
City of Merced

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 15, 2009
TO: City Manager and City Council
FROM: Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager *KE*
SUBJECT: Additional Correspondence regarding the Wal-Mart Project

Attached are additional letters or emails regarding the Wal-Mart project that have been received by City staff after the Planning Commission hearings concluded on August 24, 2009. The City Council will also be receiving with their agenda packet for the September 21, 2009 meeting a CD-ROM of all the letters received on the project since 2006. Thanks!

Attachments

KIM ESPINOSA

RECEIVED AT MERCED
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF
Sept. 8, 2009

Recalling a tough vote on new development

Published: Aug 28, 2005 12:00 am

E-mail and share

<http://www.sunjournal.com/node/77024>

The opening of the Wal-Mart distribution center in Lewiston was certainly a festive occasion with all the theatrics that normally accompany such "grand openings."

It brought me back to my days on the Lewiston City Council, and I hasten to add that it was a bittersweet remembrance. I recall being livid that as city councilors we were kept in the dark about the identity of the company and the details of the negotiations that were going on until the very last minute - a day or so before we were called upon to vote on a significant outlay of taxpayer cash to a highly profitable company. It was a soul-searching time for many of us on the council. I ended up voting for the deal with all of the other members of the council. It was the hardest vote I cast, and I have repeatedly returned to that moment, often wishing I could have the vote back even though it would have made no difference in the final outcome.

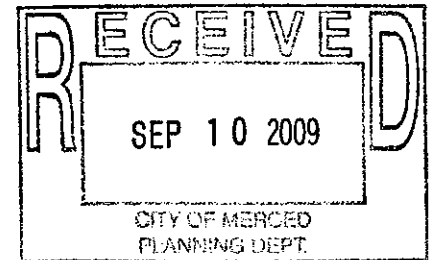
Wal-Mart is an enormously successful company. It is among the most effective retail operators on the face of the planet. It has mastered the art of technical supply chain organization to the most exquisite level imaginable. It squeezes profits out of the process in a manner unparalleled by competitors.

Why did I have concerns about my vote on the distribution center, and why do I continue to have those concerns?

On the big picture level, Maine cannot link its future to this kind of development. That is not where the future is on this planet. The technologically driven economy of the 21st century will reward those who have knowledge and skills, as well as entrepreneurial instincts, to function effectively in a fast changing world. If we put our economic development dollars into these dead-end types of economic activity, the future for our young people will not be very bright.

Do the simple math. The average wage is \$13 per hour. That average includes all employees, meaning that many are receiving less than the average. However, for the average employee, the annual income is less than \$27,000. Subtract F.I.C.A., taxes, health insurance payments off the top. Then add in the costs of food, rent or mortgage, utilities, clothing, car payments and you get the picture. This is a person who may well qualify for food stamps.

Put another way, what young person is going to be lured into staying in Maine for this kind of employment. It is not going to happen.



And companies like Wal-Mart are not known for their generosity to their employees. New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman, in his stimulating book, "The World Is Flat," notes that Wal-Mart provided health insurance for only 45 percent of its employees. Those health plans have employee premiums of as much as \$264 per month, and out-of-pocket expenses as high as \$13,000 in some cases for serious illnesses. Of course, Wall Street likes that because it allows Wal-Mart to produce pre-tax profits almost three percentage points higher than its nearest competitor.

So, as Liza Featherstone has pointed out in her study of the impact of Wal-Mart's employee approaches on women, "American taxpayers chip in to pay for many full-time Wal-Mart employees because they usually require incremental health insurance, public housing, food stamp. ..."

That is an ongoing indirect subsidy. Sam Walton stood for self-sufficiency. Republicans and many Democrats stand for self-sufficiency. They support Wal-Marts of the world, which create economic dependency. Go figure.

The most obscene part of this picture is the nerve that these companies have in seeking taxpayer dollars as direct subsidies to their bottom line. In the Lewiston case, replicated all across the country in similar ways, they were able to get \$17 million from Maine folks. The MO is simple. They set up a competition between communities, which are hungry for development, and they force them to vie for the development. Secrecy shrouds the process from public scrutiny, and some of us even wondered if there was a competitor in Connecticut, as claimed by Wal-Mart officials in the Lewiston case, for the distribution center.

So, get this: We contribute directly to the profits of a highly profitable company in the name of free market economics. It just defies a straight-face test, doesn't it?

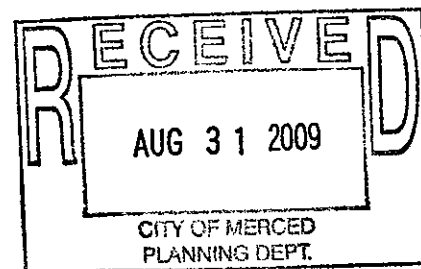
What is the point of all this? I am not trying to bring down Wal-Mart. I am trying to say that Maine needs to look well beyond the Wal-Marts of the world to create an economy that is part of the 21st century. It must be built on an educational system that provides young people with the knowledge and skills that are necessary to succeed in the future. And we must invest in companies that will provide opportunities for our young people that will allow them to have a better life than their parents. That is central to the American Dream - and the Wal-Marts represent a significant step back from that reality.

We are dangerously close to a path that will consign our young to a reduced standard of living. Is that what we want for our kids?

Jim Carignan is a retired educator who lives in Harpswell. His e-mail address is carignans@suscom-maine.net.

Franck, John

From: Lee, Nancy on behalf of planningweb
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2009 8:10 AM
To: Franck, John
Subject: FW: Attn: John Franck, Abandonment of Kibby Road



This is for you.

Nancy Lee

From: Overbay, Dale W [mailto:DWO4@pge.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2009 8:00 AM
To: planningweb
Subject: Attn: John Franck, Abandonment of Kibby Road

This email is in response to your request for comments on the proposed abandonment of a portion of Kibby Road in the City of Merced. Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) has no objections to the proposed vacation.

Thank you,
Dale.

Dale Overbay, PLS
Pacific Gas & Electric Co.
Land Services
650 "O" Street, Bag 23
Fresno, CA 93760
(559) 263-7372
Internal: 821-7372

8/26/2009

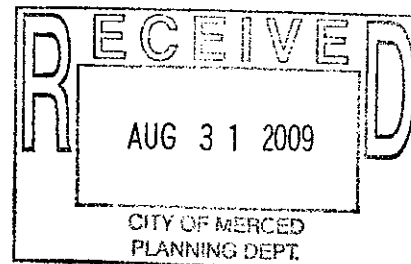


**Pacific Gas and
Electric CompanyTM**

Kyle Patten
Land Agent
650 O Street Bag 23
Fresno, CA. 93760
Land Services

Phone: 559-263-5167
E Mail kap6&pge.com

August 28, 2009



Development Services
City of Merced
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA. 95340
Attn: Director of Development Services

Dear Sir/Madame:

We have received your request for comments notice for the Walmart Project DEIR Site Plan Review #260.

OUR FILE: Wilson-Gregg 230KV- Wilson-LeGrand 115KV Transmission Steel Tower line Corridor

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above described project proposal. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) owns and operates four (4) electric transmission tower lines located within the proposed project's boundaries. To promote the safe and reliable maintenance and operation of utility facilities, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has mandated specific clearance requirements between utility facilities and surrounding objects or construction activities. To ensure compliance with these standards, project proponents should coordinate with PG&E early in the development of their project plans. Any proposed development plans should provide for unrestricted utility access and prevent easement encroachments that might impair the safe and reliable maintenance and operation of PG&E's facilities.

PG&E hereby requests that the locations of each steel tower facility be delineated upon the development/project map. PG&E maintains that the location of its easement is monumented by the existing steel poles/towers and their projected centerlines on the property.

Developers will be responsible for the costs associated with the relocation of existing PG&E facilities to accommodate their proposed development. Because facility relocation's require long lead times and are not always feasible, developers should be encouraged to consult with PG&E as early in their planning stages as possible.

Expansion of distribution and transmission lines and related facilities are a necessary consequence of growth and development. In addition to adding new distribution feeders, the range of electric system improvements needed to accommodate growth may include upgrading existing substation and transmission

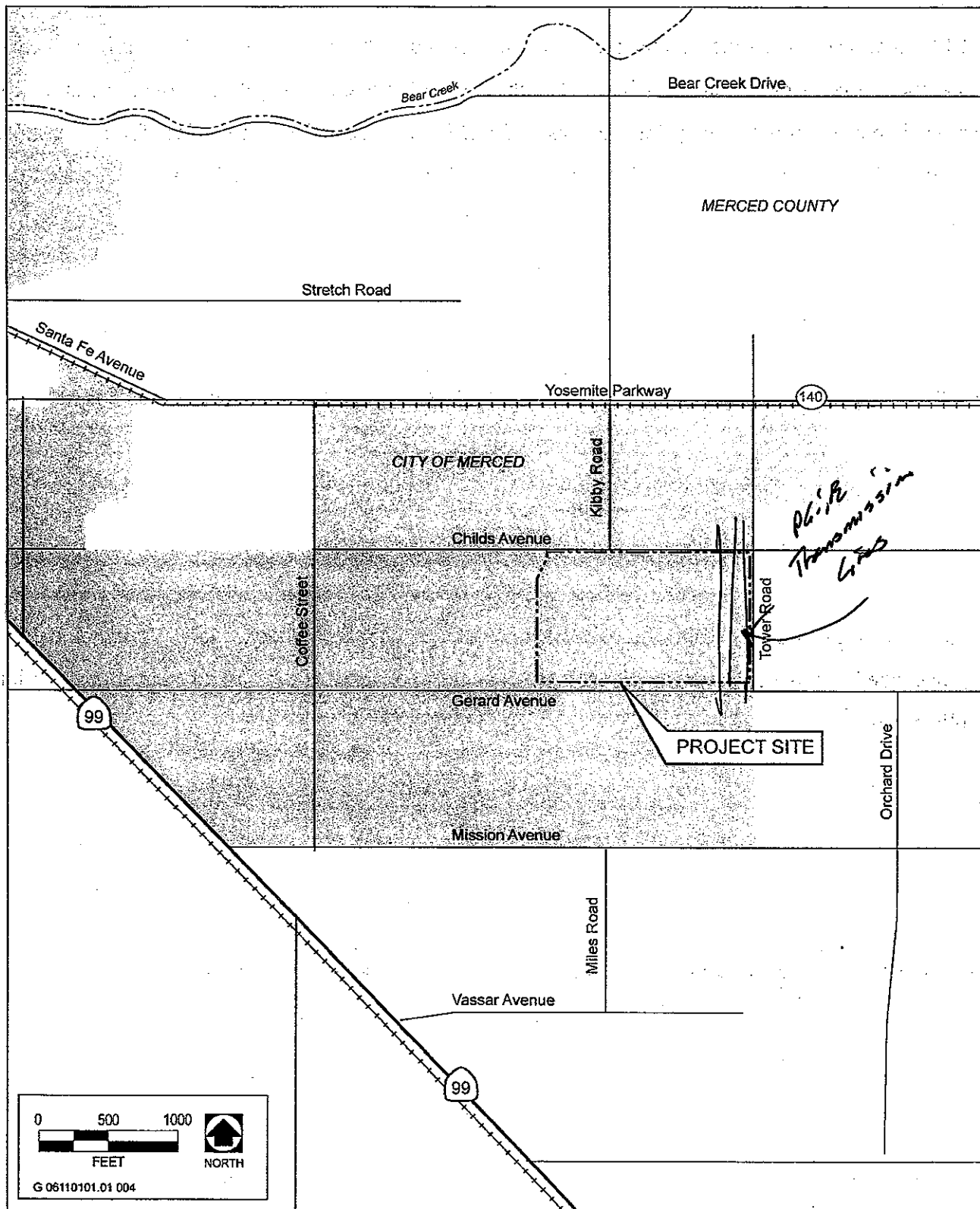
line equipment, expanding existing substations to their ultimate buildout capacity, and building new substations and interconnecting transmission lines. Comparable upgrades or additions needed to accommodate additional load on the gas system could include facilities such as regulator stations, odorizer stations, valve lots, distribution and transmission lines.

PG&E remains committed to working with the City of Merced to provide timely, reliable and cost effective gas and electric service. Please contact me at 263-5167 if you have any questions regarding our comments. We would also appreciate being copied on future correspondence regarding this development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kyle Patten".

Kyle Patten
Land Agent



Source: Compiled by EDAW in 2006

Local Vicinity Map

Exhibit 3-2

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT #06-01, SITE PLAN REVIEW APPLICATION #260,
VACATION/ABANDONMENT APPLICATION #06-01, AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO
CERTIFY AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED WAL-MART
DISTRIBUTION CENTER

A public hearing will be held by the Merced City Planning Commission on Wednesday, August 19, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.(and continuing to Monday, August 24, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., if needed), or as soon thereafter as may be heard in the City Council Chambers located at 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA, concerning the proposed Wal-Mart Distribution Center, generally located at the northwest corner of Gerard Avenue and Tower Road in Merced, California (hereinafter referred to as the "Project"), initiated by Carter & Burgess, Inc., agent for Wal-Mart Stores East, LP, property owner(s). The Project includes consideration of General Plan Amendment #06-01 and Vacation/Abandonment Application #06-01 for a change in the General Plan Circulation Element and the abandonment of the right-of-way for Kibby Road (a designated collector) between Childs and Gerard Avenues; Site Plan Review Application #260, to approve the construction of a regional distribution center (approximately 1.1 million square feet, operating 24 hours per day, and employing approximately 1,200 employees) and associated facilities on approximately 230 acres; and the certification of an environmental impact report regarding the Project. Said property being more particularly described as Parcels 2 and 3 as shown on the map entitled "Parcel Map for Lyons Merger Partners, L.P.," filed in Parcel Maps in Volume 101, Pages 47 and 49, Merced County Records, also known as Assessors Parcel Numbers (APN) 061-250-090 and 061-290-047.

An environmental review checklist has been filed for this Project, and Draft (DEIR) and Final (FEIR) Environmental Impact Reports have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Significant environmental effects are anticipated as a result of the Project, including some significant effects which would be reduced to a level of less than significant after mitigation measures are imposed and others that would remain significant and unavoidable even after mitigation is imposed. These include effects on agricultural resources; air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; geology, minerals, soils, and paleontological resources; hydrology and water quality; noise; population and housing; public health and hazards; traffic and transportation; utilities and public services; and visual resources. Each significant environmental effect is described in detail in the DEIR, which was circulated for a 60-day public review from February 25, 2009 to April 27, 2009. The FEIR contains copies of all the written comments received on the DEIR and the City's responses to those comments as well as any minor modifications to the text of the DEIR.

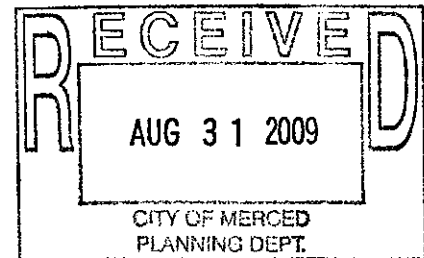
Espinosa, Kim

From: Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2009 3:03 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: Attn: Council Member Carlisle

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: Robert Escobedo [mailto:resco16@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2009 1:59 PM
To: city, council
Subject: Attn: Council Member Carlisle

Mr. Carlisle, I have watched the WalMart debate take place over the course of time and wanted to thank you for all you do for us that have to deal with this center once it gets built. I agree wholeheartedly that Merced will get the short end of the stick. WalMart's reputation speaks for itself but I also understand the need for jobs and I admire you for at least standing up and trying to get real answers from WalMart. The others seem content with selling out our community for short term political gain.

In any case, I have some concerns regarding safety. There are no sidewalks for kids from Weaver and Pioneer to walk and with the dist. center, more traffic will pass by those schools for people going to work. I know the other members haven't seen it but it can be scary. Kids actually walk in the middle of the road or skateboard. They also have to walk along canal banks which presents other dangers. I also was curious about the idea of a berm and trees being abandoned by the planners. Is this too much to ask for for the citizens who have to live next to this site?

Does Merced have any guarantees that those jobs will go to our citizens? I remember what happened when Merced opened The Grove, which was supposed to help Merced's lower income residents. It was filled with the poor of other cities.

I also noticed trucks parking overnight on the new "WalMart Interchange" on the onramp to 99. Is this legal? If you drive at night or early in the morning you will find at least two parked there along the wall. Just some questions I had but can't get to the meetings to voice because of work and family. Again thanks for your help and actually asking SOME questions. I actually took to

8/31/2009

the internet to vent my concerns. Musings of an average citizen you could say, at <http://snarkybob.blogspot.com/> The City of Merced website touts that it's leaders try to offer all it's residents the chance of living in a safe and clean community, I'd like to say thank YOU for living up to that.

Sincerely,
Robert Escobedo

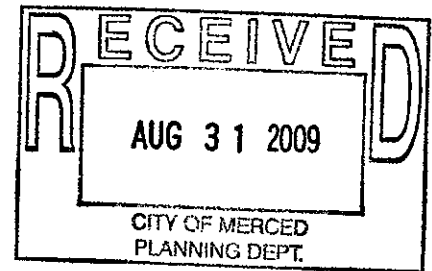
Espinosa, Kim

From: Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2009 2:59 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: James Kriger [mailto:collieterrier@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2009 1:08 PM
To: city, council
Subject: Walmart

Are you people crazy? Why? Would you want a Walmart distribution center in your town. I guess you do not realize what those Walmart tractor trailers are going to do to your roads, 450 to 500 trucks coming out of ther a day is going to tear up your roads.I know. I drove tractor trailers for 17 years. I know what they do to roads. With this many trucks. You are going to be repaving your roads, every week. Not to mention, Walmart makes their own laws. They are not going to listen to you. I know this to. I use to work for these corrupt-crooked-evil bastards. Well! If you let them do this. Good luck, you are going to need it. Walmart does not care about there employee s, so why would they care about you?

James Kriger

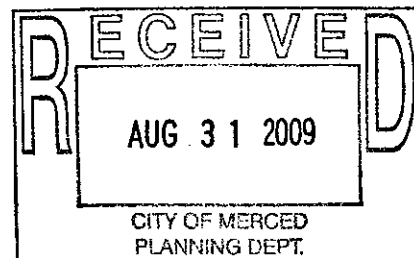
Espinosa, Kim

From: Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2009 2:50 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 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: Glass, Debbie [mailto:dglass@muhsd.k12.ca.us]
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2009 9:45 AM
To: city, council
Subject: Walmart Distribution Center

As the principal of Merced Adult School, I work daily with community members who are potential employees of the new Walmart Center. Last year, Merced Adult School served 5000 local residents with basic skills and vocational training. I appreciate your support of the Walmart project to give our students hope for a self-sufficient future here in Merced.

Debra L. Glass
Principal, Merced Adult School
50 E. 20th St.
Merced, CA 95340
209-385-6445

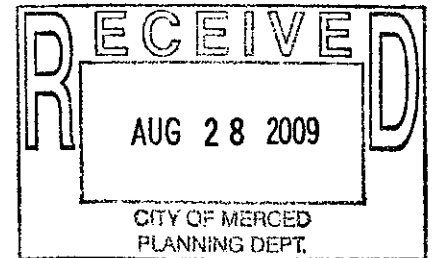
Espinosa, Kim

From: Walker, Dawn
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2009 10:46 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 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 28, 2009 10:42 AM
To: Walker, Dawn
Subject: FW: Wal-mart distribution center

FYI

Larry Labendeira
Information Technology Manager

-----Original Message-----

From: Candie [mailto:awoken@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2009 12:59 AM
To: Master, Web
Subject: Wal-mart distribution center

My name is Candace Keeton, and I would like to let you know that I fully support having this distribution center located in Merced. I am a single mother of an 18 year old son and he has been looking for work for months now. We are badly in need of an influx of entry level jobs that I believe the distribution center will provide. Please, please, please take this into consideration.

Thank you,
Candace Keeton
330 Alpine Dr
Merced CA 95340
209-383-0290

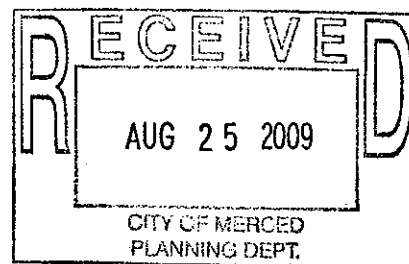
Espinosa, Kim

From: Walker, Dawn
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2009 10:17 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 DistributionCenter

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: Tuesday, August 25, 2009 8:15 AM
To: Walker, Dawn
Subject: FW: Walmart DistributionCenter

FYI

LARRY LABENDEIRA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

From: Jathan Pfeifle [mailto:jspfeifle@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2009 12:31 AM
To: Master, Web
Subject: Walmart DistributionCenter

(Please Forward to the appropriate individual/entity)

I don't know who to contact about this issue, but I had a couple ideas which they may want to think about in the new Wal Mart Distribution center that may help to alleviate some concerns. First of all, people are complaining about all the lights. Well, They could install special lighting which would prevent the light from shining upward and force the light down onto the street and parking lot. One of our national parks recently had to redo all their lighting to ensure viewability of the night sky so as not to detract from or block the view.

Also, I have heard of people complaining regarding pollution from water runoff. To this extent, I believe it would be possible for them to create a self-contained water-runoff

8/25/2009

treatment plant or something to collect and filter the water runoff from parking lots. One other thing they may consider is noise dampeners. Something along the perimeter to help dull the noise.

Anyhow, I just thought I would pass along a few ideas that Walmart may consider in the new distribution center. Take care, have a good week, and God bless.

Jathan Pfeifle
(Merced)

Start today on your way to better health and longevity. visit www.gethealthnow.net or call 1 (877) 234-7580 for more information. God bless.

With Windows Live, you can organize, edit, and share your photos. [Click here.](#)

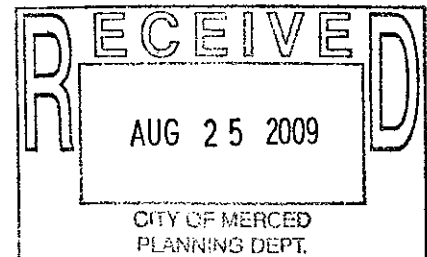
Espinosa, Kim

From: Walker, Dawn
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 4:51 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: Wal-Mart 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: Monday, August 24, 2009 4:49 PM
To: Walker, Dawn
Subject: FW: Wal-Mart Distribution Center

FYI

LARRY LABENDEIRA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

From: kerrytl12@aol.com [mailto:kerrytl12@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 3:54 PM
To: Master, Web
Subject: Wal-Mart Distribution Center

PLEASE VOTE YES. ALLOW THIS TO BE BUILT. People are desperate. There are so few jobs here. Without jobs people cannot pay bills so many people are abandoning their homes to foreclosure. Without money they cannot buy goods here. So our businesses die. Have you seen Merced Mall lately? Have you driven down Main Street?

Do something right - give people hope here. Give them a chance to be a working member of our community - and not another burden on unemployment.

Thank you,
Kerry - Merced resident

8/25/2009

Espinosa, Kim

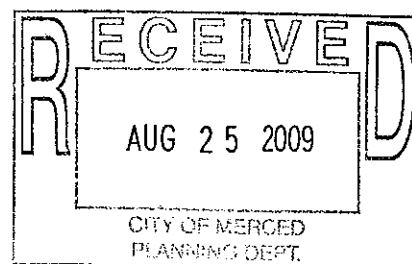
From: Quintero, Frank
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 4:14 PM
To: Espinosa, Kim; Gonzalves, David
Cc: 'Doug Fluetsch'
Subject: FW: WalMart DC
Importance: High

Please see the message

Frank Quintero
Development Manager
City of Merced
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

1-800-723-4788
(209) 385-6827
(209) 723-1780 F

www.cityofmerced.org



From: Doug Fluetsch [mailto:doug@fluetschandbusbyinsurance.com]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 4:15 PM
To: Quintero, Frank
Subject: WalMart DC

Hey Frank – I do not have Kim Espinosa's email address. Can you forward this concern to her regarding the format of the hearings.

DF

From: County Info [mailto:info@mercedcountychamber.com]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 3:55 PM
To: 'Doug Fluetsch'; Doug Fluetsch
Cc: Tiffany Wahl; Marko Mlikotin
Subject: Fw: See You Tonight

----- Original Message -----

From: Judith Bechtel
To: County Info
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 3:39 PM
Subject: Re: See You Tonight

I have supported Walmart in every way possible, including attending their August 19th meeting. After being shuffled into the basement with no visuals, I came to the conclusion that either the planning commission or Walmart cared nothing for the input of those attending. So, I will skip

8/25/2009

tonight, along with my friends.

--- On Mon, 8/24/09, County Info <info@mercedcountychamber.com> wrote:

From: County Info <info@mercedcountychamber.com>

Subject: See You Tonight

To: "County Info" <info@mercedcountychamber.com>

Date: Monday, August 24, 2009, 10:35 AM

Dear Members and Friends of the Merced County Chamber of Commerce,

Thank you to everyone who attended the Walmart distribution center hearing. 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 Monday, August 24th at City Hall.

While the planning commission will not accept anymore 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 us Monday evening for what is likely to be the last planning commission meeting. The council chamber will fill quickly, so get there early. See you at 5:15pm tonight.

Thank you again for your support and demonstrating that Merced is **"Open for Business!"**
MCCOC

8/25/2009