

Press Release – Stop the Dump in Sunol

January 7, 2005

The winds of war are blowing in Sunol, a quiet, rural East Bay town now battling a startling plan by Alameda County Waste Management Authority to develop a huge compost dump in the Sunol Valley.

“This is a small, fragile place of great beauty and now that beauty is in peril,” says resident Nancy Farber. Farber, the CEO of Fremont-based Washington Hospital, worries most about the health effects of the dump, which would initially accept up to 600 tons of rotting food per day, spewing ammonia and flying garbage into surrounding air. “There is a school full of children and homes right downwind. This is not an ecologically sound place to build a dump.”

Hundreds of citizens of Sunol have formed an organization called *Stop the Dump in Sunol* and they have a compelling story to tell your audience. The elements of the story are varied and intriguing. Concerned citizens are baffled as to why the Authority is focusing on the Sunol site, when there are two far more appropriate sites at Altamont Pass. Garbage giant Waste Management manages a composting facility at Altamont. The Authority itself owns the nearby Altamont Landfill, where there are no residences.

Stop the Dump in Sunol suggests the following elements would make a strong news story. We can make available:

1. Sunol Glen School officials alarmed that their children would be put in harm's way by the nearby dump.
2. Local doctors who specialize in environmental medicine and are very concerned about the health effects of placing a dump in this populated area.
3. Citizens who now live in fear of giant garbage trucks lumbering through their quiet town, flying garbage, air pollution, machinery-generated noise pollution and water contamination.
4. Ranchers who will be kicked off their land, losing their way of life.
5. Environmentalists who can address such dangers as the introduction of Sudden Oak Death to Alameda County and the ill effects of a festering dump on people, livestock, and the varied wildlife that populate rural Sunol.

On the opposing side, news organizations could interview Brian Mathews of the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, who regularly clashes with members of *Stop the Dump in Sunol*.

This controversy demands immediate press coverage. *Stop the Dump in Sunol* anticipates a large crowd at its upcoming Tuesday, January 11 meeting at Sunol Glen School at 6:30 p.m., to hear the results from our environmental investigator. Please contact me at (925) 862-0169 or press@stopthedumpinsunol.org, so we can get coverage as soon as possible. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Jodi Monahan
Stop the Dump in Sunol
www.stopthedumpinsunol.org