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March 18, 2014

VIA E-MAIL

Santa Clara City Council  
1500 Warburton Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95050  
E-mail: MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov

Re: Letter of Support for 45 Buckingham Residential Project (March 18th  
Agenda Item No. 8A)

Dear Mayor Matthews and City Council Members:

This letter of support is submitted on behalf of **Santa Clara Residents for Responsible Development** regarding the City's Mitigated Negative Declaration ("MND") for the 45 Buckingham Drive Residential Project, proposed by Prometheus ("Applicant"). We have been engaged in the public process since September 2013, and are proud of the improvements that have been made to the project's mitigation as a result.

With respect to air quality, in response to our comments on the MND, the City conducted additional air quality modeling and updated its health risk assessment, and made those studies available to the public. The City also clarified the text of its air quality mitigation measures. Furthermore, Santa Clara Residents for Responsible Development has entered into a settlement agreement with the Applicant, whereby the Applicant has agreed to implement the following measures to further reduce air quality impacts: (1) undertake phased construction, and limit the simultaneous occurrence of excavation, grading, and ground-disturbing construction activities in the same area at any one time; (2) undertake additional erosion control measures; and (3) ensure that some of the dirtiest construction equipment, grading equipment, complies with emissions reduction measures, even if used for short periods of time.

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**POST MEETING MATERIAL**

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Regarding hazardous materials, as a result of our comments on the MND, the City took a closer look and made further public disclosures about potential soil contamination on the Project site. The City also added new language to its hazardous materials mitigation measures. The revised mitigation sets appropriate contamination thresholds for soil testing, and identifies the potential need for soil removal, remediation, or institutional controls. The revised mitigation also requires much more regulatory oversight in the event that hazardous materials must be cleaned up.

Furthermore, under our independent settlement agreement, the Applicant has agreed to undertake the following measures to further reduce hazardous materials impacts: (1) conduct soil testing in two specific locations where contamination may be present, and test the soil for compounds of specific interest; (2) report the results of soil testing to the City and to Santa Clara Residents for Responsible Development; and (3) compare soil tests to established environmental health screening levels for residential use, and implement further mitigation if these standards are exceeded.

Please accept this letter of support for the City Council's approval of the Project and the revised MND. We believe that the changes made since the initial publication of the MND will reduce environmental impacts and will better protect public and worker health.

Sincerely,



Ellen L. Trescott

ELT:ljl

cc: Debby Fernandez (dfernandez@santaclaraca.gov)  
Alexander Abbe (aabbe@santaclaraca.gov)