



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

July 14, 2008

Mr. Tom Mayfield, Supervisor
County of Stanislaus
1010 Tenth Street
Modesto, CA 95354

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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Dear Supervisor Mayfield,

The League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County historically has been a watchdog for land use decisions in the county. We are currently gathering information to determine the potential impact of the West Park Development near Patterson. In the process, we have found more questions than answers. We hope these can be resolved through the Environmental Impact Report process. Among our concerns are the following:

- Size of the project. We have serious concerns about the potential loss of thousands of acres of farmland which we view as an irreplaceable resource. The initial 1500 acres has become 4500 acres. This issue is even more critical in view of potential global food shortages. Does it make sense to plow over productive land?
- Water. Is there adequate water to support the development? Where will it come from?
- Air Quality. What will the impact on the Valley's already marginal air quality be with additional truck traffic from the proposed transportation center? If the project produces jobs, employees will need to come from throughout the county. What impact will that additional home-to-work traffic have on air quality?
- Traffic. Is there sufficient transportation infrastructure to support the commuting work force? How will the project address concerns of disruptive train traffic through the city of Patterson?
- Public safety: What agencies will provide fire and police protection to the project? At what cost to whom?
- Fiscal Viability and Liability. The project literature predicts jobs and economic growth. How realistic is this? How much investment will the County be required to make?

We urge those responsible for preparation of the Environmental Impact Report to be THOROUGH in assessing the project's impacts as well as detailed in the recommended mitigation strategies. At the same time, the study should identify the benefits of the project to the community and the Stanislaus County economy.

We will continue to follow developments of the project. Thank you for your attention.

Ellen Meyer
Ellen Meyer, President

Patty Beyer
Patty Beyer, Local Action Director