

Press Release – Feb 17, 2006

A group of concerned Alameda County residents have taken on a new challenge. Citizens for a Healthy Alameda County Environment (CHACE) has been established to inform Alameda County residents of the upcoming environmental impact report to establish a composting facility in Alameda County just off Highway 680 between Fremont and Pleasanton.

At a recent steering committee meeting, members heard first hand from local politicians that the Stop the Dump in Sunol group had not gotten their message to the people of Alameda County; "people don't understand your message", "there is no way the County of Alameda is going to put a dump right off of highway 680", "anyway, it's all about recycling brush and lawn clippings, right?" WRONG.

That night the steering committee worked overtime. The politicians were right. Since people truly don't understand what this type of recycling facility really is all about, we might be perceived as being unreasonable or worse. The name of our group didn't convey our message properly.

Members voted unanimously to rename our group to more accurately represent the concerns of Alameda County Citizens. Effective immediately, a task force has been formed to properly convey our message. Citizens for a Healthy Alameda County Environment, (CHACE) clearly identifies our group and objective.

No, we don't feel the location proposed by Alameda County Waste Management Authority, in a residential neighborhood, is the proper location for this type of facility. Yes, we do believe there are better alternatives in the Altamont area of the County near currently established recycling and garbage collection facilities. Yes, there are serious environmental issues that need to be taken to the citizens of Alameda County. This is not just lawn clippings and brush, it's 120 tons of food waste per day. This becomes 7,200,000 (seven million two hundred thousand) pounds of rotting garbage in a 30 day period.

Additionally, in discussions with current "recycling" plant directors, they stated that Seagulls, odor, rodents, tons of ammonia into the atmosphere, and bushels of paper and packaging from fast food restaurants will be just some of the other plagues brought to the Sunol neighborhood. Knowledgeable people that have visited the proposed site have said, "this is bad location". Finally, yes, we do believe in thoughtful recycling with compassion to serious environmental decisions.

The draft Environmental Impact Report of 2005 identified 12 such serious environmental issues that, even after mitigation, were said to be significant and unavoidable. For the past year the Alameda County Waste Management Authority has been compiling the final report. They have led us to believe that little will change from the draft report and that the citizens of Alameda County will simply have to deal with significant and

unavoidable environmental dangers impacting the air, the water, the soil and the general public.

Why is the Alameda County Waste Management Authority using millions of taxpayers dollars for a composting facility when garbage companies are already taking care of this activity? There are many questionable activities taking place on this project. But don't take our word for it. Do your own research. Something stinks, and it's not just the garbage. This may well become Alameda County's own "GarbageGate".

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority has just released the Final Environmental Impact Report on the proposed Sunol composting Facility. Thousands of concerns have been documented by citizens, public agencies, environmental consultants and attorneys relative to site and environmental issues. Citizens for a healthy Alameda County Environment are now reviewing the report and will have our response shortly. We are hoping that the Authority members, leaders in communities throughout the County, are going to be asking the tough questions of the Authority's management.