



Andrew Werthmann

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On Tuesday next week, a California-based water bottling corporation is asking City Council to approve a plan that would sell them 5-10% of our total drinking water resources.

We want to hear from you about this! That's why Councilmember Kate Beaton and I have asked for a Public Discussion on this item, Monday, May 23 at 7pm (at City Hall), because a decision this big should not be made without a lot of community input and thoughtful consideration.

Water is a valuable resource that is only going to become more valuable as time goes on, due to population growth, pressures from weather-related events like droughts, and contamination (like we are already seeing with PFAS and VOCs). So while Eau Claire is not utilizing this additional requested water today - it's not unreasonable to foresee a future where many more corporations and outside communities are scrambling to purchase Eau Claire's drinking water. That means it's incumbent upon our community to have a Water Plan that addresses our growth, long-range infrastructure needs, vulnerability, and other threats we may face.

There are pros and cons to this development. But I think ultimately the discussion is about growth at what cost. If the plan is approved, this corporation (Niagara Bottling) will be buying our public water for less per gallon than you or I do, and longterm, what is the impact and outlook. To see more details check out our Council Packet, both Monday and Tuesday:

<https://www.eauclairewi.gov/.../city.../city-council-packet>

To take action and make sure your voice is heard, you can

1) show up at the Public Discussion at 7pm on Monday the 23rd at City Hall and share your opinion, and/or

2) send an email to the entire City Council - simply copy and paste this email list:

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Terry.Weld@EC-CityCouncil.com

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