

Porter

CARLSBAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

November 12, 2009

John Robertus, Executive Officer
Attention - Mike Porter
CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
9174 Sky Park Court Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4340



Subject: Section 401 Water Quality Certification for Gregory Canyon Landfill

Dear Mr. Robertus:

The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce is pleased to submit comments regarding the application for a Section 401 water quality certification for the Gregory Canyon landfill project [No. R9-2009C-073].

Since 1923, the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce has been working to promote a favorable business climate at the local, state and federal levels. We make certain the business perspective is heard on a variety of critical issues that affect our local economy. Currently, the Chamber represents more than 1,600 business members that employ over 65,000 employees.

The Gregory Canyon Landfill is a critical infrastructure project for North County which has not had a local solid waste disposal facility since the closing of the San Marcos landfill in 1997. Currently, garbage is shipped long distances to either Sycamore Landfill or to Orange County, increasing freeway traffic, air pollution, fuel consumption and transportation costs. Neither of those sites provides a long-term solution for North County, but the proposed Gregory Canyon Landfill will be able to accommodate 1 million tons of solid waste annually for the next 30 years. Additionally, the project will bring a tremendous economic boost to the region during construction and will generate much-needed tax revenues, and increased local spending once operational.

This project is needed now but it cannot move forward in the permitting process without your board's approval. The project application plainly demonstrates that it satisfies all the conditions and requirements for 401 certification of the Gregory Canyon Bridge.

We believe that developing an environmentally responsible solution to the region's solid waste disposal needs is critical to our long-term future. On behalf of the board and members of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce, I earnestly request that you approve the Gregory Canyon Landfill and issue the required certification.

Sincerely,

Ted Owen
President and CEO

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