

Mark Gross

From: Scott Thompson <scott028@ca.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2013 10:47 PM
To: MV Econ Dev Community Forum
Subject: FW: Tonight's Forum

Dear Leader's of Our Community,

Thank you for putting on the forum in regards to the WLC.

I was taken by the motto "Moreno Valley the best place to do business". I was hoping that it would be "the best place to live". It appears that we might be going from bad to worse. Tonight made me realize that I have an uphill battle to face. I live on the corner of Dracaea and Redlands, directly adjacent from where the WLC may be built.

We were hesitant to move to Moreno Valley, because of its, well known, bad reputation. We found a nice quiet area to live on the east end of town, as I commute the Coachella Valley for my job. We would have never moved to the east end of town or perhaps this community if it was planning on building 40,000,000 sq ft of warehouses there. Most people in my neighborhood pay over \$7000 a year in property tax. I don't suppose there are too many communities contributing as much as ours. Rancho Belago has some of the nicest communities in Moreno Valley. Why would you want to ruin it by buy building huge warehouses here?

It was very apparent tonight that the mayor, council and staff are onboard with the plan, even after the DEIR. We live in a community where a very high percentage of our community doesn't have a higher education and or doesn't care about city politics. In the last election less than 5% of the residents voted for the open 5th district council seat. This was apparent again tonight by the low number of people and the lack of diversity in attendance. This community is relying on you to make the best decisions for them. I don't believe this city's leadership is qualified to make this big of a decision that will affect this community for years. Most Council Members and perhaps even the staff do not have the appropriate type of education or the background to comprehend the impact of such a major project.

I have only read a few hundred pages of the DEIR, but it was enough for me to realize that this project is not for this community and perhaps even the county. I realize I have a vested interest in how this turns out because of the proximity of my house to the WLC location. This was a night for the facts to be presented and instead we were given a sales pitch. We even had to be reminded by the mayor of the qualifications of the consultants and that they were a third party group. It appeared to be a justification of sorts.

I lost interest the minute I was told that the CEQA is self governed by the lead agency, our city leadership. When the leadership is on board with the WLC then what kind of results can we expect? Let's be real. There is plenty in the DEIR that should convince us that this is not the best thing for our city. Jobs are important but as was stated over and over, quality of life is what we are really after. I know the people on the east end of town will be negatively impacted, "significantly" as the DEIR states. These are the same households that pay the highest tax rates in Moreno Valley.

The economic impact report was a joke. I work for a large medical device manufacturer. I manage and hire warehouse people for a living. None of the warehouse personnel make \$40K per year, which was the amount used in the report. Most make between \$9-\$12 per hour and about one half are temporary. The technicians that manufacture and repair the medical devices only make \$15-\$18 per hour. I challenge the reports numbers. Are they comparable to what Harbor Freight and Walgreens pay? Also, the volume of jobs is suspect. That is based

upon all buildings being occupied at one time. Do you really believe all 41,000,000 sqft. will be occupied at one time and if so by when? Will some not falter and new tenants need to be found? It would be interesting to see how Mira Loma is doing compared to their plan. If this information was available, it should have been shared. It just showed that real numbers were not used. A picture was painted to produce the desired results. There was no talk of initial capital outlay that we will need to support the 50K plus jobs that it will take to build these buildings. Why wasn't this mentioned in the economic report? The report only focused on revenue and should have included potential expenditures as well. This would have provided a complete picture of what we are facing.

We should be comparing what 7800 homes would bring to the community verses the WLC. We should review the potential revenue that those households would spend locally. Then compare that to the cost of building sound walls and road improvements to accommodate the truck traffic and mitigate the noise of trucks running through our streets.. The communities that are thriving generally operate on a slow, smart growth model. See Santa Clarita compared to us. Since quality of life is really important to you and our citizens then why not look to the communities that have it and model after them.

If most of the jobs were going to be filled by Moreno Valley residents, as was suggested, how will our streets be able to handle the additional traffic? Workers from other communities will also put additional traffic on Hwy 60 and our city streets. Traffic already comes out as far east as Perris Blvd on the 60 during commute times. Lights have been installed on the freeway entrances to help mitigate the traffic. According to the DEIR, we will experience additional traffic almost immediately. How much further east will the traffic go, once the project starts? If anyone has driven on freeways for any length of time, they would know that replacing car traffic with truck traffic will be a disaster. Try driving through the badlands or any area when the truck traffic is heavy. I couldn't believe a reputable consultant would make such a statement.

We already live in an area with severe pollution levels. The DEIR indicates it will only get worse, especially as they grade the land and then a few years later with the additional traffic. Sketchers already lights up the sky out here. I can't imagine what 40 more building like that will do. My backyard will be like a stadium all lit up.

There is plenty more to review and discuss as I continue to read the DEIR. I was very disappointed with the "show" tonight it was very one sided. Being told that we would have to go into litigation if we wanted to fight it only made matters worse. I felt like those of us opposing were being challenged to try and stop you. To have 60 days to read and respond to the over 10,000 page DEIR is a little much to ask. More time should be granted, especially with a decision of this magnitude. I hope you were serious about working with the community because if you are not Moreno Valley is in for a rude awakening.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss further.

Scott Thompson
13258 Canterbury Downs Way
Moreno Valley, CA 9255