



City of Sebastopol

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CITY MANAGER

Jack Griffin

CITY CLERK/PROGRAM MANAGER

Mary C. Gourley

March 4, 2009

Paul Kelley
Chair, Board of Supervisors / Supervisors
County of Sonoma
575 Administration Drive, Room 100A
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Re: City and County Land Use Decisions

Dear Chair Kelley and Supervisors Brown, Kerns, Zane, and Carrillo:

The City of Sebastopol is concerned that the County of Sonoma would ignore the unanimous vote of a City Council and its community and make a major land use decision contrary to that City's own determination, as evidenced not only by its immediate vote but also by its historical citizen vote adopting an urban growth boundary. Secondly, we are concerned that the County would force changes to its General Plan to accommodate this particular land use.

The project that has brought this serious issue to our attention is the application by the Dutra Group to build an asphalt production plant and recycling center at Haystack Landing at the southern entrance to the City of Petaluma. This location is within a few hundred feet of the Petaluma River and Schollenberger Park, one of the last wetlands of its kind in California, recognized by the Audubon Society as one of the top four new birding sites in the country. The City of Petaluma, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and the Coastal Conservancy have invested millions of dollars in protecting and enhancing this refuge. The citizens of Petaluma enjoy the many outdoor activities in this natural area along with an estimated 150,000 visitors each year. It is located within the City of Petaluma's Urban Growth Boundary and the Scenic Corridor of Highway 101.

Our Sonoma County Cities have used urban growth boundaries to proactively contain, control, and direct growth to promote more compact urban development. At the same time, these boundaries protect our surrounding farmlands and other resource lands, such as parks, watersheds, and wildlife habitats, from inappropriate development. We use this planning tool to separate our urban areas with greenbelts.

We are very concerned that your vote could force the City of Petaluma and its community to accept this particular industrial use contrary to its own planning and its express vote asking you to deny this permit. Can the City of Sebastopol, the one municipality in the Fifth District, and our community expect similar disregard of a future unanimous vote of our Council?



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MAYOR
Sarah Gurney

CITY COUNCIL
Linda Kelley, Vice Mayor
Larry Robinson
Kathleen Shaffer
Guy Wilson

City and County relationships do inherently face some jurisdictional conflict but, to my recent knowledge, have never yet ended up with the County forcing a City to accommodate an unacceptable land use within its Urban Growth Boundary. Such an action would destabilize years of County and City cooperation. We urge you to respect the City of Petaluma and deny this permit application when it returns to you on March 24, 2009.

Very truly yours,



Sarah Glade Gurney
Mayor, City of Sebastopol

cc: Mayor Pam Torliatt, Petaluma
Mayor Joe Palla, Cloverdale
Mayor John Guardino, Cotati
Mayor Eric Ziedrich, Healdsburg
Mayor Aime Breeze, Rohnert Park
Mayor Susan Gorin, Santa Rosa
Mayor Ken Brown, Sonoma
Mayor Robin Goble, Windsor
Sonoma County Planning Commission
League of California Cities Representative
City of Sebastopol City Council