

Starts To Melt

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JUDGE MS EVELYN G. FARMER  
PRESIDING JUDGE  
POT # 154 CONSISTING OF CLERKS  
WRITTEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF QUINDY ST SE  
CLERK MS EVELYN G. FARMER  
CLERK MS SHIRLEY PARDELL  
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# METROPOLITAN

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1998

## Council OKs Sparton Cleanup

### Discharge May Stop Spread of Pollution

BY TANIA SOUSSAN  
Journal Staff Writer

The City Council approved a lease Monday night that will allow Sparton Technology Inc. to discharge treated water from its contaminated plant into the Calabacillas Arroyo.

The cleanup plan still requires approval from the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority, however.

Sparton intends to pump contaminated ground water from its former plant near Coors and Irving, clean the water and then return it to the aquifer through an infiltration gallery.

The infiltration gallery would be made up of perforated pipes placed seven feet below the arroyo bed. Water would be pumped into the pipes and then allowed to filter out through the holes into the arroyo.

and down to the aquifer. The plan represents a "first step" because it will stop the spread of ground water contamination, but it won't clean up the entire site, according to Michael A. Hebert, technical project manager for the EPA.

There will be some benefits to the environment in that the expansion of the contamination in the ground water will either be halted or at least reduced, he said at a recent AMAFCA meeting. In addition, the ground water will be returned to the aquifer from which it came thus preserving this precious resource.

The Sparton plant built parts for nuclear weapons developed at Sandia National Laboratories between 1961 and 1994. Solvents used during the work seeped into ground water. The contamination plume is moving at about 100 feet a year and covers about 100 acres.

The company and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have been wrangling over how to extract

the chemicals, which seeped into ground water for almost 15 years. The city, county, state and EPA have sued Sparton to force it to use EPA methods to clean up the site. That suit has not been resolved.

Sparton will pay the city \$3,000 a year to lease the underground portion of a third of an acre in the arroyo. The property was donated to the city as open space earlier this year, said Lawrence Rael, chief administrative officer for the city.

AMAFCA, which holds the drainage easement for the arroyo, must grant the city an encroachment license before the work can begin.

The flood control authority's board has been reluctant to grant the easement until it receives assurances it won't be liable if something goes wrong and contaminated water reaches the arroyo.

Rael said City Attorney Bob White has approved indemnification clauses in both the lease and settlement agreement that would protect the city from liability.

## Official To Readdress APS Agreement

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At least one community leader said Monday he fears the South Valley would be hurt if the Sambrano Agreement were abandoned.

"We would be starting off at square one all over again," said Sam Sanchez, one of the parents who helped draft the 1987 agreement.

He also dismisses allegations that some parents have not been able to participate in decision-making.

When the Sambrano agreement was drafted, the U.S. Department of Justice called on APS to raise test scores, renovate buildings and offer more preschool programs in the South Valley.

APS Superintendent

ly childhood centers at all South Valley elementary schools; employs a full-time librarian at each school; has built four elementary school gyms and spent millions of dollars on renovations at several schools.

In addition, she said, test scores and graduation rates have increased slightly over the past several years.

"We are not where we want to be, but there has been some major progress made by teachers, parents and administrators," she said.

### Today Use In

Marketing.

re looking at putting up a product," Herzog said y, "a product that is going us a first time home buyer and move-up buyer t."

ex builds about 225 homes in the Albuquerque area, ls have said. The company silt such subdivisions as n, High Desert and Tus-

zog said a final closing in the Bernalillo property nown but it could be rela- soon. He said the company ts to start clearing the land aving utility lines installed after the sale is final.

h manufactured and site- homes will be located on the rty. Herzog estimated the s, ranging in price from 00 to \$200,000, could be up as soon as January.

zog said the company to develop the site because "natural progression" of the th that's happening in the rancho/Bernalillo area.

would also venture to say there are probably some of best views out there that anywhere in the general querque area," Herzog said.

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