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FRESNO, CALIF.

Daniel L. Carlson
Senior Engineering Geologist
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

Dear Mr. Carlson:

On behalf of the Kings County Economic Development Corporation (Kings EDC), I strongly urge you to grant the necessary permits to Waste Management for the continued operation and expansion at the Kettleman Hills Facility.

As the organization responsible for business retention, expansion, and attraction programs in Kings County, I feel it is our responsibility to support one of Kings County's most important businesses and express our real concern about the delays in the issuance of critical permits. Kings County suffers from chronic high unemployment, much like the other counties in the San Joaquin Valley. It is painful to see the results of the unnecessary hesitation in permitting such as a workforce reduction of over 72%, the dramatic loss of revenue to the county government, and the disruption of the safe hazardous waste disposal process.

For the last few years we have closely followed the permitting process for the Kettleman Hills Facility. Kings EDC staff members have attended just about every hearing and every public meeting regarding the permitting of the facility. I am familiar with the extensive health and environmental studies that were conducted on the Facility, and know that the studies have determined the Kettleman Hills Facility to be safe and not impacting the neighboring community of Kettleman City. I believe the time has come to issue Waste Management the necessary permits. This Facility is critical to Kings County, the region and the entire state of California.

Numerous local and statewide businesses, communities, and government agencies rely on the Facility for the safe treatment and disposal of their hazardous waste. Thousands of communities and businesses in California are safer today because of the existence of the Kettleman Hills Hazardous Waste Facility.

Though Waste Management Kettleman Hills Facility is a large employer and a critical part of Kings County's infrastructure, it is an important contributor to Kings County's quality of life as well. The company contributes millions of dollars in taxes, payroll, and charitable contributions. In addition, Waste Management's employees donate hundreds of volunteer hours to the Westside communities of Kings County. In difficult financial times like these, it is more important than

ever to support Kings County's solid, community-focused companies, especially those that provide an essential public service.

We urge you to grant Waste Management and the Kettleman Hills Facility the necessary permits so they can extend the life of their hazardous waste landfill. The health and environmental studies should give you the confidence you and other agencies need to expeditiously grant the Kettleman Hills Facility the necessary permits to continue to operate and expand.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (559) 585-3536.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Lehn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Lehn
President/CEO

CC: Robert G. Henry, Senior District Manager, Waste Management- Kettleman Hills Facility