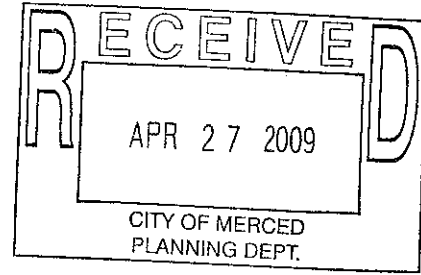


April 23, 2009

Kim Espinosa
Planning Department
City of Merced
678 W. 18th St.
Merced, CA 95340



Re: Merced Wal-Mart Distribution Center Project

Ms. Espinosa,

I wish to voice my disapproval with the construction of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center. I have noted that the Draft EIR regarding the project, among other things, states that the addition of more concrete, pavement, and buildings could have many effects ranging from water pollution to increased flooding. In particular, the Draft EIR notes that the addition of so many acres of impervious surface will increase stormwater runoffs and volumes which will lead to flooding. The area in and around the site has been historically undeveloped agricultural land which was better for stormwater absorption. To convert it into impervious land would disrupt drainage patterns, which the area is not equipped for and which will lead to increased flooding.

Why would we want to by human means increase the risk of such flooding. The City should not approve the project and should allow for drainage and absorption patters to remain the same unless they want citizens being upset over excessive flooding.

Sincerely,


Signature

Dannique N. Aalbu
Print Name

1067 W. Yosemite Ave #8
Address

Merced, CA 95348

(916) 832-9170
Phone

Espinosa, Kim

From: Darlene Acree [dacree@transcountytitle.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:36 AM
To: Espinosa, Kim
Subject: Wal-Mart Distribution Center

Kim,

As a resident of Merced and the owner of a home off Childs Avenue near the location of the proposed Wal-Mart Distribution Center, I am writing in support of the facility. As I look around our small town and see all the empty buildings and places of business that have closed their doors in the past several years, I wonder why people wouldn't welcome the new business and employment for our city. I think the pros definately outway the cons in my opinion.

Thank you for your time,

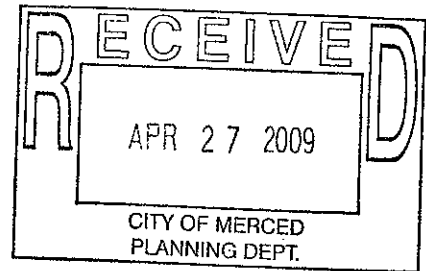
Darlene Acree
Jr. Escrow Officer/
Certified Escrow Technician
TransCounty Title Co.
635 W. 19th Street
Merced, CA 95340
Phone: (209) 383-4660 ext. 12
Fax: (209) 381-2726
dacree@transcountytitle.com



Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to.

3/19/09

Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager
 City of Merced Planning Division
 678 W 18th St.
 Merced, CA 55340



Ms. Espinosa:

I am reading the DEIR on the distribution center, particularly page 4.2-5. I feel there is a false sense of security in your analysis of particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5). You state that PM2.5 has reduced between 1975 and 2005. While this is encouraging news, I suggest you think about some of the sources you mention which cause PM2.5 emissions, specifically "fugitive dust" from vehicles traveling on paved and unpaved roads.

The point I want to make and raise is that by adding hundreds of tractor trailer trucks exiting and entering Highway 99 and driving through our neighborhoods and schools will result in a lot more PM2.5 in the air around Merced. I really don't want to see this happen because I'm worried about the health of my family.

I don't think it's a smart idea to add to the poor air quality in Merced.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Candice Adam Medefind".

Signature

Candice Adam Medefind

Print Name

2381 Lakeside Drive

Address

Merced Calif. 95340

City, State Zip

(509) 723-1872

Phone Number

Espinosa, Kim

From: Allen's [c@17am.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 7:33 PM
To: Espinosa, Kim
Subject: Wal mart

We are against the building of the Wal-Mart distribution center. We have seen the terrible effects of what other centers have done in other cities.

Margaret Allen

Espinosa, Kim

From: Allen's [c@17am.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 7:30 PM
To: Espinosa, Kim
Subject: Walmart

We are against the building of the Wal-Mart distribution center. We have seen the terrible effects of what other centers have done in other cities.

Brent Allen

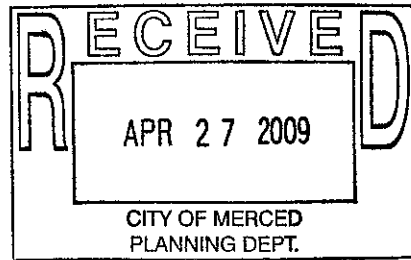
Espinosa, Kim

From: Allen's [c@17am.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2009 12:58 PM
To: Espinosa, Kim
Subject: No Wal MART

Kim, This is nothing personal against you. This letter is to any who support this Distribution Center in the location which it is planned. If anything happens to my kids because of the traffic of the trucks, I as well as many of my friends and neighbors will take action against city council and city planning people who knowing support this giant city of filth AKA the Wal Mart distribution center. This family has supported the schools here in every way possible the last 20 years. For Merced to do something like this to us is ludicrous. There is plenty of land in this region to put this distribution center elsewhere. There is no reason it has to be so close to our residential area and schools. Move it or lose it. If this is passed we are not going to lie down about it. It will be an embarrassing civil war here in Merced if it goes through. Shopping in grocery stores, restaurants at public functions etc. Anyone who has supported this that has a government vote will be constantly reminded in an embarrassing manner forever if walmart is placed this close to us. MOVE THE SITE if you must have it, unless every supporter wants to move in next to us in our neighborhood and experience the hell for themselves. Turning a blind eye to a fellow Merced resident will not fly this time.

**Margaret Allen
Brent Allen
Lisa Allen**

**2636 Ballantyne
Merced**



To:
Kim Espinoza
Planning Manager
City of Merced

These are my concerns regarding the proposed Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Merced. None of them have been adequately addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report. This project is not right for our community.

- pollution from trucks causes global warming (254.4 tons of NOx which causes ozone)
- noise in the form of loudspeakers to call the trucks to off-load and the noise of off-loading
- light from stadium lighting at the site
- dust created from off-loading
- polluting the rain water run-off
- plummeting home values
- trucks idling at the site for 2 to 24 hours while waiting their turn to off-load.
- idling trucks run their air conditioner in the summer and their heaters in the winter
- big box stores shut down small businesses and create unemployment
- there is no guarantee that the jobs generated by this project will go to Merced residents or benefit Merced in any way.
- Urban Decay is not addressed in the document
- the proposed site is subject to high water flow.
- The EIR is supposed to address how the project will change the existing environment. It doesn't do that.
- The proposed capacity will not only be adequate to serve existing stores as it says in the DEIR, it is big enough to serve several times the amount of stores which exist at this time.
- The purpose of CEQA is to address both Qualitative and Quantitative. Both are not considered in the DEIR.
- Our Air Quality will be severely compromised if this project goes forth but the DEIR suggests that adding pollution is not significant.
- This project will require a huge impervious surface. Rain water will be polluted by oil, grease, dust and other particulate matter and will flow off site and onto the land. The proposed detention ponds will not clean the water adequately before it heads to the waterways and ultimately the ocean.
- The ponds will supposedly be filled by gravity feed but this concept doesn't make sense as the water level in the ponds are higher than the surface requiring evacuation.
- The houses built in the surrounding neighborhoods will suffer from urban decay. Owners will not be able to sell their homes and property values will decline because of the proposed Distribution Center. Many surrounding homes will become vacant and will become magnets for vandalism, graffiti, drugs and prostitution. Foreclosure rates will skyrocket. This should have been addressed in the DEIR.
- The proposed Distribution Center will bring products to proposed Wal-Mart Super Centers. Each Super Center closes 2-3 smaller stores. These Super Centers are proposed for other towns in our county. We are potentially causing unemployment in our own county.

- Most of the jobs generated by this project will not go to local citizens but to workers from other communities who will commute. This will not benefit Merced financially. At the very least, we should require that Wal-Mart hire 80% of the workforce from the county of Merced.
- There are many hidden costs to the city of Merced such as police, traffic control, noise abatement and health costs created by poor air quality.
- Weaver, Pioneer and Golden Valley are too close to the proposed site. A third elementary school that has been proposed for this area will not be able to be built.
- Student athletes will have no choice but to breath the air. Their health will be affected.
- 25% of people within a two mile radius will have health issues as a consequence of the exhaust from the truck traffic.
- The road was built for UC Merced. Is it right, is it fair, is it appropriate to turn it into a road for the proposed Wal-Mart Distribution Center?

The City Council is directly responsible for the foreclosure rate in this community by allowing unrestricted building in our town. We are fourth in the Nation. Now most of the City Council wants to build this Distribution Center with total disregard for the deficiencies in the Draft Environmental Report.

CEQA authorizes agencies to disapprove projects because of negative environmental impacts. This project should NOT be approved.

We have UC Merced, a wonderful asset to our community. Merced deserves green growth. So does our planet.

Annette Allsup
974 Wyoming Dr
Merced, CA 95340
209-723-5152

Espinosa, Kim

From: aalorro@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2009 6:56 PM
To: Espinosa, Kim
Subject: Water Runoff

Dear Ms. Espinosa:

I am not satisfied that the DEIR adequately addresses the problem of water runoff. The proposed WalMart Distribution Center would be built on what was previously agricultural land. When it rains, the soil naturally absorbs moisture; any excess, hopefully, is just rainwater, which may cause minor flooding but which will eventually flow into rivers or canals.

If this project is built, pavement replaces dirt. Rainwater will run-off, instead of being absorbed, and it will carry with it all the foreign elements present on pavement, e.g. oil, grease, and other chemicals. Detention ponds are supposedly adequate to handle this problem, but what happens if your measurements are incorrect and your ponds are not large enough or high enough or strong enough to retain the run-off? What happens to all the contaminants that will then be released into the community?

I realize that your General Plan designates this area as Industrial, but this does not mean that you **MUST** build a massive industrial project at this site. A good, community-based Plan changes as the community it serves changes. There are neighborhoods and schools that would be adversely affected if tainted water were to run-off into public spaces. Don't wait until disaster strikes: prevent it now by not approving this project.

Sincerely,

Audrey L Alorro
3312 Denver Way
Merced CA 95348
209/722-3264
aalorro@sbcglobal.net

4/27/2009

Espinosa, Kim

From: aalorro@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2009 6:29 PM
To: Espinosa, Kim
Subject: WalMart Water Concerns

Dear Ms. Espinosa:

I have serious concerns about the amount of water the proposed WalMart Distribution Center will use. The DEIR findings are based on an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) finalized in 2005 and EDAW's 2006 Water Supply Assessment (WSA). As anyone who keeps up with current events knows, the status of our water resources in the State of California has changed drastically just in the last few years. Many cities have enacted emergency water conservation plans and the delivery of water to farmers has been cut severely, forcing many farmers to refrain from planting their fields. The impact on agriculture should be of major concern to you, since we are still primarily an agricultural community.

The DEIR's conclusions of current and projected water consumption needs to be re-assessed in light of current information. In fact, this project should not be allowed to move forward until the State of California has definitively resolved it's water shortage issues. We are not isolated from the rest of the state; to claim that our "groundwater is a consistent source, so no replacement plan is needed" (pg. 4.12-2) is disingenuous and simplistic. If water is needed elsewhere in our State, it will affect our source as well.

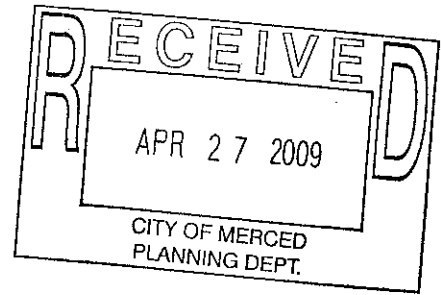
Sincerely,

Audrey L. Alorro
3312 Denver Way
Merced CA 95340
209/722-3264
aalorro@sbcglobal.net

4/27/2009

April 19, 2009

Ms. Kim Espinosa
Merced Planning Department
678 W. 18th St.
Merced, CA 95340



Dear Ms. Espinosa,

Developing on prime agriculture land is not responsible growth. The soil type that is at this site needs to be protected and used for agricultural needs not commercial/industrial development. Not only does this affect the agricultural community but it's bad precedent for farmland in general. If this land is developed, then what does it say to other developers and farmland owners? Owners of farmland will want to sell their property to developers and in result, put prime agriculture land at risk. Wal-Mart can build in other areas, we don't get to pick where prime farmland is located.

Thank you,

Audrey Alous
Signature

Audrey Alous
Print Name

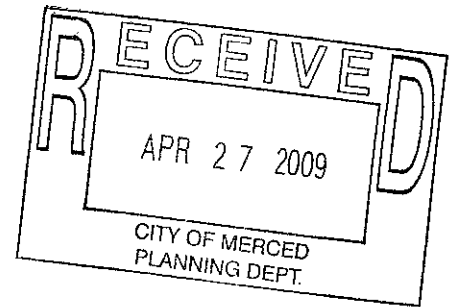
3312 Denver Way
Address

Merced CA 95348

- PH 722-3264
Phone

April 12, 2009

Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager
City of Merced Planning Division
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



RE: Wal-Mart Distribution Center DEIR

Dear Kim Espinosa,

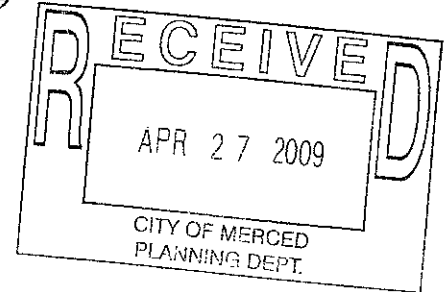
The DEIR says that the big equipment that will be used during construction is not known but likely to include, "excavators, graders, scrapers, loaders, backhoes, haul trucks, and cranes." This is a very critical issue that should be addressed with more detail in the EIR. Wal-Mart understands the scope of this project, so it should have exact estimates from previous distribution projects completed. Knowing the exact number of these vehicles is critical in calculating noises and pollutants that will be generated during construction.

Regards,

Audrey Alorro
Audrey Alorro
3312 Denver Way
Merced CA 95348
Ph 722-3269

April 7, 2009

Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager
City of Merced Planning Division
Attn: Merced City Council
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



Dear Ms. Espinosa,

I am writing mostly to express my opposition to the proposed Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Merced. The center itself will have terrible ramifications on the health of our community, particularly with the frequent truck and employee traffic that will be generated. Is the health of our community, and particularly our children, worth risking just for some property tax revenues?

The Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed distribution center is detailed except when it comes to discussing financial costs. For instance, under section 4.93 Environmental Impacts, under Impact Analysis 4.9-1, there is the mentioning of "public water and wastewater infrastructure," "utility infrastructure," and "existing infrastructure." The report mentions the addressing of all these infrastructures, but no discussion on the financing of the infrastructure costs. What percentage of the infrastructure costs related to the Wal-Mart Distribution Center are for the taxpayers compared to Wal-Mart's share?

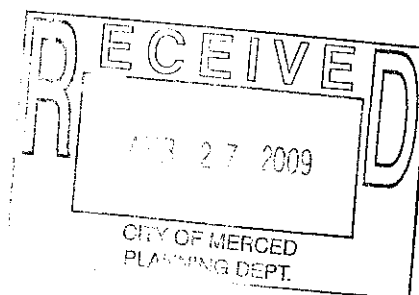
The taxpayers should not have to share any burden of infrastructure costs related to this development. Wal-Mart should pay for the entirety of their proposal if it is to be built at all. There should be no tax incremental financing or cost sharing with the city or county.

Thank you,

Audrey Alorro
Audrey Alorro
3312 Denver Way
Merced CA 95348
Ph 722-3264

April 4, 2009

Ms. Kim Espinosa
 Planning Manager
 Merced Planning Division
 678 West 18th Street
 Merced, CA 95340



Ms. Espinosa:

In section 4.2-3 of the distribution center's DEIR, you state "generally, low wind speeds or stagnant air coupled with warm temperatures and clear skies provide the optimum conditions for [ozone] formation. As a result, summer is generally the peak ozone season."

I don't know where you live Ms. Espinosa, but summers a long here in Merced and we have plenty of clear skies. Sounds like an ideal location to make ozone.

So, will Wal-Mart limit its truck trips during the summer months to help reduce the amount of ozone that is created?

Thank you.

Angel G. Alvarez
 Signature

Angel G. Alvarez
 Print Name

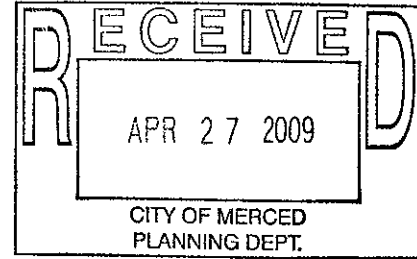
66 S. FORK Ave
 Address

Merced, CA, 95341
 City, State Zip

(209) 726-3436
 Phone Number

4.14.09

Kim Espinosa
 Planning Manager
 City of Merced Planning Division
 678 West 18th Street
 Merced, CA 95340



Dear Ms. Espinosa:

As stated on page 4.2-1 of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center's draft environmental impact report, the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin is comprised of numerous counties, all of which are quite large. Will the City make sure the counties of Fresno, Kings, Madera, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare counties have a chance to weigh in? What happens if they object to the project because of air quality problems?

Thanks.

Angel G. Alvarez
 Signature

Angel G. Alvarez
 Print Name

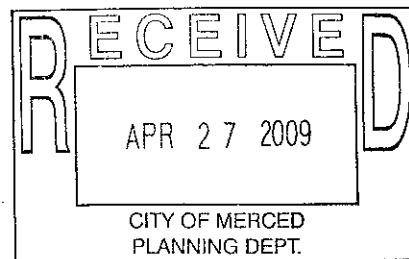
66 S. FORK AVE.
 Address

Merced, CA, 95341
 City, State Zip

(209) 726-3436
 Phone Number

April 3, 2009

Kim Espinosa
Planning Manager
Merced Planning Department
City of Merced
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



Ms. Espinosa:

There are certain things that are taken for granted in this age of consumerism and rampant development. My concern is that wildlife will be taken for granted. If this Distribution Center Project is approved, however, I fear that the local wildlife will be taken for granted and such approval decision will be without taking them into consideration. For years the site on which Wal-Mart wants to construct on has been agricultural in nature. From orchards to fields, this land has been a breeding ground and environment for various wildlife. This project should not be approved. I do not want the area where I sometimes pull over and enjoy nature be replaced with another set of buildings and another concrete mess.

Thank you,

Joe E. Alvarez
Signature

Joe Alvarez
Print Name

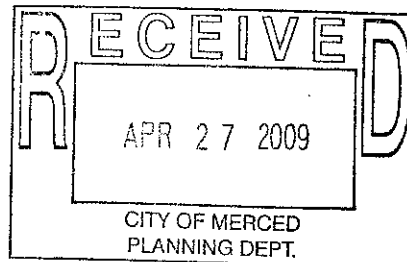
890 Marian Ct
Address

Merced, Ca.

723-7125
Phone

April 10, 2009

Kim Espinosa
Project Manager
Merced Planning Division
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



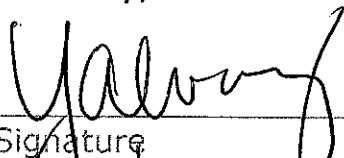
Ms. Espinosa:

I took a look at the Wal-Mart distribution center's draft environmental impact report. One thing that struck me (and concerns me) is Table 4.2-1 in the Air Quality section. Area wide sources count for 85% of PM 2.5 in the county? That's pretty alarming to me, especially because I see so many of my neighbors outdoors walking or running, probably unaware of this dangerous air pollution in the air.

I suggest to Wal-Mart that they reduce the size of this distribution center, which will decrease the number of trucks driving through Southeast Merced. If Wal-Mart wants to be responsible for increasing PM 2.5, they should at least try to reduce the impacts.

Here's an even better idea. Don't build it!

Sincerely,



Signature

Janet Alvarez

Print Name

66 S. Fork Ave.

Address

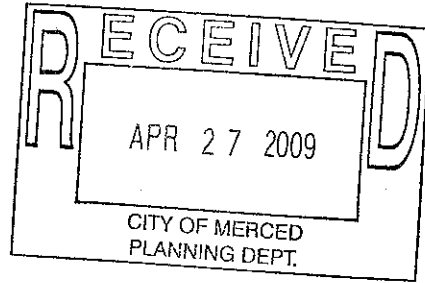
Merced, CA. 95341

City, State Zip

(209) 726-3436

Phone Number

Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager
City of Merced Planning Division
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



Ms. Espinosa,

The final environmental impact report should address policing graffiti prevention on the wall barrier, at the cost of the applicant. In fact, I suggest the applicant should have to pay for property value estimates both before and after the barrier wall is built, compensating the property owners the difference should the values decrease after the wall is built. Part of the current housing crisis is banks unwillingness to make loans to homeowners and homeowners unable to sell homes they cannot afford to keep.

Please address this issue in more detail in the EIR.

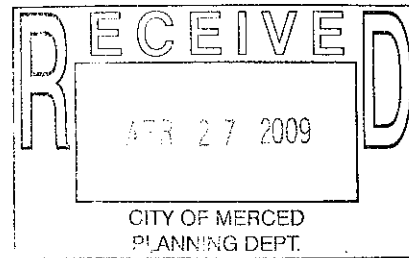
Sincerely,

Jacqueline Alvez-Munoz
457 Hwy Orange
CA. Merced CA. 95340

Jacqueline Alvez-Munoz
(per parcel system)

March 22, 2009

Ms. Kim Espinosa
Project Director
Merced Planning Division
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



Ms. Espinosa,

Who will be responsible for enforcing the control measures listed on page 4.2-32-33 in the Merced Wal-Mart Distribution Center DEIR? Will it be the South District Police Station? Will Wal-Mart pay for an additional Police Officer and car? Since this distribution center isn't bringing in any tax revenue, will the City be responsible for funding extra enforcement measures?

Regards,

Mark Andrade
2689 Snow Goose Dr.
Los Banos, CA 93635

Espinosa, Kim

From: aalorro@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2009 7:16 PM
To: Espinosa, Kim
Subject: Traffic Congestion

Dear Ms. Espinosa:

I have concerns about the increase in traffic that the WalMart DC might bring that I don't feel are covered by the DEIR.

Lately, I have had to drive my wife to her doctor's appointments in Fresno. It's been a while since I've driven to Fresno and was alarmed by the amount of diesel traffic. There are lines of trucks, one after the other, in the right hand lane, and sometimes in the left lane, holding up speedier traffic. I can't believe you are considering allowing WalMart to add 900 truck trips per day - 450 in and 450 out - to a road that is already overcrowded. I am not convinced that there won't be more than that number over time. 450 is just the beginning - what kind of increase can we expect in or 10 years?

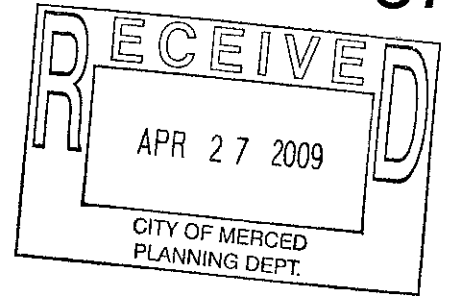
I also heard that, although WalMart says their trucks will be greener, they also hire a lot of independent truckers who can't afford the thousands of dollars to upgrade their trucks. How and who will regulate these other truckers? I don't believe I read it in the DEIR.

Sincerely,

Michael Dwayne Armstrong
3312 Denver Way
Merced CA 95348
Cell ph 209/489-1798
E-mail aalorro@sbcglobal.net

4/27/2009

Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager
City of Merced Planning Department
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



Ms. Espinosa:

Mi familia está muy preocupada sobre el proyecto del centro de distribución de Wal-Mart que puede ser construido cerca de nuestra vecindad. Fuimos enojados de oír que la ciudad no hizo caso de los deseos de algunos residentes que pidieron que el EIR sera escrito en Español.

Muchas de las personas en esta vecindad sólo hablan en Español, y sin la ciudad ayudando traducir este documento muy grande, realmente no sabemos como este proyecto nos afectara.

Hoy en América todas las clases de gobiernos deberían ver que vivimos en una sociedad de diferentes culturas y idiomas. Reservando el poder de comprender lo que pasa en el Gobierno Municipal a algunas personas – pero no todas las personas – no es lo que América es supuesta significar. El estudio debería ser hecho disponible en Español - por favor incluya mis comentarios parte de este registro público sobre este proyecto.

JAVIER ARREDONDO
2499 E. GERARD AV: #17
MERCED, CA 95341
JOE JAVIER ARREDONDO

10 de Abril de 2009

Señorita Kim Espinosa
Directora de Planificación, Ciudad de Merced
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



Estimada Señorita Espinosa:

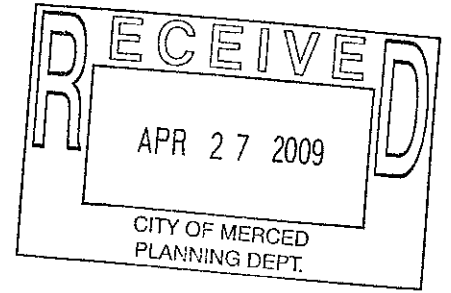
Por qué no Merced hace copias del DEIR del centro de distribución de Wal-Mart en otras idiomas y no solamente en Inglés? Parece a mí que un asunto de este tamaño que todos en la comunidad hablan de debía estar disponible para residentes que Inglés no es su primero idioma. Deje a cada uno participar en el proceso, leer el reporte y haga sus propias comentarios sobre este proyecto.

Gracias,

JAVIER ARREDONDO
2499 E. GERARD, AVE #17
MERCED, CA 95341
JOSE JAVIER ARREDONDO

23 de Marzo de 2009

Señora Kim Espinoza
Ciudad de Merced
Departamento de Planificación
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



Señora Espinoza,

Yo urgo que tu y la ciudad hagan desponible el DEIR del centro de distribución de Wal-Mart en otras idiomas que Inglés. Hay mucha gente en nuestra ciudad que ley otras idiomas que Inglés y si usted no hace los documentos públicos en otros idiomas, usted no esta permitetendo todos tomar parte en este proceso. Estoy orgulloso de esta ciudad y no quiero ver Merced abandonar a residentes en la oscuridad. Esto solamente no parece como algo justo de hacer.

Gracias,

J. JAVIER ARREDONDO
Director

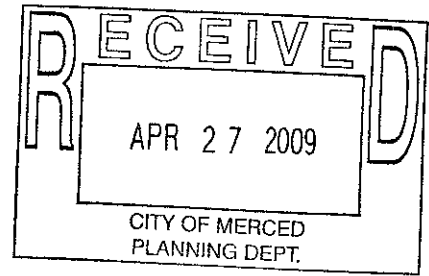
JAVIER ARREDONDO
Director

2499 E. GERARD, AVE. # 17
Merced, CA 95341

MERCED, CA 95341
Merced, CA 95341

14 de Abril de 2009

Ms. Kim Espinoza
Ciudad de Merced Departamento de Planificación
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



Estoy decepcionado por la falta de alcance a la comunidad de Latinos que habla Español. Yo no estuve consciente que había aún reporte sobre los impactos ambientales del centro de distribución hasta que recibe un envío por correo en Inglés y Español anunciando que el reporte fue liberado. El correo fue enviado por un grupo en la ciudad. Estoy agradecido que ellos fueron amables para notificarme. Es triste que la ciudad no pudo informarnos.

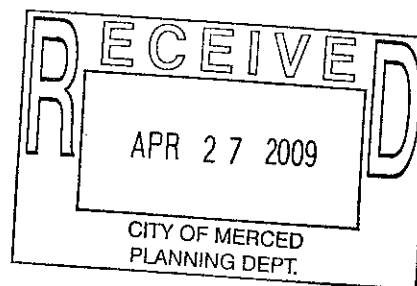
Pero me molesta que el reporte está sólo disponible en Inglés. Por qué no trataría usted hacer esta información más accesible a la gente que no habla Inglés? Es vergonzoso. Espero que usted pensará de esto la próxima vez que usted tiene información importante para compartir con la comunidad.

Sinceramente,

JAVIER ARREDONDO
From
JAVIER ARREDONDO
Number
2499 E. GERARD, AVE. #17
Merced, CA 95341
Ciudad de Merced, California

March 25, 2009

Kim Espinosa
Dept. of Planning
City of Merced
678 W. 18th St.
Merced, CA 95340



Dear Ms. Espinosa,

I am concerned that the approval of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center Project will lead to consequences, which have not been thought through. The creation of a 230 acre concrete slab will be a hindrance to proper stormwater runoff. ✓

Has the City questioned whether making a site which was for a long time agricultural land completely into concrete and building will increase storm water runoff and leading to flooding for the roads around the site not to mention the various irrigation canals? Unless the City can honestly say with certainty that this may not happen, this Project should not be approved. ✓

Sincerely,

Randy Ashlock
Signature

Randy Ashlock
Print Name

1505 Buller St
Address
Atwater Ca 95301

209 357 0554
Phone

Espinosa, Kim

From: Lori Atkins [calgal101@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2009 12:20 PM
To: Espinosa, Kim
Subject: Wal-Mart Center

Dear Planning Dept; I traveled through Merced for 20 years prior to moving to Gustine. We admired the beauty of the Sierra Mountains that we could clearly see as we drove from Merced to Yosemite. During the years we noticed that we could not see the Sierra as often and eventually not at all. We have lived in Gustine for 12 years. When we first moved here in 1997, we could not breathe the polluted air, we could not drive in our car with the windows down. Anywhere we drove in Merced County resulted in allergies, poor breathing, and smelly air. For the first 3 years all we talked about was moving from Merced County to a place where we could breath and our children would not be around horrible pollution.

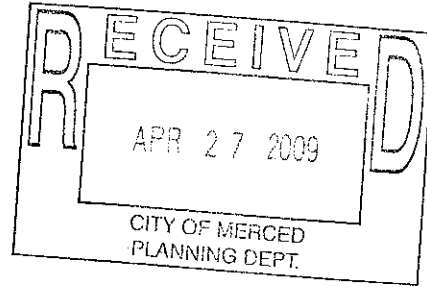
This all changed a few years ago. I am so proud to say that the Valley Air has gotten so much better, I can drive around with my windows open. I can sit outside my home without suffering. My children no longer have allergies. Why has this happened? Because the Federal Government has required a clean up!

I know we need to create jobs in the area. I don't think we should create jobs at the expense of our health. Especially when we can create jobs that don't. Merced County needs to attract clean jobs. We can attract employers here with cheap land and tax incentives. We don't have to take Wal-Mart just because its an easy fix. Easy for our short term means disaster for our long term. Let's be picky about what we create for our future. Let's be bold and step out of the mold. Let's find ways to create jobs without creating pollution and here's to "seeing" the Sierra again!

Respectfully Submitted,
Lori Atkins and family
1231 Southport Gustine 95322
209-854-6033

April 16, 2009

Kim Espinosa
 Planning Manager
 Merced Planning Division
 678 West 18th Street
 Merced, CA 95340



Dear Kim,

I believe the city has vastly underestimated how many trips per day a distribution center gets. First off, Wal-mart won't tell you how many stores they will service with this distribution center so how do we know how many trucks.

Merced is in the middle of the State. How do we know Wal-mart won't close their distribution centers in other parts of the state and service all of their stores from the one center?

Before the city approves this plan, we need to set a limit on exactly how many trucks can visit this center every day. I read the traffic plan – Wal-mart is saying 240 truck trips a day, but that seems very low.

Thank you.

Dylan Bagwell
 Signature

Dylan Bagwell
 Print Name

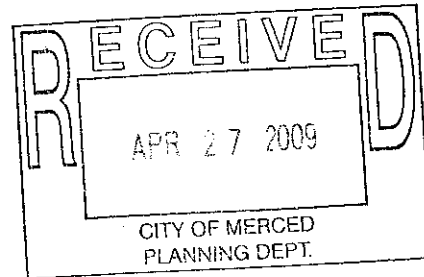
474 Hydrangea Ct.
Merced, CA 94341
 Address

722-1374
 Phone

Duplicate of Letter #15

April 1, 2009

Ms. Kim Espinosa
Project Director
Merced Planning Department
678 W. 18th St.
Merced, CA 95340



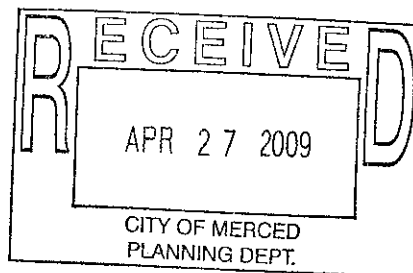
Kim,

Why is it that Health Risk Assessments are only taken seriously in the Wal-Mart DEIR when it comes to the children of the employees? What happens if you admit that the health risks resulting from the distribution center are so bad for children that the distribution center should not have on-site child care, but the distribution center is fine for all the children who currently live in Southeast or attend our schools? What is NOT good for the goose it good for the gander? That's pretty insensitive and very insulting to me.

*Mike Baldwin**Merced-Mantipoo Asthma Coalition - Steering Committee**559-903-4870**41810 Rd 406**Coarsegold, Ca 93614*

March 15, 2009

Kim Espinosa
Planning Manager
City of Merced Planning Division
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



Ms. Espinosa,

According to Section 5 of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Wal-Mart did a search for alternative sites based on specific "physical criteria for the selection of potential sites." Really? And one of those criteria is "absence of development". Seriously? THEN WHY SELECT A SITE NEXT TO MY NEIGHBORHOOD!!!!

This is the WRONG site and a HORRIBLE location! Go with the "NO PROJECT" alternative!

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benny Bawla".

Benny Bawla

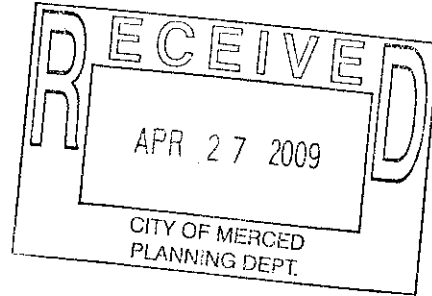
437 Hydrangeas

(209)

756-9528

April 13, 2009

Ms. Kim Espinosa
Planning Manager
City of Merced Planning Division
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



Ms. Espinosa:

Truckers have a tough life. They are required to take 10 hours of rest during a 24 hour period. Where is this going to take place? At the distribution facility? On the side of the road?

If the city is going to require WM to keep all trucks on site, that site needs to be equipped to support not only truckers working directly for Wal-mart, but their suppliers as well. Signs and an enforcement policy by the police must be adopted to keep truckers from resting not just on the main streets leading to the distribution center, but throughout the community.

Sincerely,

Signature

Priscilla Banda

Print Name

437 Hydrangea Ct

Address

209 947-8582

Phone

Espinosa, Kim

From: Alma Delia [silverspring7@yahoo.com]**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2009 7:32 AM**To:** Espinosa, Kim**Subject:** Wal-Mart Distribution Center

Hello, I'd just like to write that I've been following the news on the Wal-Mart distribution center for the past couple of months. I understand that some members of the Merced community believe that bringing a distribution center to our area would greatly increase the pollution in our valley. Although I can see where they might be concerned, one has to realize that this county is made up of largely rural and agricultural communities.

One of our biggest problems is unemployment which is particularly high especially when seasonal workers are out of jobs. If we want to become more industrial and create more jobs, then we have to accept the good with the bad. This county needs those jobs badly for its residents and shooing away another large retailer is NOT going to help put food on peoples' tables. If we want to reduce dependence on our already taxed social programs, then we need to create jobs, not throw more money at the situation.

I vote that our city bring the Wal-Mart distribution center to town. I hope that the City of Merced does too!

Alma Barocio
3112 Denver Ave #7
Merced, CA 95348

Espinosa, Kim

From: Dale Beard [dale.beard@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2009 9:40 PM
To: Espinosa, Kim
Subject: In Favor of Wal-Mart Distribution

Kim,

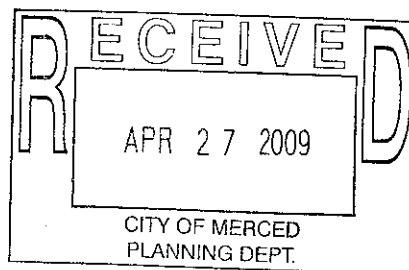
I received a flier opposing the center. I feel it would be a plus for our economy & the fear of pollution, property values & traffic bogus.

For what it's worth...

Dale Beard
3369 Tuolumne Ct.
Merced Ca. 95340
209 384-0932

March 23, 2009

Kim Espinosa
 Planning Manager
 City of Merced
 678 W. 18th St.
 Merced, CA 95340



Re: Walmart Distribution Center

Dear Ms. Espinosa,

The proposed site for the Walmart distribution center consists of 70% prime farmland. We need to follow the Merced County General Plan and keep this land as is and protect its resources. If this site is developed it will have a significant impact. Converting 229 acres of prime farmland is not responsible and there will be negative impacts if so.

I don't think it is economically viable to turn prime agriculture land no agriculture use. This would be a substantial loss of prime soil and should be considered when reviewing this application.

Please deny development on this site.

Thank you.

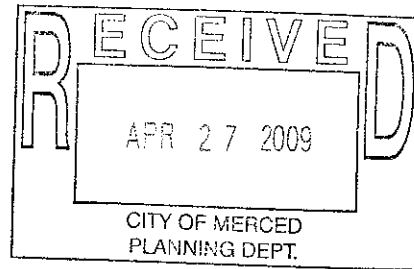
Gayle Beseker
 Signature

Gayle Beseker
 Print Name

2545 E Childs
 Address

(209) 723-6473
 Phone

Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager
City of Merced Planning Division
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



Dear Ms. Espinosa,

A large sound wall barrier between the Wal-Mart site and the nearby homes is very helpful, but it isn't without problems. Particularly, graffiti is a problem in these neighborhoods already, and it is guaranteed to spill over onto this sound wall. When that happens, how will that be addressed? Who will pay for cleanup of graffiti? How will homeowners be compensated for the reduced property values of living next to such an eyesore?

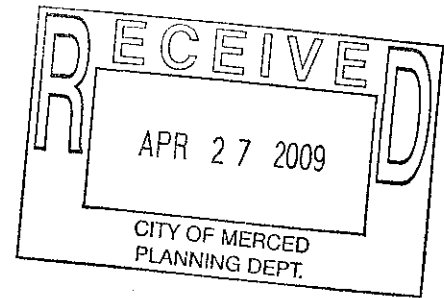
I'm very disappointed that your consultants took such a narrow view of this project and refused to study the effects of urban decay on the neighborhoods. Just because this isn't a store doesn't mean there won't be urban decay. The physical and surrounding area will look different (and not for the better) once this project is built. Property values will be hurt and these residents will have a hard time protecting their streets from urban decay.

Sincerely,

Kyle Becker
2545 E. Childs Ave

March 23, 2009

Kim Espinosa, Planning Manger
Merced Planning Department
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



Re: Distribution Center EIR

Dear Ms. Espinosa:

I am writing in regards to the Wal-Mart distribution center proposal. This site should be protected and not developed on. This area serves as a nesting habitat for birds specifically the Swainson's hawk and it is likely to occur that it will nest in close proximity of the site. This is a protected bird and therefore should not have it's nesting interrupted by developers.

The CNDDDB has documented occurrences of this specific type of bird nesting within five miles of this site. By developing on it, we risk effecting special status wildlife. -A distribution center is not worth the risk.

Do what's right and protect wildlife. Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Megan Besecker
Signature

Megan Besecker
Print Name

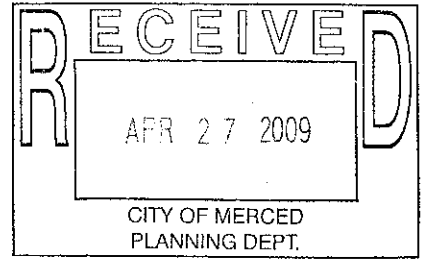
2545 E. Childs Ave
Address

Merced, CA 95341

Phone

March 23, 2009

Kim Espinosa
Planning Department
City of Merced
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



Re: Walmart Distribution Center

Dear Kim:

Based on the environmental studies recently released, I am opposed to Walmart distribution center going on this site. Building on prime ag land sets a bad precedent and the City should not develop at this area. By doing this, it can create incentives for farmland owners to sell their land for development and consequentially taking away our agricultural lands.

We don't need to development on this site, we need to keep and protect what we have. Please do the right thing and oppose this proposal.

Sincerely,

Pat Besecker
Signature

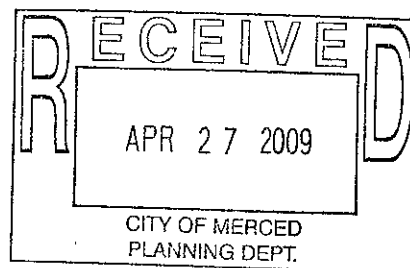
Pat Besecker
Print Name

2545 Echids ave
Address

209 723 6473
Phone

April 14, 2009

Kim Espinosa, Project Director
Merced Division of Planning
678 W. 18th St.
Merced, CA 95340



Ms. Espinosa,

We're a city with an abnormally high asthma rate. I read about particulate matter in the distribution center draft environmental impact report, and discovered that Merced's General Plan has recommendations on how to reduce the PM₁₀ emissions from roads maintained by the City. Are there certain actions that Wal-Mart will be required to fund, in order to achieve our goals of reducing PM₁₀? I don't think it's fair to make us taxpayers pay this cost.

Thank you,


Signature

AURORA P. BETTENCOURT
Print Name

686 San Antonio Ct
Address

Merced, CA 95348

Phone

Espinosa, Kim

From: Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 8:39 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; Conway, Mike; Espinosa, Kim; Schechter, Jeanne
Subject: FW: Wal-Mart Center in Merced

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: Ray Blevins [mailto:blevins-r@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 9:43 PM
To: city, council
Subject: Wal-Mart Center in Merced

Merced City Council Members:

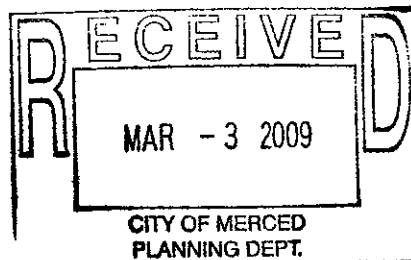
I strongly support the development of the Wal-Mart Center in Merced. This is an opportunity to have a major business with a large employment. Merced needs this!!

W. Ray Blevins, DDS

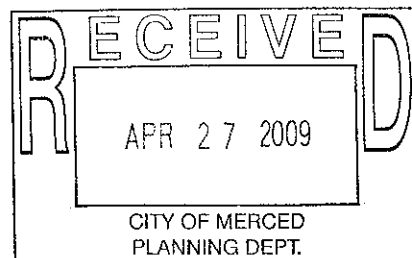
Dear Sirs

I am writing in regards to the Walmart
issue. I urge you to improve the
building of the center. Due to the history of
unemployment in Merced, this is just
the thing Merced needs.

Sign Boardman
1901 Calaveras Ave
Merced CA 95340



Kim Espinoza, Planning Manager
City of Merced Planning Department
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



Ms. Espinoza:

As a teacher in Merced I'm disappointed that the City Planning Department is considering a Wal-Mart distribution center near three local schools.

The kids I teach every day have enough on their plates that make their daily education challenging.

The distribution center adds more to their daily challenges in ways not expected at school. The proposed distribution center will significantly increase air pollution onto kids with serious respiratory problems. Students who walk to and from school will also have to worry about the hundreds of big delivery trucks driving all around them each week.

This project will bring impacts that these kids and schools don't need. The Planning Commission should recognize that this location is not a good fit and may cause harm to our kids.

Susan Boykin
115 E. 20th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Susan A. Boykin
4-23-2009

Espinosa, Kim

From: JUDITHBCA@aol.com
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2009 9:52 AM
To: Espinosa, Kim
Subject: Wal-Mart

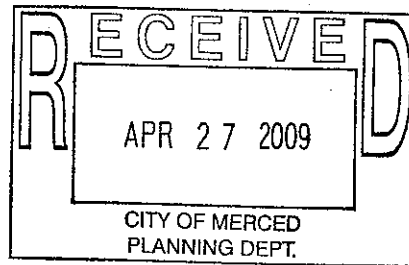
Let's build the damn thing already. The Stop Wal-Mart Action Team will find something wrong with the report because if you look for trouble, you will find it, and they are hell-bent on stopping this wonderful project. Let the digging begin.

Judith Breckenridge
Atwater

A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!

4.12.2009

Ms. Kim Espinosa
Merced Planning Department
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



Dear Ms. Espinosa:

Regarding the Distribution Center site, the Draft EIR states that various pollutants attributable to the construction could harm groundwater and lead harm to aquatic organisms. The Draft EIR also says that in order for Wal-Mart to acquire the NPDES General Industrial Stormwater Permit the proponents must devise a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan using Best Management Practices.

The problem with this is that many cities and counties in California are abandoning Best Management Practices in favor of the more innovative and effective standard of Integrated Management Practices. The Governor's Office has even actively encouraged the new standards because they provide far greater provisions for waste and pollution management.

Given that IMP's seem to be the future of waste water and storm water management, why shouldn't we use this Project to start a trend of using IMP's by requiring the same with approval? A local truly concerned about its citizens would go beyond just allowing the bare minimum and would require standards that actually are proven to better protect its citizens. Thus, the Project should not be approved unless such approval is tied to a requirement of using IMP's.

Elvis M Brock
Signature

ELVIS BROCK
Print Name

5736 E. ST Hwy 140
Address

723 6295
Phone

Espinosa, Kim

From: Judy` Brown [jdja3054@yahoo.com]**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2009 8:57 AM**To:** Espinosa, Kim**Subject:** Wal-Mart

My husband and I fully support bringing the Wal-Mart distribution center to Merced. It is time the city leaders quit trying to make Merced something that it isn't. The distribution center will bring jobs to Merced and the environmental issues will be dealt with in an appropriate manner. Merced should be doing everything in its power to bring jobs to Merced.

Judy and J.D. Brown

Espinosa, Kim

From: budgirl@surfbest.net
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2009 2:33 PM
To: Espinosa, Kim
Subject: Walmart Distribution Center

Kim;

I wanted to give my view on this Walmart Distribution coming to Merced. With today's economic we Can't afford to Not let it come here.

We are living in a recession that our grandparents lived thru and can't believe I am or my grandchildren are having to experience this as well. Haven't we learned anything from History?

If it will brings jobs that will put money back into the city, how can we say NO.

As far as the trucks traveling the highway, they will travel the highway anyway's. WE only have one main highway in our community. Weather they come out of Merced or are passing through Merced, they will still be on the road.

I have heard they have one of the cleanest fleet of trucks in the state, and all trucks have an emission standards to follow anyway, what more can we ask?

By the time the City decides to allow this firm to join our city, it maybe too late, look at what happened in Fresno just a few weeks ago. Now they are trying to get other developers to come and clean up Central Fresno.

The way we are suffering as a State and Nation, how can we as a City say NO?

We Need Jobs to buy food, and keep our Homes, and get the basic items for day to day living. We have a oppportunity offered by a Big Company wanting interest in Merced, I don't get why its such a Big Question!! We need to think of tomorrow and our Children and Grandchildren and Ourselves, as what we need Now, TO KEEP our families together and surviving this terrible situation the government has allowed our Nation to get into..

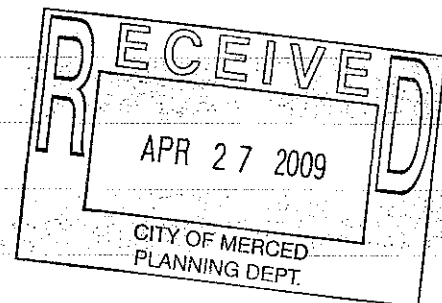
Thank you for allowing me to express my view, and hope someone does read this.

Please Vote YES for the Walmart Distribution Center for Merced CA.

Thank you,

April 23, 2009

Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager
CITY OF MERCED, PLANNING DIVISION
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



DEAR Ms Espinosa,

I am concerned about the proposed Wal-Mart distribution center. My greatest concern relates to the location of the proposed facility. In my opinion, the center is planned too close to schools and to housing and that it may degrade the aesthetic appeal of the new parkway, which will become a major gateway not only to our city but to the new university.

Impacts which are unavoidable should be kept away from neighborhoods and school yards.

Thank you.

David Burke

DAVID F. BURKE
711 Junipero Ct
Merced, CA 95348

Espinosa, Kim

From: Manuel Byrd [mbyrd@transcountytitle.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2009 3:27 PM
To: Espinosa, Kim
Subject: Walmart Distribution Center

Kim,

I really hope that this Walmart Distribution Center comes to Merced. In a very tough times where unemployment is high, our area desperately needs the jobs. When at times I think that we make it too hard for businesses to come into the area, we should be doing everything possible to bring the businesses in.

Thank you,

Manuel Byrd

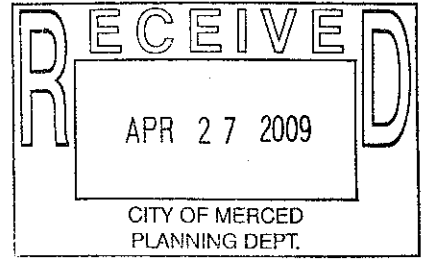
Espinosa, Kim

From: Charlene Calhoun [chrclh@att.net]
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2009 10:48 AM
To: Espinosa, Kim
Cc: Charlene Calhoun

I feel that this would be a big plus to Merced. In this time where there aren't very many jobs we need to find a way to bring jobs here. The sooner ther it gets started the better.

23 de Marzo de 2009

Señora Kim Espinosa
Departamento de Planificación
Ciudad de Merced
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340



Estimada Señora Espinosa,

Animo la ciudad a proporcionar unos, si no todo, del centro de distribución de Wal-Mart DEIR en Español. Esto es un proyecto grande para Merced y es un estudio importante. Es algo que impresionará la comunidad, así que usted debe sentirse obligado a traducirlo y permitir a la gente que solamente habla Español el proceso de comentar sobre el proyecto.

Gracias,

Eduardo Carmona
2499 E. Gerard Sp #18

Merced, Ca.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Eduardo Carmona".

Espinosa, Kim

From: Ericka [erickac@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2009 10:22 AM
To: Espinosa, Kim
Subject: Wal-Mart Distribution Center

Dear City Council Members,

I can not see the advantage of having the Wal-Mart distribution center in Merced. Ever since moving to Merced from Los Angeles almost three years ago, I too have been concerned about the unemployment level in Merced, as well as the number of citizens struggling with poverty.

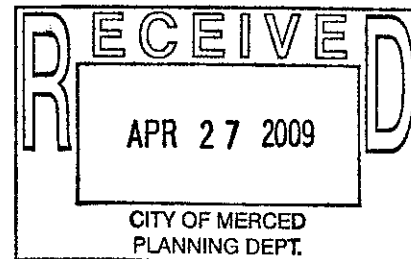
But this proposed project just doesn't seem to be the answer! There is going to be more pollution. Merced citizens are not guaranteed to get the jobs. Property values will probably go down in the area around the center. And a big center like this does not add to the beauty of Merced.

What about encouraging businesses that will move into the downtown area, create jobs, and create a more attractive downtown Merced that the citizens would like to go to, and will also attract shoppers that will spend their dollars in Merced?

We really have to think about the long term effects of all of this. If Merced wants to grow, what about doing it in a way that beautifies the City, instead of creating a more industrial, polluting, inner city atmosphere?

Sincerely,
Ericka Carr

What's growing in your garden?
<http://mercedshares.blogspot.com>



Espinosa, Kim

From: Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2009 8:09 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; Conway, Mike; Quintero, Frank; Schechter, Jeanne; Espinosa, Kim
Subject: FW: WALMART 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: Useopc30@aol.com [mailto:Useopc30@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 04, 2009 6:05 PM
To: city, council
Subject: WALMART CENTER

PLEASE DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO APPROVE THE DISTRIBUTION CENTER ASAP.

KENNETH CARTER
3415 PASEO VERDE AVE.
MERCED, CA 95348

WE NEED THE JOBS NOW.....

Hurry! April 15th is almost here. File your Federal taxes FREE with TaxACT.