Attorney Dan Dooley, who is representing the company, said Kaweah River Rock officials would agree to a condition that prohibited trucks from the mine site from taking certain routes.

The mine is expected to generate 320 truck trips per day, 20% of which were set to travel through nearby Woodlake.

"The company is willing to have the truck routes approved by the county," Dooley said.

The appeal of the Planning Commission's decision has been scheduled to continue at the next Board of Supervisors meeting, set for 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Board to rule on quarry

Fire chief will also ask for some fee increases

By Lynn Doan, Staff writer

[Visalia Times-Delta and Tulare Advance-Register, Monday, May 16, 2005](#)

County supervisors are expected to make the final decision Tuesday on a proposed rock quarry near Woodlake that neighbors have been fighting for 10 years.

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing in late March on Kaweah River Rock's plans to build its second surface mining operation in Woodlake by the Kaweah River. But after receiving hundreds of pages of new evidence from neighbors opposed to the project, the board voted to delay its decision until Tuesday.

At issue is whether a new quarry would harm underground water sources, as some neighbors claim, or whether the quarry can take steps to prevent damage, as quarry officials contend.

"The future of Tulare County's primary groundwater resource is at stake," said Del Strange, spokesman for Valley Citizens for Water, a group of neighbors opposed to the quarry. "It's time for the mining industry to get out of our vital water resources and our groundwater aquifers and look to the plentiful supply of materials in the local foothills."

Neighbors said they are concerned that the quarry, which Kaweah River Rock plans to build on a 280-acre site east of state Route 245, would affect their groundwater, air, traffic and noise levels. And another group, the Kaweah/St. Johns Farmers League, expressed similar concerns at the public hearing.

But Kaweah River Rock general manager David Harauld said the company has already proposed measures that would prevent the quarry from affecting groundwater.

The project includes a clay wall that would surround the excavation site to limit groundwater seepage to less than a few hundred gallons a minute, and a recharge system to maintain water levels, he said.

Harrald said the company would also build a bypass system to avoid blocking upstream groundwater flows.

In January, the county's Planning Commission granted Kaweah River Rock permission to build the quarry after reviewing its environmental impact report, which stated that the site would not have a significant effect on its surrounding environment.

But neighbors appealed the commission's decision to the Board of Supervisors, saying the report was not complete.

In 1995, Kaweah River Rock proposed a larger quarry on more than 800 acres of land in Woodlake, but Valley Citizens for Water managed to derail the project in 1999, when supervisors voted to deny the company a permit.

Harrald said he wouldn't be presenting any new information at Tuesday's meeting.

"It's time to vote," he said. "There's nothing more to say."

Groups Seek Tougher EPA Rules on Mercury

[S.F. Chronicle, Wednesday, May 18, 2005](#)

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Some of the nation's top environmental groups said Tuesday they will join the efforts of at least 13 states hoping to force industry to install mercury pollution controls tougher than those imposed this spring by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA in March issued new regulations that it said would cut mercury pollution from power plants in half by 2020, from 48 tons a year now to 24.3 tons. The new rules rely on the markets to reduce pollution, with companies buying and selling allotted pollution limits.

Opponents of the new rules contend the agency should have required each plant to install the most effective technology to capture mercury emissions.

Attorney generals from at least 13 states, led by New Jersey, challenged the rules in a lawsuit filed in U.S. District court in Washington.

The Sierra Club, National Wildlife Federation and Environmental Defense said they will file a separate legal challenge on Wednesday.

The Clean Air Task Force, representing the U.S. Public Research Interest Group, Natural Resources Council of Maine and the Ohio Environmental Council said it would file another lawsuit.

The Waterkeeper Alliance, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and Conservation Law Foundation planned a third legal action. And the Natural Resources Defense Council said it would file its own challenge.

"This collective effort demonstrates widespread consensus that EPA's approach to regulating mercury and other air toxics from coal-fired power plants leaves public health at risk and violates the law," said Felice Stadler of the National Wildlife Federation.

The Bush administration will "vigorously defend the Clean Air Mercury Rule against any challenges," EPA spokeswoman Eryn Witcher said. "EPA and the Bush Administration believe that we must act now to effectively reduce emissions of mercury from power plants."

On the Net:

EPA:

www.epa.gov/mercury <http://www.epa.gov/mercury>

[Modesto Bee, Editorial, Wednesday, May 18, 2005:](#)

Budget doesn't look as gloomy as feared

The governor's revised budget wasn't as bleak as it might have been, thanks to some \$4 billion in unexpected revenue, but there is still plenty of pain to go around -- not to mention plenty of fertile turf for fighting among the state's various interests.

Valley cities and counties will have a little easier time with their own budgets, thanks to some elements of Gov. Schwarzenegger's plan. Almost \$600 million of the unexpected funds will be used to pay back cities and counties for part of the hole created in their budgets by the governor's abrupt push to decrease sharply the state's vehicle license fee.

That's about half of the money local governments did not receive in 2003-04, and it comes earlier than expected. The backfilling wasn't supposed to begin until 2006-07.

Our area may also see some of the \$1.3 billion in funding the governor earlier announced that he wanted to restore to transportation projects.

One good note for the valley's air: The governor added \$12.5 million in incentive grants to the \$86 million already budgeted for the Carl Moyer Program, which helps farmers and others replace older diesel-powered vehicles and equipment with newer, cleaner models. Schwarzenegger restored \$18.5 million for sheriff's departments in small or rural counties, and valley agencies could get some of that money.

When it comes to education, the governor is in a no-win position. He didn't include the full Proposition 98 funding, which leaves the education establishment unhappy. He did include \$175 million more to reduce class sizes in the state's worst-performing schools, and \$50 million more for incentive pay for teachers who work at poor-performing schools and improve student test scores. Those are worthwhile aims, but won't achieve much if they are just one-shot efforts.

The rancor over school funding will only increase in coming months as a possible special election looms in November.

The additional revenue in the budget came from the improving economy and an amnesty that caused some scofflaws to pay their delinquent income taxes. The amnesty income will be a one-time boost, which is why the governor is smart in proposing one-time expenditures, such as debt reduction, rather than making long-term commitments.

One question was answered very quickly: Would there be any bipartisan sigh of relief that the revised budget wasn't so bad as it might have been, thanks to the one-time windfall? Guess not. Democratic Assembly Speaker Fabián Núñez said the governor's new budget proposals were a photo op intended to give him a boost in the polls.

Here we go again -- with the outlook for a nasty and protracted fight over the state budget.

[Fresno Bee, Editorial, Wednesday, May 18, 2005:](#)

Reasons to ride

Now, more than ever, bicycles make sense for body and mind.

There it is -- up there -- hanging from the rafters in the garage. It's your old buddy, the bicycle. If you haven't been out together for a cool one lately, make a date for Friday.

The Fresno County Bicycle Coalition is organizing a Friday morning group ride down Blackstone Avenue from Manchester Center to downtown Fresno's Kern Street Coffee Co., where breakfast will be served.

A police escort will accompany this brave band of brothers and sisters when it begins at 8:30 a.m. near the shopping mall's Fresno Area Express depot. Riders are asked to gather around 8 a.m. There is a group planning to leave from Clovis at 7:15 a.m. from the Old Town Trail rest stop near Ashlan and Clovis avenues.

It's easy to make a case for leaving the gas guzzler in the garage Friday.

Cash: Take a look at the pump price. Next! Cardio: Bicycling is great aerobic exercise and helps strengthen that six-pack.

Children: What a good example this will set for the little ones in our home and our city, whom we know are following our example far too well by crashing on the couch with the remote. Sometimes the roles are reversed. This year, like last, cyclists from Edison High School are joining in with the action by organizing Bike to School Day. That's setting a good example for parents.

Celebration: For most people, biking to work or school is a break in the normal routine, a chance to meet new people and put some fun into the day. That's always a good idea.

Conservation: Leaving the car and its exhaust fumes at home really does send ripples throughout the environment. The air gets a boost, fuel is saved and the body gets its exercise. Mentally, it's helpful to be reminded that it is not necessary to take the minivan all alone to work every day.

Craziness: Who needs that rut? Our mental health can always use the boost that comes from mixing with friends and doing something unexpected once in awhile.

Creativity: Maybe some fresh ideas will pop into your mind while you're whipping around those turns with the wind in your hair.

Conversation: When is the last time you had a good story for the afternoon coffee break at the office?

See? It's all good.

Ready to roll? Call the Fresno County Bicycle Coalition at (559) 444-2065 or head to the coalition's Web site, www.fresnobike.org.

[Modesto Bee, Letter to the Editor, Wednesday, May 18, 2005:](#)

Stop throwing cash at stupid air studies

Have our air pollution scientists gone mad? Trying their darndest to blame dairy cows' flatulence and burping as distinctive contributions to our poor air quality is idiotic, illogical and patently stupid! I doubt very much if one can find a dairyman who believes his cows are major contributors, more so than dirty trucks and buses, to dirty air quality. I know few dairy people who are coughing, sneezing and choking because of their cows. In fact, I know none and doubt the scientists can find any.

The committee studying this so-called problem contains members who, over the years, seem dedicated to spoiling life for everyone with their warnings of death and dying. When are we going to get sensible and quit throwing dollars at such illogical and stupid contentions? Studying air pollution has become a cash cow, which has produced little results of late. Our air is still dirty in the summertime and will always remain so. Live with it as we have and quit punishing everyone at every opportunity.

HARRY J. CROMPE

Modesto

[Fresno Bee, Letter to the Editor, Wednesday, May 18, 2005:](#)

'Rule of the universe'

How many ways can you measure a cow? If you are going to tax the animal by the hoof, your formula will use the number 4. If you are going to tax by the individual hairs, your formula will require a much-studied equation.

Larger hides have more hair; each requires nutrients, or fuel. More hair; more fuel. More fuel, more waste, including gas. Do you know what this dreaded gas is called? Methane.

Now ask yourself whether we need more milk at a reasonable price, or do we need more regulations on dairies? Cow methane is not a threat to the air we breathe.

The older generation is living longer, because we grew-up with lead in our paint, fuel, etc. We have stronger environmental immunity. If children are conditioned on pure breathing air from birth, will their life span be longer or shorter? By the same standard the air can become unhealthy. Our everyday environment prepares us for the days our air will be unhealthy.

There is a rule of the universe: If you cannot change as the environment changes around you, you will become extinct.

Frank De Tienne, Caruthers