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Alameda County Waste Management Authority
Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board

Dear Board Members:

Upon reading the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on “Organics Processing Development Program and Project,” it is clear that there are numerous **“significant and unavoidable impacts”** upon Sunol’s environment and its residents, if this projects goes forward. However, based upon the “Board’s” attitude displayed at last weeks hearing in Sunol, it appears that the proposal will be implemented regardless how the impacted residents feel about it. This is based upon the attitude that the members conveyed that “there are no fatal flaws in the project in the sense of adverse impacts that are so serious as to preclude a finding of overriding social and economic necessity” as stated by Mr. David Tam of Berkeley in his testimony in support of the program.

I strongly disagree with that premise. All of this social and economic necessity stems from the fact that the “Board” views the goal of 75% diversion of all wastes by the year 2010 not as a goal but rather as a **mandate**. This is wrong. The State of California mandates only 50%. Secondly, the date of compliance for the 75% is to be set by the “Board,” which is purely a discretionary date. *While almost all of us who live in the area support the need for a compost facility, there are other alternative methods, as well as alternative sites, that were discounted because they did not meet either the required goal of 75% or were not as attractive economically.*

Consequently, I do not see that there is an overriding social and economic necessity to **compromise** the health, living condition, and financial status of Sunol’s residents just to meet a desired goal and a self selected time table.

I received my Doctorate in Public Health from UCLA, one of the finest Universities in the United States, and learned that our mandate as professionals is to protect the public from harm as much as possible. We have also learned, by experience that an ounce of prevention is worth at least a pound of cure. On that basis, why are we knowingly exposing a portion of our population (The Sunolians) to known personal health hazards and environmental related risks in general? For example, we all know the potential consequences of 120 tons a day of rotting food left in the open air for days, releasing 52 tons of ammonia per year into the air, water contamination, air borne bi-product particles, etc. We need to protect our environment to assure the survival of all living organisms, including “homo sapiens” and not place them in harms way if we can help it. In my

considered opinion, if this composting facility is built at the presently proposed site, we will expose our citizens to known hazards at a yet to be determined severity.

My wife and I moved to Sunol about almost four years ago. We came here to enjoy the peace, tranquility, good air, scenic beauty, topography, a slower pace of life, a small town atmosphere, etc. We purchased our dream home on the side of the hill overlooking the Sunol Valley with the intention of settling down for the rest of our lives. If this project goes ahead, we will lose all of the benefits that we have enjoyed and will suffer an economic loss as well. The value of properties in Sunol will be substantially reduced as a direct consequence of this project destroying our environment and creating a potential health hazard as well. If you don't believe me, just ask the homeowners of Milpitas, which side of the "dump" you live on?

I find it interesting that we require mitigation measures to protect the California Tiger Salamander by capturing and relocating them to a safe environment; we provide mitigation measures for burrowing owls by excluding their nest area from any construction; why are we not doing the same for us, the residents of Sunol? We need protection as well from this project. How about finding another site? There are several other options that are available.

The last point that I want to make is the absurdity of this project in the light of the one that is presently being worked upon by the Army Corp of Engineers. They are spending millions of dollars to provide a livable habitat and a navigable passage for Salmon/Steelheads to enter the Alameda Creek just to be killed off by the water pollution that will be caused by the Quarry and your project.

Sincerely,

Peter Farber-Szekrenyi, Dr. P.H.