

Press Release - Stop the Dump in Sunol

December 28, 2004 – Release 2.0

To: Local Residents, Newspapers, Media Outlets

From: Stop the Dump in Sunol

Subject: Alameda County Waste Management Authority's proposal to develop a RECYCLING DUMP in Sunol.

Background

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority is moving forward at an alarming pace to build a recycling dump in the Sunol Valley. A dump that in its initial design will accept 600 tons of rotting food and recycling garbage daily, generating in excess of 52 tons of ammonia and hundreds of tons of other environmental toxins into the air and our water system annually. This amount could easily double or triple as the dump expands.

We clearly feel all residents believe recycling is a good thing. One's first reaction when they think of recycling are yard trimmings that are picked up and recycled, or the back-yard compost bin. **Add to this** all the waste from your meals and garbage from potentially every restaurant, grocery store, meat market and fast food outlets from 50 to 100 miles outside of the area. The plant will generate litter, toxics, an inconceivable odor and infestations resulting in potential health problems for people living miles away. Meteorological studies need to take place to determine just how wide an area will be exposed to these contaminants.

While your first reaction may be that you feel sorry for the people of Sunol, this is not simply a Sunol issue. This will certainly have a far reaching potential impact on the quality of life in South Fremont and the Castlewood - West Pleasanton areas.

Meeting Highlights - December 10th

Our WEB site www.stophthedumpinsunol.org is now up and operational. Please visit this site to learn more about this environmental disaster and what you can do to help move this dump from Sunol to a location more suited for this type of operation.

We have found:

The proposed dump uses outdated wind row technology so all pollutants are exposed to the environment creating a greater stench and flying garbage. Newer technology creates these facilities indoor with systems to capture pollutants minimizing the impact on the environment.

Land already owned by waste management and in an area more suitable to this project will **not** now be considered. It appears the company they want to give the business to, Material Recovery Industries (MRI), can only operate out of the Sunol property that the authority must now negotiate to lease or purchase from the San Francisco Water Department.

Documents requested from the Waste Management Authority will not be made available. We are required to petition the court for documents through the Freedom of Information Act. Why aren't they working with us? We want a successful recycling operation in a location that has a minimum impact to people and the environment.

Site Visits

Members of our task force have visited existing "recycling" operations in Hollister and the Altamont landfill. The Hollister site was obnoxious. The odor was toxic, paper waste was everywhere to be found. One of the visiting members needed to use an inhalant in order to breathe normally. The Altamont landfill was not a "recycling" dump but members of the task force did find that the Altamont landfill will be building their own recycling plant at the Altamont site.

An alternate site in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) located on Flynn Road in Livermore seems to be the ideal location. The land is owned already by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, there are no residences in close proximity, most residences 4-5 miles away from site, little to no traffic. Why was this site tossed aside by the Waste Management's staff??? Placing the dump on Andrade Road in Sunol will cost millions of additional tax payers dollars.

Legal Representation

Stop the dump in Sunol has contracted with the Law firm of Bowles & Verna LLP to provide legal assistance, environmental research expertise, and to coordinate our response to the DEIR with other attorneys and environmental specialists.

Meeting Highlights – December 21st

During our meeting the following community residents were elected as the officers of our group.

Presidents	----	Caz Slendak & Gerry Beemiller
Secretary	----	Mary Peters
Treasurer	----	Linda Pappas

Approved the hiring of a Sunol resident with extensive news and media background to provide leadership in an effort to get our message out to beyond Sunol.

Approved funds for an informational packet to be sent to all Sunol residents.

Reminded residents that questions to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) are requested January 5th 2005. Brooks will compile all questions into a single document reflecting every questionable aspect to the DEIR.

Stop the Dump in Sunol is a task force of area residents to **STOP** this **ENVIROMENTAL DISASTER** from becoming a reality. They meet Tuesdays at 6:30 at the Sunol Glen School in Sunol.

More Information can be found at: www.stophedumpinsunol.org

