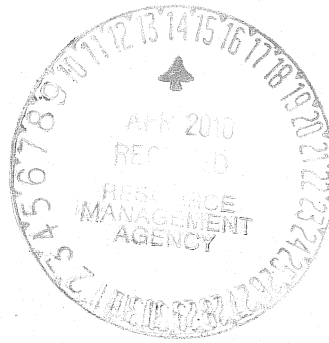


Del Strange  
464 E. Jackson Ave.  
Tulare, CA 93274  
April 14, 2010



Board of Supervisors  
and

✓ Mr. David Bryant, Project Planner  
COUNTY OF TULARE  
Administrative Building  
2800 W. Burrel Avenue  
Visalia, CA 93291

HAND DELIVERED

RE: Tulare County's Failure to Notify In a Timely Manner of the Release of the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for It's General Plan 2030 Update (GPU) and Failure to Provide a Copy of Same, In Violation of the Spirit and Intent of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as Amended (CEQA)/State Clearinghouse No. 2006041162.

Dear Board Members and Mr. Bryant:

As you are most likely aware, I have been very much interested in a number of key issues related to development and environmental matters in Tulare County over the past 30 years or so, including the above-referenced GPU. I have participated in the GPU process from its inception, attended all of the workshops, and submitted extensive written comments throughout, including on the first DEIR.

I have had a deep interest in participating in this CEQA process all along and would like to be able to continue same; however, County Staff has decided to not once again provide me with a copy of the CEQA documents for this project without a fee expense on my part, as per my phone conversation with Mr. Bryant yesterday afternoon.

In the past, the Resource Management Agency (RMA) staff have provided printed hard copies of CEQA documents to those such as myself who cannot access the documents by any other means. Furthermore, it is the intent of CEQA that anyone wishing to participate in a project environmental review be allowed to do so freely and without incurring a cost to participate.

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors addressed this matter years ago and it was determined that the project proponent provide at their expense a copy to each individual or agency that requested same. This was specifically brought out in the Kaweah River Rock Company's Surface Mining Project during the 1980s.

However, now that Tulare County finds itself in the position of being the lead agency and project proponent of this GPU project, it has decided not to abide by the very rules that it had established many years ago for all project proponents. Although the County has set a prior precedent, it has decided not to comply with same. Why?

The following are the facts in the matter:

I was not notified in a timely manner of the release and availability of the RDEIR and supporting documents for this GPU project.

On Friday evening, April 9, 2010, I received the "Notice of Availability of Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No. 2006041162)" in the mail. (See copy of envelope, enclosed.)

On Monday, April 12, 2010, I called the RMA and left a voice mail for Mr. Bryant, since he was not available, asking for a hard copy of the RDEIR and how I could acquire same at the earliest possible time. He returned my call later that day and we discussed the various options available, none of which would work for me. They included only means of access, such as on-line access at the RMA's website, a CD to use in a computer or to take to a print shop and purchase a copy of the RDEIR, using the public library's copy, or making an appointment with the RMA to review their copy during normal office hours. Or, if I wished to purchase a copy, the RMA staff could make me a copy on their copy machine that would cost me over \$500.00!

I pointed out to Mr. Bryant that none of the above was acceptable, since I do not have a computer or access to one to access the RMA's website or to use a CD, that the public library and the RMA each have limiting hours of operation and access when most people are busy working for a living, and that to pay to have a copy made is counter to CEQA's spirit and intent to "freely" participate in the environmental review of any project!

Again, the County has at minimum loaned me a printed hard copy in the past under the circumstances so that I could participate fully in the CEQA review process on this or other projects.

Mr. Bryant said he would discuss the issue of extending the public review period another 30 days due to late notification and providing me a hard copy of the RDEIR to review; and that he would either call me back that afternoon or by noon the next day.

At 1:05 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2010, Mr. Bryant called back to say that, after talking to staff, it is their position that they had mailed me the Notice of Availability to my former Woodlake address in a timely manner, that it was returned by the Post Office, and that it was remailed to me at my above address. This is the RMA's explanation for the lateness in delivery of said notice.

I once again pointed out to Mr. Bryant that I have lived at the Tulare address for over five (5) years now, have notified the RMA several times early on of my address change, and that all of my correspondence related to this project has been with my current address as above. Mr. Bryant had no comment, other than to say that the notice was published in several newspapers and listed on the website. I do not subscribe to or get any local newspaper nor do I have access to a computer, as the RMA staff have been made aware of many times in the past.<sup>(1)</sup>

In addition, Mr. Bryant said that the County will not provide me with a hard copy of the CEQA documents for this GPU project at no cost, not even on loan! He repeated the options previously discussed, as noted above.

Mr. Bryant said that the County's budget doesn't warrant providing me a printed hard copy of this important CEQA document. I told him that the current economic conditions are no excuse for not providing those who are interested the unbridled opportunity to participate in the CEQA process on a project that began before any economic downturn. Such costs should have been budgeted for at the onset of the project.

Under the circumstances, I nor any other person interested in the County's future should be inhibited from effectively participating in a full review

of the CEQA documents for this most important GPU and commenting effectively and intelligently on same. To do so is in direct violation of the true spirit and intent of CEQA, and flies in the face of us hard-working taxpayers!

After all, I do pay my property taxes regularly to the County of Tulare. Why shouldn't I be allowed to participate freely in any environmental assessment of a project before the Board of Supervisors, no matter who the project proponent might be?

Otherwise, for the County to charge its citizens for a copy of any CEQA document only inhibits public participation in the CEQA process and their government, while attempting to impose yet another "tax" upon them!

Consequently, I respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors make available to anyone who requests it, a printed hard copy of the RDEIR for this project even if only on a loan basis for the duration of the public review period, if necessary, and to extend the public comment period by at least 30 days in order to allow everyone at least a full 60-day review period.

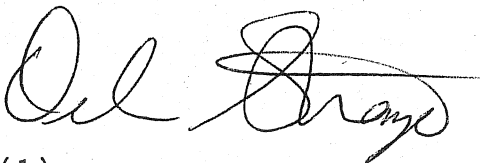
It is interesting to note that the original DEIR for this project had a 90-day plus public review period and that many more pages have been added since then, yet only a 60-day period has been provided.

Therefore, in the interest of full public participation in the GPU for Tulare County with maximum effectiveness thereof, I respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors extend the public review period for the RDEIR to a minimum of 90 days from the date that the printed hard copies of the project's CEQA documents are made available for public review and comment.

This project and its CEQA process is too important to rush!

Thank you for your consideration of the above. I hope to be given the opportunity to participate in the review process for the General Plan Update 2030 Project for the County of Tulare.

Respectfully yours,



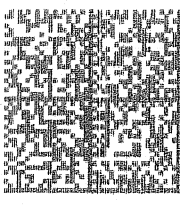
- (1) After all, since I'm an active participant and commentator of record on this GPU project, it is incumbent upon the County to notify me directly via mail of any important information or notices related to the project.

encl.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

TULARE COUNTY  
5961 S MOONEY BLVD  
VISALIA CA 93277-9394

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