## City of Merced

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** August 24, 2009

**TO:** Planning Commission

FROM: Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager

**SUBJECT:** Additional Correspondence regarding the Wal-Mart Project (Agenda Item 4.1)

Attached are additional letters or emails regarding the Wal-Mart project that have been received by City staff <u>during</u> the August 19 Planning Commission meeting or <u>after</u> the meeting. The Commission had previously received a CD-ROM of all the letters received on the project since 2006 and additional letters that had been received after the staff report had been issues were distributed to you on August 19. Thanks!

Attachments

From:	Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council
Sent:	Wednesday, August 19, 2009 4:05 PM
То:	city, council; Bill Spriggs (E-mail); Carlisle, John; Conway, Mike; Cortez, Joseph; Dawn Walker (E-mail); Ellie Wooten (E-mail 2); Ellie Wooten (E-mail); Gabriault, Michele; Jim Sanders (E-mail); Joe Cortez (E-mail); John Bramble; John Carlisle (E-mail); Lor, Noah; Lor, Noah; Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail 2); Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail); Sanders, Jim; Spriggs, Bill

Cc: Davidson, Dana; Quintero, Frank; Espinosa, Kim; Schechter, Jeanne

Subject: FW: Walmart

From the website.

Dawn

Dawn Walker Executive Secretary City of Merced 678 West 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 Phone: (209) 385-6834 Fax: (209) 385-1780

-----Original Message----- **From:** Leonard Rich [mailto:rekfixer@pacbell.net] **Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2009 3:46 PM **To:** city, council **Subject:** Walmart

**To all Counil Memebers** 

I am in complete agreement permitting the Walmart project to be allowed to go forward with its warehouse project.

Leonard Rich Jr. Rich's Auto Body, Inc. (209) 723-1022

From: Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council

Sent: Friday, August 21, 2009 9:15 AM

- To: city, council; Bill Spriggs (E-mail); Carlisle, John; Conway, Mike; Cortez, Joseph; Dawn Walker (E-mail); Ellie Wooten (E-mail 2); Ellie Wooten (E-mail); Gabriault, Michele; Jim Sanders (E-mail); Joe Cortez (E-mail); John Bramble; John Carlisle (E-mail); Lor, Noah; Lor, Noah; Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail 2); Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail); Sanders, Jim; Spriggs, Bill
- Cc: Quintero, Frank; Espinosa, Kim; Davidson, Dana; Schechter, Jeanne

Subject: FW: walmart distribution center

From the website.

Dawn

Dawn Walker Executive Secretary City of Merced 678 West 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 Phone: (209) 385-6834 Fax: (209) 385-1780

-----Original Message-----From: WIRUSSELLWILLIAM@aol.com [mailto:WIRUSSELLWILLIAM@aol.com] Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2009 9:15 AM To: city, council Subject: walmart distribution center

I know that the council probably delete all of their letters not really wanting to here what people have to say that oppose the Distribution Center. We almost had an accident this morning with a car and a big rig over by Weaver which would have cause a fatally. I feel that the City really need to think long an hard about this .My father was hit by a semi when he was in high school coming home from school .Guess where that truck was going ? Around the corner from where he lived at a plant. Also his Stepfather worked as a foreman at that plant, who died of COPD. So right know the city see it as quick fix do to the economy but later will most likely suffer the consequence.You can say YES to anything when you are not directly affected by it .I can say No because I will be force to live by it or do the city a favor an let my house go in into foreclosure.



From:	Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council
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Sent: Friday, August 21, 2009 9:05 AM

To: city, council; Bill Spriggs (E-mail); Carlisle, John; Conway, Mike; Cortez, Joseph; Dawn Walker (E-mail); Ellie Wooten (E-mail 2); Ellie Wooten (E-mail); Gabriault, Michele; Jim Sanders (E-mail); Joe Cortez (E-mail); John Bramble; John Carlisle (E-mail); Lor, Noah; Lor, Noah; Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail 2); Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail); Sanders, Jim; Spriggs, Bill

Cc: Quintero, Frank; Davidson, Dana; Espinosa, Kim; Schechter, Jeanne

Subject: FW: WalMart

From the website.

Dawn

Dawn Walker Executive Secretary City of Merced 678 West 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 Phone: (209) 385-6834 Fax: (209) 385-1780

-----Original Message-----From: Leslie Bonner [mailto:lessalt@yahoo.com] Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2009 4:18 PM To: city, council Subject: WalMart

Dear City Council; Please vote for the WalMart Distribution Center project. It is your responsibility to vote Yes. Merced must have jobs. Thank you. Leslie Bonner & Robert Gold 1176 Paseo Verde Dr. Merced, CA 95348



#### Blank

#### Espinosa, Kim

From:	Walker, Dawn
Sent:	Friday, August 21, 2009 8:34 AM
То:	city, council; Bill Spriggs (E-mail); Carlisle, John; Conway, Mike; Cortez, Joseph; Dawn Walker (E-mail); Ellie Wooten (E-mail 2); Ellie Wooten (E-mail); Gabriault, Michele; Jim Sanders (E-mail); Joe Cortez (E-mail); John Bramble; John Carlisle (E-mail); Lor, Noah; Lor, Noah; Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail 2); Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail); Sanders, Jim; Spriggs, Bill
Cc:	Davidson, Dana; Quintero, Frank; Espinosa, Kim; Schechter, Jeanne

Subject: FW: GO WALMART

From the website.

Dawn

Dawn Walker Executive Secretary City of Merced 678 West 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 Phone: (209) 385-6834 Fax: (209) 385-1780

-----Original Message-----From: Labendeira, Larry On Behalf Of Master, Web Sent: Friday, August 21, 2009 8:23 AM To: Walker, Dawn Subject: FW: GO WALMART

FYI

LARRY LABENDEIRA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

From: christy [mailto:christy@centralvalleyconcrete.com] Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2009 4:57 PM To: Master, Web Subject: GO WALMART

I am completely for the Walmart Distribution Center as are the other girls that work with me. It will bring more jobs and get people off of unemployment and welfare.

Our vote is FOR IT.



## **Christy Zentner**

Accounts Payable Central Valley Concrete, Inc. Central Valley Trucking Cement Express LLC. Ph: (209) 723-8846 ext.302 Fax: (209) 384-2395 <u>christy@centralvalleyconcrete.com</u>

From: Melissa Kelly-Ortega [melissakeilyortega@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, August 21, 2009 6:42 AM

- To: Bramble, John; Cahill, Bill; Espinosa, Kim; Gonzalves, David; Hamilton, Mark; Nutt, Kim; Jordan, Daryl
- Cc: billspriggs@sbcglobal.net; John Carlisle; Jim Sanders; Noah Lor; Ellie Wooten; Michele Gabriault-Acosta; Walker, Dawn; Diaz, Gregory

Subject: Community Benefits Agreement and 6 month reviews - WMDC

Good morning, everyone.

I stopped by to talk with Kim Espinoza on Tuesday to find out specifics on the \$4.1 million that would go to the City from Wal-Mart. She was able to give me some really good information. Thanks, Kim.

I have two more questions.

I am wondering if there is any way to create a Community Benefits Agreement with Wal-Mart (if it passes). Kim, you mentioned you hadn't heard of a CBA before, so I wanted to send you (and others) the following information that was sent to me.

Here's an informative document regarding CBA's http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/pdf/cba2005final.pdf

It would be really great if the City could set up a Community Benefits Agreement as well as a 6 month review of the WMDC project (if it passes) for the following years. Something like "Check-ins" to find out where the project is, if it is accomplishing what it is supposed to accomplish, how many people the DC hired locally, etc. These could be open to the public, given in presentation Q&A form, etc. If I remember correctly, the UC did a fairly good job working with the community (at least most think they did).

I understand this is not current city policy, but if the corporation decides to enter into an agreement to do such things, then it's really an agreement and not a mandate.

Things to think about over the weekend.

Thank you.

Take care,

Melissa

209-261-7109



#### Lane, Victoria

From:Chuck Meyer [chukmins@sbcglobal.net]Sent:Friday, August 21, 2009 12:17 PMTo:Lane, VictoriaSubject:Walmart Distribution Center

Planning Commission City Of Merced

Thank you for the opportunity to show my support for the Walmart Distribution Center being proposed for Merced.

There is a huge need in the county and especially in Merced for jobs! I have lived, been in business, and raised my family in Merced for over 50 years. Throughout this time, the citizens of Merced have had a serious problem: raising their children for 18-20 years and then have them move to other communities where they could find JOBS!! Many of those young people would have stayed in Merced and raised families and contributed to the economic vitality of our local area. Now we have a unique opportunity to start to turn our city into a better place to live and raise tax paying citizens for the betterment of all.

If we let this wonderful opportunity get away from Merced, we may as well give up any attempt to attract another business or industry to our area. Any future site locator or business would know that Merced is not a community that is friendly to businesses or industry.

Please vote favorably to recommend to the Merced City Council that they also approve the application for the new Walmart Distribution Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles A Meyer 2824 Park Ave, Suite C Merced, CA 95348

#### CITIZENS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF MERCED COUNTY RECEIVED AT





August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Planning Commission City of Merced 678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street Merced, CA 95340

#### **Dear Commissioner Amey:**

After touring the Wal-Mart distribution center in Apple Valley, California the Citizens for the Betterment of Merced County (CBMC) would like to take the opportunity to encourage you, and the rest of the Merced City Council, to fully endorse and support the Wal-Mart distribution center here in Merced. This distribution center once completed is proposed to be equal in size, operation and production to the Apple Valley site. Please allow me to highlight what this could mean to our local economy.

Warehouse payroll alone in Apple Valley is approximately \$1,850,000 per month. Monthly management payroll is another \$440,000. Just like Apple Valley, a distribution center here in Merced will need approximately 145 truck drivers, which will add another \$1,200,000 in monthly payroll. When all is said and done, a fully operational distribution center similar to what is already up and running in Apple Valley will add over \$40,000,000 in annual salary to our economy.

Furthermore, in Apple Valley, approximately 90% of all warehouse workers were hired locally at opening. Approximately 95% of all current employees in Apple Valley live within 15 miles of the distribution center. Virtually all of the management (76) have purchased a home, most between \$200,000 and \$300,000. And, most of the warehouse workers that have been with the Distribution Center since the start are now homeowners.

As an added bonus, the construction phase alone will create 600 much needed jobs in our community.

As for those who claim the environmental impact is too great a threat compared to the economic benefits to our community. The location where the distribution center is proposed has been designated as an industrial zone for the last 20 years. Moreover, because of the zoning and the soon to be direct link to highway 99 on Campus Parkway, the distribution center will not impact Ag land or encroach on any residential areas.

The time is now for Merced's leadership to stand as one and fully endorse this project, which will add so much to our local economy. The CBMC along with The Merced Boosters, The Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce, the Merced County Economic Development Corporation and the citizens of Merced ask that you fully endorse the building of the Wal-Mart distribution center.

Sincerely,

Lee R. Boen f.

Lee R. Boese Jr. President Citizens for the Betterment of Merced County

Board Members:

Lee R Boese Jr. President Mike Carpenter Vice President Doug Fluetsch, Guy Maxwell, Jim Abbate, John Abbate, Ric Kirby, Bert Crane, Doug Fluetsch, Jeff Marchini, Nellie McGarry, Eric Hamm Forrest Hansen

Cc Merced City Council



The country recovers, foreclosure-pocked areas still may be digging out.

The housing crisis is creating ghost towns of once-bustling communities like Merced. in largely abandoned neighborhoods, paved sidewalks and driveways lead to empty lots strewn with utility coils. Unfinished frames with rotting rafters and rusted hinges sit alongside occupied homes. Roughly 40% of the homes in Merced are considered distressed, meaning owners are behind on their mortgage payments or can't make them at all. The toll is expected to rise, even though California extended its moratotium on foreclosures for another 90 days.

Merced, situated in Central California's San Joaquin Valley, is an extreme example of what's happening across the country. As the economy tanks, foreclosures are scaring. Roughly one out of four subprime mortgages nationally is in trouble. Even so-called prime borrowers, who had good credit when they got their loans, now are having trouble keeping up; about 5% of these loans are in foreclosure, up from less than 1% in 2007, according to the Mortgage Bankers Assn. Rates are even higher in cities like Merced, Fort Myers, Fla., and Bakersfield, Calif., where the bust has . been brutal.

Such markets will continue to suffer

as they work through the inventory of foreclosed properties. In Merced, property values have dropped 70% in some cases. With banks and borrowers dumping distressed homes, prices could fall by 30% more, according to Karen Weaver, a Deutsche Bank analyst. Merced, say analysts, will hit bottom by mid- to late 2010—after the rest of the country. In places like Bloomington, Ind., and Fayetteville, N.C., where homeowners are in better shape, the markets should be more resilient.

Foreclosure does present opportunities: Buyers and investors are scooping up distressed properties at cut-rate prices. Those purchases are helping



jump-start sales in hard-hit states like California, Nevada, and Florida—the first signs of life in otherwise moribund markets. Jillian Mendoza, a high school teacher in Merced, bought her first home out of foreclosure in September. She paid \$143,000 for the three-bedroom home, which the previous owner had bought for \$325,000 several years ago. "I never thought I'd be able to buy a house at 25," says Mendoza. "I got such a deal on it that I'm not that worried about it losing value."

Like many former boom towns, Merced is paying the price for unsustainable growth. The University of California announced in 2001 that it would open its first new campus in more than 40 years on 84 acres in northern Merced. In anticipation of the potential demand, builders flocked to the area, and real estate investors bid up prices.

But they were overly optimistic. The school projected only modest admission rates and faculty hires—and housing supply far exceeded demand. Now the market lies in ruins, as unemployment tops 20%. Says Janet Young, assistant chancellor at UC Merced, which opened in 2005: "The housing boom was a huge surprise to us." IBW1

Grapes of Rathke

By John H. Fund

Acorn, a feisty, union-backed activist group. The The Democratic oak has grown, in part, from workers for yesterday's elections. But after years organization says on its Web site that it aregisers" and deployed over 4,000 get-out-the-vote tered over 540,000 low-income and minority votof scandal involving its election efforts and mis-Mo., workers under indictment for submitting use of government grants, Acorn is finally coming under scrutiny, with four of its Kansas City, are at large.) Other states including Pennsylvania and Maryland are also conducting probes. false voter registrations. (As of this writing, all Notes the U.S. attorney's office in Kansas City. "This national investigation is very much ongoing."

paigns against Wal-Mart, and for leading mitter. Founded by union organizer Wade Rathke in million and operates everything from "social jusarm. Still run after 36'years by Mr. Rathke as 1970, Acorn boasts an annual budget of some \$40 tice" r'adio stations to an affordable-housing "chief organizer," it is best known for its camtives in six states to raise the minimum wages

One of those states is Missouri. St. Louis election officials were so inundated with bogus Acorn-generated voter registrants that they mailed a letter to 5,000 registrants, requesting responded. Mr. Rathke attacked the officials as "slop buckets" and claimed they had "broken th law in trying to discourage new voters illegally. the recipients to contact them. Fewer than

City officials scoff at that. They say it's up to with Acorn before their drive, but our requests on its registrations don't exist, "We met twice Matt Potter, the čity's deputy elections director His election clerks were already putting in 13-hour work days and "dumping this on them Acorn to explain why over 1,000 addresses listed completely fell by the wayside," says Democrat isn't fair." In the past, several Democrats, in cluding Mayor Francis Slay, have complained about bloated voter rolls leading to stolen votes

sltions over equally qualified blacks. But his alle-

Acorn insists any problems stem from dishonest former employees. Mr. Rathke says, he 18 actively cooperating with the probe in Kansas City, and has alerted prosecutors in other states, Ms. Powell, 40% of the 35,000 registrations it sub-"seriously misleading." She says her staff first. the Kansas City Board of Elections, who says Acorn's claim that it brought the fraud to light is took the evidence to the FBI, and Acorn only then helped identify the perpetrators. According to about registration problems. That doesn't satisfy Melody Powell, the Republican chairwoman of

fraud," she says, noting that "anyone can find a votes card mailed to a false apartment building address lying around a lobby and use it to vote.  $\ddot{\mathbf{r}}$ Ms. Powell worries legitimate voters who were registered a second time by someone else under a false address will find it difficult to vote.

to turn in all registrations within seven days of being collected "eyen if the name on them was Donald Duck," and that state law discouraged Mr. Rathke explains that Missouri's problems came about because his organizers were required to Acorn's Little Rock office, which would have ione quality-control checks. Election officials say them from sending copies of the forms out of sta Acorn was responsible for policing its own work

Acorn comes under scrutiny.

About time.

Current and former Acorn employees say the

problems in Kansas City and St. Louis are no Feutly head organizer of an Acorn campaign against Wal-Mart in Merced, Callf In 2004 he says Acorn statements aren't to be taken at face Mr. Toler expects to be attacked as a disgruntled employee, and that '1 may have my head chopped off for teiling the truth. Indeed, he has worked on an Acorn voter drive in Missouri, and Commission complaint alleging that Acorn has value: "The internal motto is. We don't care if it's this year filed an Equal Employment Opportunity accident. "There's no quality control on purpose no checks and balances," says Nate Dier, ou le. Just so long as it surs up the conversation. consistently promoted whites to management no-

gations are backed by three former Acorn employ. She told me it has a problem paying employees One of them, Sashanti Bryant of Detroit, they were slapped down: "We were fold if you get a union, you wou't have a job," There is year a lead Acorn organizer from Dayton, Ohio, Mich. was a community organizer for Acorn per echelons. Loretta Barton, until June of this all Acorn wanted from registration drives was results." Ms. Barton alleges that when she and aer: co-workers asked: about: forming a union Relations Board ordered Acorn to rehize and pay on time and has almost no minorities in its up and another EEOC complainants told me that restitution to three employees it had illegally In response, Mr. Rathke says helds neutral on aboi ées who have filed similar EEOC complaints. some history here: In 2003, the National L lifed for trying to organize a union.

said the four complaints lodged with the BEOC year you'll have some who complain." He also the case, he said "there may be some loose ends to be tied up . . I'm not going to impugn any of had all been dismissed. When told that wasn't the people involved.

ample, but pays its organizers \$25,000 a year for a required 54-hour week=38:90 an hour, This 0 an racts saying they would be "working up to 80 Still, Acorn is vulnerable to charges it doesn' r ex-/ear Acorn had workers in Missouri sign conhours over seven days of work." Mr. Pathke says "We pay as much as we can. If people can get practice what it preaches. Its manual for min mum-wage campaigns says it intends "to pus for as high a wage as possible." But it doesn 28. those wages. In 2004 Acorn won a 39. hour minimum wage in Santa Fe, N.M., ) more elsewhere, we wish them well?

In 1995 Acorn unsuccessibily sued California cnowledges higher wages can cost some lobs but to be exempt from the minimum wasee, claiming that "the more that Acorn must pay each individ ual outreach worker ... the fewer outreach workers it will be able to fure. Mr. Rathke ac that the raises for other workers are worth it

by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to groups such as Acorn that build atfordable housing. The Senate failed to ffordable housing trust fund, <sup>1</sup> alloca act on the bill, but it will surely be reintroduced Last year, acom helped convince the House ing un to 5% of the profits generated create an "a!

But: previous Tederal grants to Acorn have been highly controversial. In 1994 the Acorn Hous-AmeriCorps, the federal volunteer agency. An ing Corporation was given a \$1,1 million grant by poses, the grant was terminated. A guaranteed inspector-general found the nonprofit had improp erly used AmeriCorps recruits for political purstream of federal cash to a group that so often fails audits would invite trouble. Today, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley will send a letter to the IRS asking the agency to investigate Acorn and alled groups for possibly On his blog Mr. Rathke dismisses criticism as misusing their tax status for political purposes major league political harassment

"Just Wade being Wade, engaging in the politics of iormer Acorn employee Rathke, and must increasingly take bigger risks t might take in purwords," Lashing out at critics, says Mr. Toler, says the group has become a "cult" under A sult of its agenda can only be sumised-t some clues may emerge from in order to grow. What risks distraction Another f

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internal sinton and





## To Merced City Council:

Ellie Wooten John Carlisle Joe Cortez Jim Sanders Noah Lor Michele Gabriault-Acosta Bill Spriggs April 23, 2009

Mayor Ellie Wooten City of Merced 678 W. 18th Street Merced, CA 95340

#### **RE: Wal-Mart Distribution Center**

Dear Mayor Wooten:

As a community member of the City of Merced, I would like to forward the following petition from **233** Southeast Asian community members in support of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center to you and City Council members.

With the nation's current economic crisis, Merced has been deeply affected, having one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation (19.9%). As a Limited English Proficient (LEP) and low skilled workforce, the Southeast Asian community has been especially hard hit by this crisis. The distribution center will greatly benefit these community members by creating numerous attainable jobs.

We as community members strongly believe that the development of the distribution center will greatly enhance employment opportunities and the economy in Merced, and urge you to support the Wal-Mart Distribution Center.

Sincerely,

Jenny X. Keon

Henry Xiong Community Member

Encls.

17/13

## PETITION TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND TO SUPPORT THE WAL-MART DISTRIBUTION CENTER

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Merced City Council

November 21, 2008

As you may probably know Merced has one of the highest unemployment rates in the Nation. The high unemployment rate disproportionately impacts ethnic communities and the less educated. The Asian community, particularly those of Hmong, Lao, and Mien descent, in Merced City suffer disproportionately from the effects of the high rate of unemployment: poverty, gang violence, lack of health insurance, poor health and health care, among others. As elected leaders, we urge you to support policies that will create jobs, so that all communities can benefit. In particular, we support and urge you to support the Wal-Mart Distribution Center.

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Petition to Support Job Creation and to Support the Wal-Mart Distribution Center <u>Page 2</u>

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#### PETITION TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND TO SUPPORT THE WAL-MART DISTRIBUTION CENTER

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Merced City Council

November 21, 2008

30/13

As you may probably know Merced has one of the highest unemployment rates in the Nation. The high unemployment rate disproportionately impacts ethnic communities and the less educated. The Asian community, particularly those of Hmong, Lao, and Mien descent, in Merced City suffer disproportionately from the effects of the high rate of unemployment: poverty, gang violence, lack of health insurance, poor health and health care, among others. As elected leaders, we urge you to support policies that will create jobs, so that all communities can benefit. In particular, we support and urge you to support the Wal-Mart Distribution Center.

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5	Kong Chang	3005 Ben Dr.	Harry Church
6	Keng Chang	3005 Bea Dr.	Keyflerf
7	Dona Tong Chan		Torchard.
8	Jonathan	480 E. Santa DC	terett
9	Jailin	1516 Denier Way, Merice / 14	14. Vialling
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Petition to Support Job Creation and to Support the Wal-Mart Distribution Center <u>Page 2</u>

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41	Mancy Jang	5820 N. Santa Fe Dr. Atwater 930	XINOVE	~
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## PETITION TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND TO SUPPORT THE WAL-MART DISTRIBUTION CENTER

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Merced City Council

November 21, 2008

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As you may probably know Merced has one of the highest unemployment rates in the Nation. The high unemployment rate disproportionately impacts ethnic communities and the less educated. The Asian community, particularly those of Hmong, Lao, and Mien descent, in Merced City suffer disproportionately from the effects of the high rate of unemployment: poverty, gang violence, lack of health insurance, poor health and health care, among others. As elected leaders, we urge you to support policies that will create jobs, so that all communities can benefit. In particular, we support and urge you to support the Wal-Mart Distribution Center.

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#### Petition to Support Job Creation and to Support the Wal-Mart Distribution Center <u>Page 2</u>

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## PETITION TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND TO SUPPORT THE WAL-MART DISTRIBUTION CENTER

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Merced City Council

November 21, 2008

As you may probably know Merced has one of the highest unemployment rates in the Nation. The high unemployment rate disproportionately impacts ethnic communities and the less educated. The Asian community, particularly those of Hmong, Lao, and Mien descent, in Merced City suffer disproportionately from the effects of the high rate of unemployment: poverty, gang violence, lack of health insurance, poor health and health care, among others. As elected leaders, we urge you to support policies that will create jobs, so that all communities can benefit. In particular, we support and urge you to support the Wal-Mart Distribution Center.

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#### PETITION TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND TO SUPPORT THE WAL-MART DISTRIBUTION CENTER

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Merced City Council

November 21, 2008

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2	Adam Cox	1015 W. 23RD St. Merced	WARER	
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Petition to Support Job Creation and to Support the Wal-Mart Distribution Center <u>Page 2</u>

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#### PETITION TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND TO SUPPORT THE WAL-MART DISTRIBUTION CENTER

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Merced City Council

November 21, 2008

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Petition to Support Job Creation and to Support the Wal-Mart Distribution Center Page 2

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#### PETITION TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND TO SUPPORT THE WAL-MART DISTRIBUTION CENTER

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Merced City Council

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Petition to Support Job Creation and to Support the Wal-Mart Distribution Center Page 2

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From: Walker, Dawn	l I
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Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 8:41 AM

To: city, council; Bill Spriggs (E-mail); Carlisle, John; Conway, Mike; Cortez, Joseph; Dawn Walker (E-mail); Ellie Wooten (E-mail 2); Ellie Wooten (E-mail); Gabriault, Michele; Jim Sanders (E-mail); Joe Cortez (E-mail); John Bramble; John Carlisle (E-mail); Lor, Noah; Lor, Noah; Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail 2); Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail); Sanders, Jim; Spriggs, Bill

Cc: Davidson, Dana; Quintero, Frank; Espinosa, Kim; Schechter, Jeanne

Subject: FW: Walmart

From the website.

Dawn

Dawn Walker Executive Secretary City of Merced 678 West 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 Phone: (209) 385-6834 Fax: (209) 385-1780

-----Original Message----- **From:** Labendeira, Larry **On Behaif Of** Master, Web **Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2009 8:32 AM **To:** Walker, Dawn **Subject:** FW: Walmart

FYI

LARRY LABENDEIRA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

From: judy harse [mailto:judyharse@yahoo.com] Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2009 11:54 AM To: Master, Web Subject: Walmart

Dear Sirs;

Couldn't make it to the Walmart meeting, but wanted you all to know I am for the distribution center. I am a home owner in the Belleview Ranch area with a home that has lost 60% of its value and the \$200,000 I put down as my down payment. I don't believe my home value will decrease further if the distribution center comes in, hopefully it will help. I heard Rippon, a prosperous town, became so d/t truck stops starting up there. We need jobs and we need them now, not in 30 years when UC Merced will have a medical school. I'll be dead by then.

Count on my support for the Walmart Distribution Center.



Sincerely, Judy L. Harse, RD, IBCLC and homeowner

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From: Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council

Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 8:34 AM

- To: city, council; Bill Spriggs (E-mail); Carlisle, John; Conway, Mike; Cortez, Joseph; Dawn Walker (E-mail); Ellie Wooten (E-mail 2); Ellie Wooten (E-mail); Gabriault, Michele; Jim Sanders (E-mail); Joe Cortez (E-mail); John Bramble; John Carlisle (E-mail); Lor, Noah; Lor, Noah; Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail 2); Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail); Sanders, Jim; Spriggs, Bill
- Cc: Davidson, Dana; Quintero, Frank; Espinosa, Kim; Schechter, Jeanne

Subject: FW: Say YES to Walmart Distribution Center!

From the website.

Dawn

Dawn Walker Executive Secretary City of Merced 678 West 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 Phone: (209) 385-6834 Fax: (209) 385-1780

AUG 2 4 2009 CITY OF MERCED PLANNING DEPT.

-----Original Message----- **From:** bevsmithwigley@aol.com [mailto:bevsmithwigley@aol.com] **Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2009 11:29 AM **To:** city, council **Subject:** Say YES to Walmart Distribution Center!

To the Esteemed Member of the City Council of Merced:

As a middle school teacher at Tenaya in Merced, I am quite aware that Merced needs to provide more employment opportunities for its citizens. Walmart pays well. The proposed distribution center is being built in an area of Merced that was zoned for that type of business. I am frustrated by the efforts of privileged Mercedians to block Walmart. I urge you to listen to the majority of Merced's citizens and get this project back on track!

Sincerely, Beverly Wigley

From:	Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council
Sent:	Monday, August 24, 2009 8:33 AM
То:	city, council; Bill Spriggs (E-mail); Carlisle, John; Conway, Mike; Cortez, Joseph; Dawn Walker (E-mail); Ellie Wooten (E-mail 2); Ellie Wooten (E-mail); Gabriault, Michele; Jim Sanders (E-mail); Joe Cortez (E-mail); John Bramble; John Carlisle (E-mail); Lor, Noah; Lor, Noah; Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail 2); Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail); Sanders, Jim; Spriggs, Bill
Cat	Davidson Dana; Quintara Frank; Farinaga Kira Oshashtar Jaguna

Cc: Davidson, Dana; Quintero, Frank; Espinosa, Kim; Schechter, Jeanne

Subject: FW: 1 Question

From the website.

Dawn

Dawn Walker Executive Secretary City of Merced 678 West 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 Phone: (209) 385-6834 Fax: (209) 385-1780 AUG 2 4 2009 CITY OF MERCED PLANNING DEPT.

-----Original Message----- **From:** sergio soares [mailto:wizardguyz@yahoo.com] **Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2009 7:11 PM **To:** city, council **Subject:** 1 Question

I agree with for help jobs. yes. but One plm If Deaf cant understand that question on Apply. how they can get job. Most Deaf need job so am I. I need job. i miss work ex walmart but it wont hired back again last 9 yrs ago i try reapply never called back.

From: Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 8:26 AM
To: city, council; Bill Spriggs (E-mail); Carlisle, John; Conway, Mike; Cortez, Joseph; Dawn Walker (E-mail); Ellie Wooten (E-mail 2); Ellie Wooten (E-mail); Gabriault, Michele; Jim Sanders (E-mail); Joe Cortez (E-mail); John Bramble; John Carlisle (E-mail); Lor, Noah; Lor, Noah; Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail 2); Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail); Sanders, Jim; Spriggs, Bill

Cc: Davidson, Dana; Quintero, Frank; Espinosa, Kim; Schechter, Jeanne

Subject: FW: Wal Mart Vote

From the website.

Dawn

Dawn Walker Executive Secretary City of Merced 678 West 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 Phone: (209) 385-6834 Fax: (209) 385-1780

AUG 24 2009 OITY OF MERCED PLANNING DEPT

-----Original Message----- **From:** Robert Tussey [mailto:tusseyrobert@sbcglobal.net] **Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2009 3:03 PM **To:** city, council **Subject:** Wal Mart Vote

I live at 2499 E. Gerard Space #98, 23 years now, and I will be near the Wal Mart Center. I support it and you to vote for it. Wal Mart's trucks are an issue yes, but jobs in Merced are more important. We are a state and national leader in low wages and unemployment. We need jobs we need wage. If we disapprove Wal Mart we need to close Golden Valley HS, the new Star Bucks, Sub Way and Hotels over on Parsons and Childs area, along with the Grove Apartment complex. They have boasted traffic and pollution in the area not to mention housing built around Weaver and down by Pioneer, and where the old Star Light drive in was. So don't let anyone say traffic will be an issue, all of these have added more than Wal Mart will.

Robert L. Tussey

From:Lee, Nancy on behalf of planningwebSent:Monday, August 24, 2009 8:25 AMTo:Lucas, TerriCc:Espinosa, KimSubject:FW: Add to Walmart project list

Fyi, another one to add to the Walmart list.



Nancy Lee

From: Darcy Taylor [mailto:DTaylor@kleinfelder.com] Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2009 4:58 PM To: planningweb Subject: Add to Walmart project list

Hello,

Please add my name and mailing address (below) to the Walmart project update.

Thank you very much,

Mr. Darcy A. Taylor Regional Marketing Coordinator California Central Valley Region 2001 Arch-Airport Road, Ste. 100 Stockton, California 95206-4943 ol 209-948-1345 ext. 4304 cl 209-649-3930 fl 209-234-4700

INFELDER Bright People: Right Solutions.

Warning: Information provided via electronic media is not guaranteed against defects including translation and transmission errors.

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From: Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council

Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 8:23 AM

- To: city, council; Bill Spriggs (E-mail); Carlisle, John; Conway, Mike; Cortez, Joseph; Dawn Walker (E-mail); Ellie Wooten (E-mail 2); Ellie Wooten (E-mail); Gabriault, Michele; Jim Sanders (E-mail); Joe Cortez (E-mail); John Bramble; John Carlisle (E-mail); Lor, Noah; Lor, Noah; Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail 2); Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail); Sanders, Jim; Spriggs, Bill
- Cc: Davidson, Dana; Quintero, Frank; Espinosa, Kim; Schechter, Jeanne

Subject: FW: Walmart Distribution Center Project

From the website.

Dawn

Dawn Walker Executive Secretary City of Merced 678 West 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 Phone: (209) 385-6834 Fax: (209) 385-1780

-----Original Message----- **From:** Dorothy Ames [mailto:ladydorothyames@gmail.com] **Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2009 10:40 AM **To:** city, council **Subject:** Walmart Distribution Center Project

After reading your goals as council persons on the city website, I hope you will SUPPORT the Walmart Distribution Center Project. Some of your goals listed can be included from your site: "Show sensitivity and awareness of community NEEDS and issues." We NEED jobs in our city and in our county. Walmart is a reputable company and they contribute to community Green and Charity. They are not a "fly by night" company. As you "respect the diversity of our community" then allow us to GET EMPLOYMENT in our community for our diversity of citzens. You state that you "Offer economic development opportunities to its citizens." then DO IT. Just do it. Allow the Walmart Distribution Center Project to develop and create jobs for the diverse citizens you strive to help and serve. Our city NEEDS the income it will bring, also. Dorothy Ames, homeowner since 1972 in Merced, CA.



From: Sent:	Walker, Dawn Friday, August 21, 2009 4:43 PM
То:	city, council; Bill Spriggs (E-mail); Carlisle, John; Conway, Mike; Cortez, Joseph; Dawn Walker (E-mail); Ellie Wooten (E-mail 2); Ellie Wooten (E-mail); Gabriault, Michele; Jim Sanders (E-mail); Joe Cortez (E-mail); John Bramble; John Carlisle (E-mail); Lor, Noah; Lor, Noah; Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail 2); Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail); Sanders, Jim; Spriggs, Bill
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Cc: Davidson, Dana; Quintero, Frank; Espinosa, Kim; Schechter, Jeanne

Subject: FW: WalMart Distribution Center

From the website.

Dawn

Dawn Walker Executive Secretary City of Merced 678 West 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 Phone: (209) 385-6834 Fax: (209) 385-1780

-----Original Message----- **From:** Labendeira, Larry **On Behalf Of** Master, Web **Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2009 4:37 PM **To:** Walker, Dawn **Subject:** FW: WalMart Distribution Center

FYI

LARRY LABENDEIRA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

From: Lynn McCullick [mailto:lynnmary33@sbcglobal.net] Sent: Friday, August 21, 2009 12:34 PM To: Master, Web Subject: WalMart Distribution Center

I am **for** building the WalMart Center here in Merced. We need the jobs and it would really boost this town. Thanks,

Lynn McCullick 202 E. Fir Avenue Atwater



Page 1 To: the Merced Planning Commission From: Annette Allsup 723-5152 Marced CA 95340 Any. 22,2009 To Whom It May Concern: I called the Planning Commission Office on Wednesday, Anynest 19th Was assured that I could testify testify at the Monday, Angust 24th meeting. I called again on Thursday and spoke with Kin Espinoza. She said I could not testily but I could swimit a letter and the Planning commissi The Planning Commission would read it. This is my letter. A Play (in One Act) Scene 1 (At the Council Chambers, Merced, CA) 1<sup>24</sup> Man (testifying): We want jobs, we love Wal-Mart, Wal-Mart doesn't pollnte, big trucks don't pollnte. 2<sup>nd</sup> Man: The Better World Shoppor Organization has Vated Wal-Mart as the 3<sup>nd</sup> worst company in the world when indged in these 5 areas: human vights, the environment, animal protection, community involvement and social instice. (Christian Century magazine 5/5/09)

Page 2

Scene 2 (At the Council Chambers, Morcel, CA) (sometime later) Planning Commission: We've decided to just is nove that last testimony. We need jobs in Merced and we'll take them at any cost, Scene 3 (Merced, CA) (general years later) Planning Commission: We're glad we got the Distribution Center built. Too bed those Jobs went to people from out of town. Scene 4 (Merced, CA) (Gometime lator) Planning Commission: Ground water vontamination, air pullution, excessive Noise, skyrocketing asthma and other health related issues, now what? How wome nobody warned us about this ? 2<sup>rd</sup> man: We did try to tell you but yon ignored us. Yon said you'd take jobs at any cost.

Page 3 Scene 5 (Merced, CA) (sometime later) Planning Commission: I can't believe Wal-Mart pulled out of Merced and left that huge distribution center empty, NOT only that, but we still have all of the pollution. It's worse than ever! Now what? The End Moral: Vote No on the proposed Wal-Mart Distribution Center. Vute YES un green sustainable jobs. Merces desenves it. annete Blog Annette Allsup ECEIV AUG 2 4 2009 OTTY OF MERCED PLANNING DEPT

From:Lucas, TerriSent:Monday, August 24, 2009 11:01 AMTo:Espinosa, Kim; Gonzalves, DavidSubject:FW: Call to Action - Planning Commission to vote on Walmart DC tonight

From: Davidson, Dana
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 11:00 AM
To: Lucas, Terri
Subject: FW: Call to Action - Planning Commission to vote on Walmart DC tonight

FYI...

From: The Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce [mailto:info@merced-chamber.ccsend.com] On
Behalf Of The Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 10:51 AM
To: Davidson, Dana
Subject: Call to Action - Planning Commission to vote on Walmart DC tonight





#### The Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce

# The Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce

#### August 24, 2009

Dear Chamber Members,

Thank you to everyone who attended the Walmart distribution center hearing last Wednesday. It was the first step to bringing 1,200 new jobs to Merced. As reported in the Merced Sun Star, the hearing continues to 6:00pm today, August 24th at City Hall.

While the planning commission will not accept any more speakers, it is very important for the community to demonstrate its support by filling the city council chambers with supporters. So, please ask your friends, family and even employees to join Monday evening for what is likely to be the last planning commission meeting.

The chamber will fill quickly, so get there early. **See you at 5:15pm Monday night.** 

Thank you again for your support and demonstrating that Merced

is "Open for Business!"

Sincerely,

#### The Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce

## Forward email

This email was sent to davidsond@cityofmerced.org by adam@merced-chamber.com. Update Profile/Email Address | Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe™ | Privacy Policy.

Email Marketing by

Constant Contact TRY IT FREE

The Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce | 360 E. Yosemite Avenue | Suite 100 | Merced | CA | 95340

From: Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council

Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 1:18 PM

- To: city, council; Bill Spriggs (E-mail); Carlisle, John; Conway, Mike; Cortez, Joseph; Dawn Walker (E-mail); Ellie Wooten (E-mail 2); Ellie Wooten (E-mail); Gabriault, Michele; Jim Sanders (E-mail); Joe Cortez (E-mail); John Bramble; John Carlisle (E-mail); Lor, Noah; Lor, Noah; Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail 2); Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail); Sanders, Jim; Spriggs, Bill
- Cc: Davidson, Dana; Quintero, Frank; Espinosa, Kim; Schechter, Jeanne

Subject: FW: Walmart Dist. Center

From the website.

Dawn

Dawn Walker Executive Secretary City of Merced 678 West 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 Phone: (209) 385-6834 Fax: (209) 385-1780



-----Original Message----- **From:** Tom Brown [mailto:Alabrown@comcast.net] **Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2009 10:51 AM **To:** city, council **Subject:** Walmart Dist. Center

To all Merced City Councilmembers,

Please vote yes for the Wal-Mart project. It will help create many jobs not just for the people hired at the plant, but for the many small businesses that operate in this area. Employed people spend money! The trucks will be going down 99 whether the plant is in Merced, Turlock, Madera or Fresno.

Tom and Deanna Brown

From:	Walker, Dawn
Sent:	Monday, August 24, 2009 1:45 PM
To:	city, council; Bill Spriggs (E-mail); Carlisle, John; Conway, Mike; Cortez, Joseph; Dawn Walker (E-mail); Ellie Wooten (E-mail 2); Ellie Wooten (E-mail); Gabriault, Michele; Jim Sanders (E-mail); Joe Cortez (E-mail); John Bramble; John Carlisle (E-mail); Lor, Noah; Lor, Noah; Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail 2); Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail); Sanders, Jim; Spriggs, Bill
-	

Cc: Davidson, Dana; Quintero, Frank; Espinosa, Kim; Schechter, Jeanne

Subject: FW: walmart

From the website.

Dawn

Dawn Walker Executive Secretary City of Merced 678 West 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 Phone: (209) 385-6834 Fax: (209) 385-1780

-----Original Message----- **From:** Labendeira, Larry **On Behalf Of** Master, Web **Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2009 1:36 PM **To:** Walker, Dawn **Subject:** FW: walmart

FYI

LARRY LABENDEIRA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

From: john Angus [mailto:rjohnda@yahoo.co.uk] Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 9:10 AM To: Master, Web Subject: walmart

Dear sir (s), Having lived in Europe for many years I can tell you that the pace of change here in Merced is painfully slow, the only way to kickstart growth and progression here is to embrace all positive investment into this city. In order that homes increase in value, and business owners feel more confident, I feel strongly we need to have Walmart in this city, a step towards the 21st century for Merced, don,t get left behind Merced, you can,t survive on being the gateway to yosemite forever, you should bend over backwards to bring any investment here.



#### yours J. Angus

Send instant messages to your online friends http://uk.messenger.yahoo.com

From: Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 1:19 PM
To: city, council; Bill Spriggs (E-mail); Carlisle, John; Conway, Mike; Cortez, Joseph; Dawn Walker (E-mail); Ellie Wooten (E-mail 2); Ellie Wooten (E-mail); Gabriault, Michele; Jim Sanders (E-mail); Joe Cortez (E-mail); John Bramble; John Carlisle (E-mail); Lor, Noah; Lor, Noah; Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail 2); Michele Gabriault-Acosta (E-mail); Sanders, Jim; Spriggs, Bill

Cc: Davidson, Dana; Quintero, Frank; Espinosa, Kim; Schechter, Jeanne

Subject: FW: Vote Yes for Walmart

From the website.

Dawn

Dawn Walker Executive Secretary City of Merced 678 West 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 Phone: (209) 385-6834 Fax: (209) 385-1780

-----Original Message-----From: Mike Malone [mailto:ceo@merco.org] Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 11:56 AM To: city, council Subject: Vote Yes for Walmart

Please vote in favor of the Walmart Distribution Center. In addition to the 1,200 new jobs the Distribution Center will provide, please consider the following:

- 1) Many planning experts prove that for every 3 new jobs, 1 additional job is created in the service/support industry. That means the Distribution Center will also create an additional 300-400 jobs in the community (food service, dry cleaners, gas stations, teachers, nurses, retail store clerk, etc.).
- 2) We need these jobs to SUSTAIN our existing businesses. Expect many more business doors to close if we don't stop the financial bleeding.
- 3) And, as I stated in my testimony last week, if we vote no, what message are we sending to other businesses considering a move to Merced?

Mike Malone President/CEO MERCO Credit Union

