



Photo courtesy Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant

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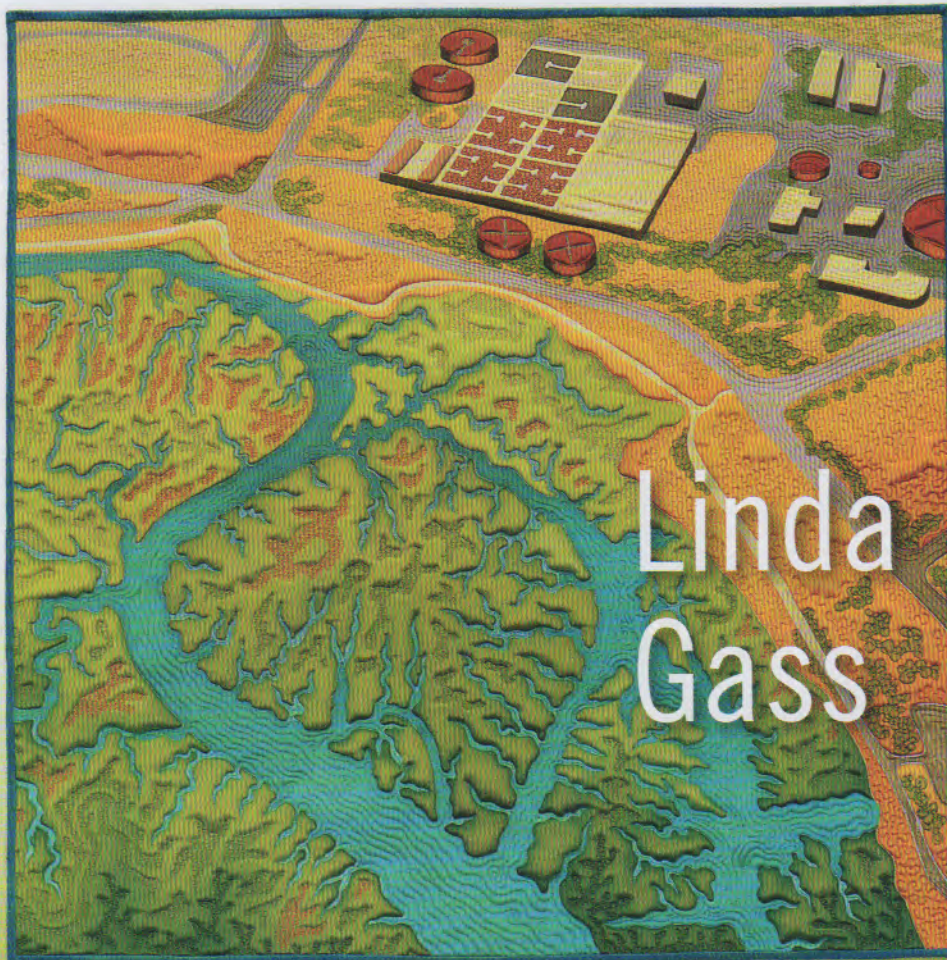


Photo by Don Tuttle

An environmental activist living in the San Francisco Bay Area, Linda knows that many of humans' dirtiest activities take place on the edges of vulnerable water ecosystems. Her quilt *Treatment?*, 30 x 30 inches, is an aerial view of where her sewage goes: the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant, close to a living bay marsh. "In the 1950s and 60s, raw sewage went directly into the Bay; sewage treatment plants were built in response to severe fish kills. The plants now remove 98 percent of the contamination and then discharge it into the Bay, but the volume of discharged treated fresh water creates new problems by diluting salinity," Linda says. "As our population grows, we must generate less wastewater and recycle more of it through water conservation practices, gray water systems, and dual plumbing."