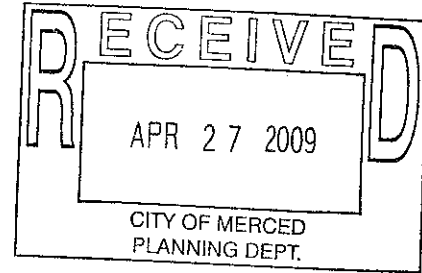


April 23, 2009

Kim Espinosa  
 Planning Department  
 City of Merced  
 678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> 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,

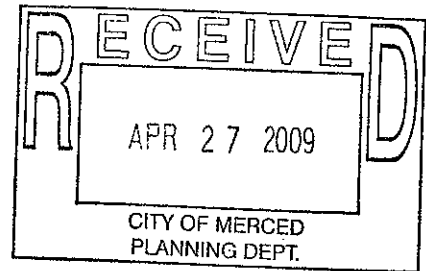
Darlene Acree  
Jr. Escrow Officer/  
Certified Escrow Technician  
TransCounty Title Co.  
635 W. 19th Street  
Merced, CA 95340  
Phone: (209) 383-4660 ext. 12  
Fax: (209) 381-2726  
[dacree@transcountytitle.com](mailto:dacree@transcountytitle.com)



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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**

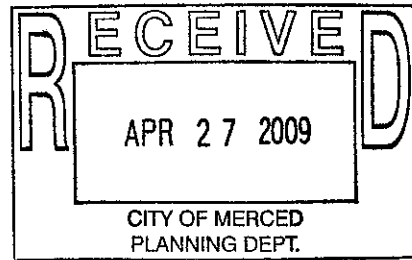
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**From:** Allen's [c@17am.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 26, 2009 12:58 PM  
**To:** Espinosa, Kim  
**Subject:** No Wal MART

**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](mailto:aalorro@sbcglobal.net)

**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.

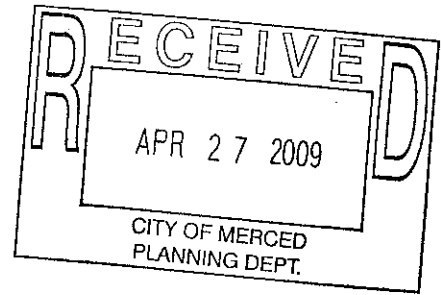
Sincerely,

Audrey L. Alorro  
3312 Denver Way  
Merced CA 95340  
209/722-3264  
[aalorro@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aalorro@sbcglobal.net)

4/27/2009

April 19, 2009

Ms. Kim Espinosa  
Merced Planning Department  
678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Alons  
Signature

Audrey Alons  
Print Name

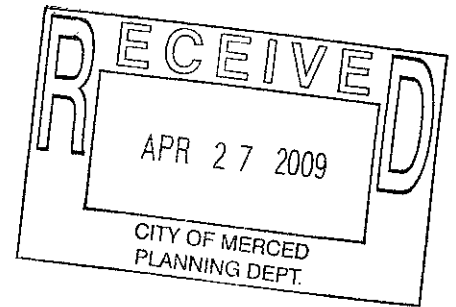
3312 Denver Way  
Address

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,

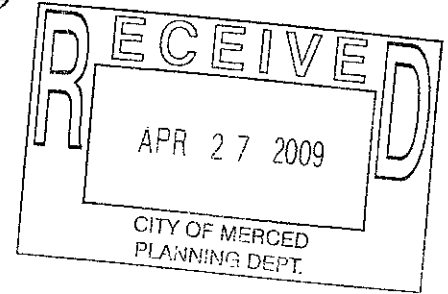
The DEIR says that the big equipment that will be used during construction is not known but likely to include, "excavators, graders, scrapers, loaders, backhoes, haul trucks, and cranes." This is a very critical issue that should be addressed with more detail in the EIR. Wal-Mart understands the scope 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?

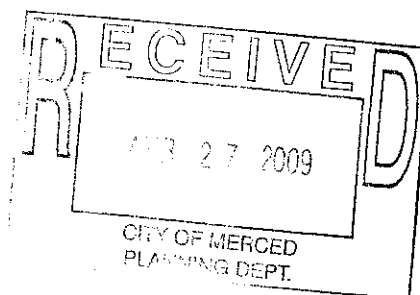
The taxpayers should not have to share any burden of infrastructure costs related to this development. Wal-Mart should pay for the entirety of their proposal if it is to be built at all. There should be no tax incremental financing or cost sharing with the city or county.

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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

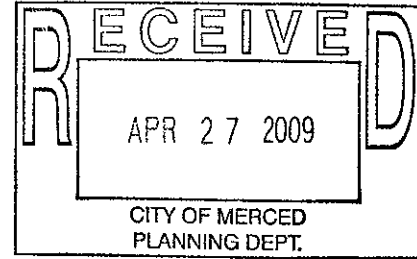
66 S. FORK Ave  
 Address

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

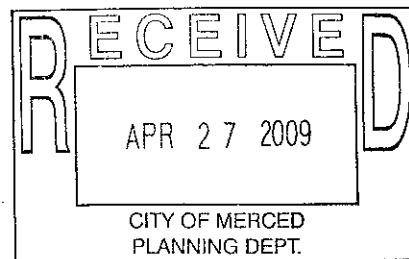
66 S. FORK AVE.  
 Address

Merced, CA, 95341  
 City, State Zip

(209) 726-3436  
 Phone Number

April 3, 2009

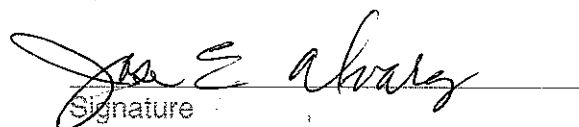
Kim Espinosa  
 Planning Manager  
 Merced Planning Department  
 City of Merced  
 678 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Merced, CA 95340



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,

  
 Signature

Joe Alvarez  
 Print Name

890 Marian Ct  
 Address

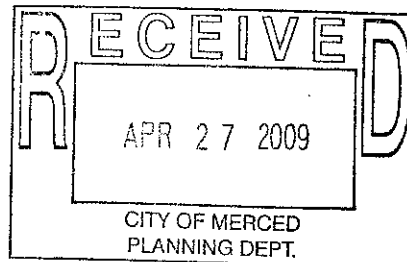
Merced, Ca.  
 Address

723-7125  
 Phone



April 10, 2009

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



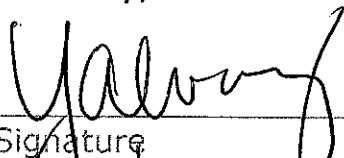
Ms. Espinosa:

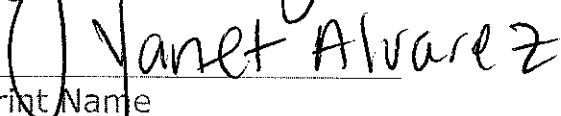
I took a look at the Wal-Mart distribution center's draft environmental impact report. One thing that struck me (and concerns me) is Table 4.2-1 in the Air Quality section. Area wide sources count for 85% of PM 2.5 in the county? That's pretty alarming to me, especially because I see so many of my neighbors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

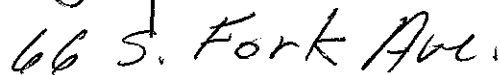
I suggest to Wal-Mart that they reduce the size of this distribution center, which will decrease the number of trucks driving through Southeast Merced. If Wal-Mart wants to be responsible for increasing PM 2.5, they should at least try to reduce the impacts.


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

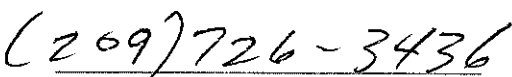
Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

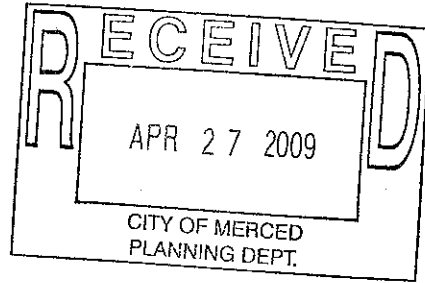
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State Zip

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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.

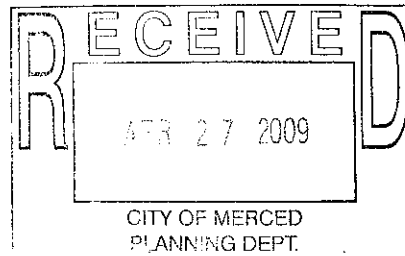
Sincerely,

*Jacqueline Alvarez*  
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. 18<sup>th</sup> 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?

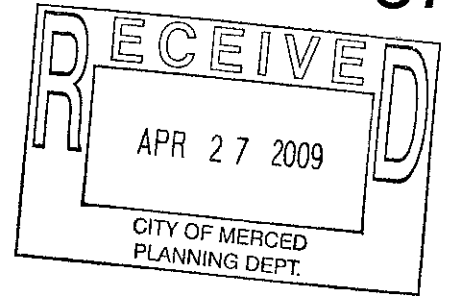
I also heard that, although WalMart says their trucks will be greener, they also hire a lot of independent truckers who can't afford the thousands of dollars to upgrade their trucks. How and who will regulate these other truckers? I don't believe I read it in the DEIR.

Sincerely,

Michael Dwayne Armstrong  
3312 Denver Way  
Merced CA 95348  
Cell ph 209/489-1798  
E-mail [aalorro@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aalorro@sbcglobal.net)

4/27/2009

Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager  
City of Merced Planning Department  
678 West 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

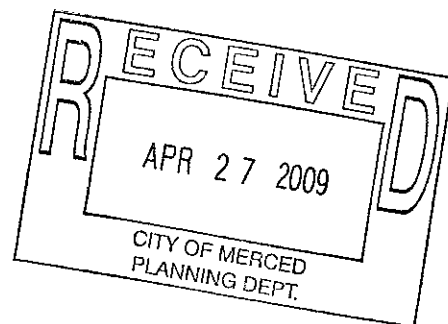
Muchas de las personas en esta vecindad sólo hablan en Español, y sin la ciudad ayudando traducir este documento muy grande, realmente no sabemos como este proyecto nos afectara.

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  
JOEL JAVIER ARREDONDO

10 de Abril de 2009

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



Estimada Señorita Espinosa:

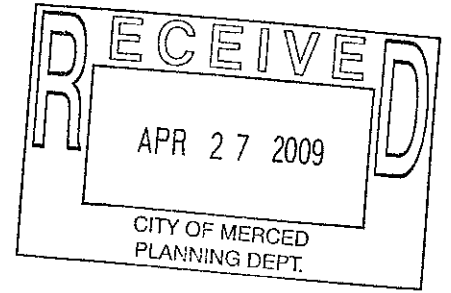
Por qué no Merced hace copias del DEIR del centro de distribución de Wal-Mart en otras idiomas y no solamente en Inglés? Parece a mí que un asunto de este tamaño que todos en la comunidad hablan de debía estar disponible para residentes que Inglés no es su primero idioma. Deje a cada uno participar en 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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

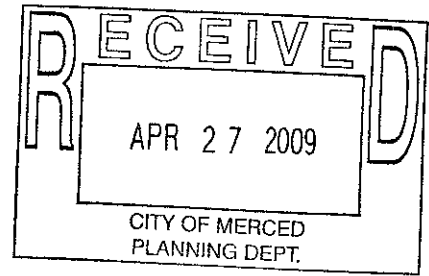
JAVIER ARREDONDO  
Director

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

MERCED, CA 95341  
Merced, CA

14 de Abril de 2009

Ms. Kim Espinoza  
 Ciudad de Merced Departamento de Planificación  
 678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

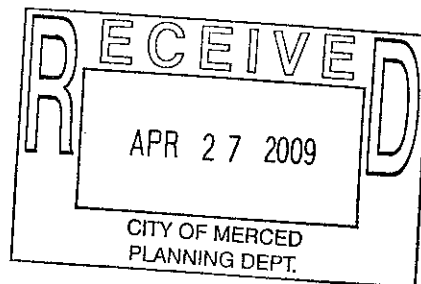
Sinceramente,

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



March 25, 2009

Kim Espinosa  
Dept. of Planning  
City of Merced  
678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

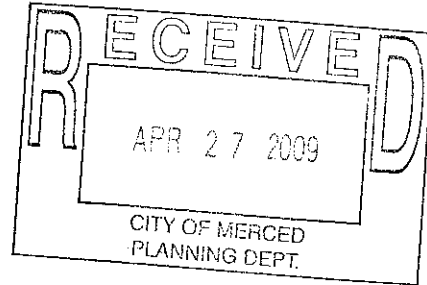
This all changed a few years ago. I am so proud to say that the Valley Air has gotten so much better, I can drive around with my windows open. I can sit outside my home without suffering. My children no longer have allergies. Why has this happened? Because the Federal Government has required a clean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

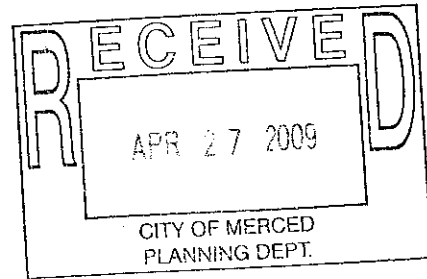
474 Hydrangea Ct.  
Merced, CA 94341  
 Address

722-1374  
 Phone

Duplicate of Letter #15

April 1, 2009

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



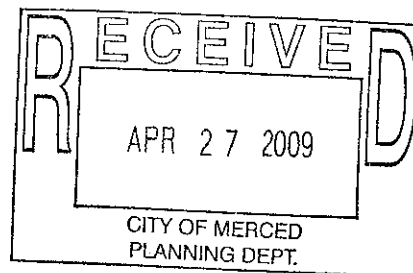
Kim,

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.

Benny Bawla

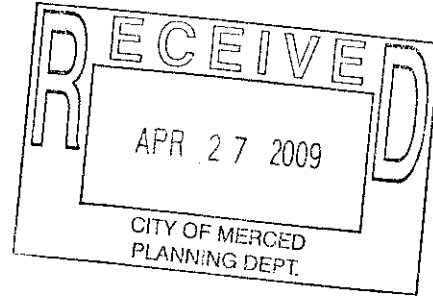
437 Hydrangea

(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,

*Priscilla Banda*

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.

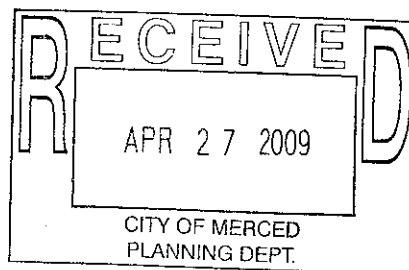
For what it's worth...

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



March 23, 2009

Kim Espinosa  
 Planning Manager  
 City of Merced  
 678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

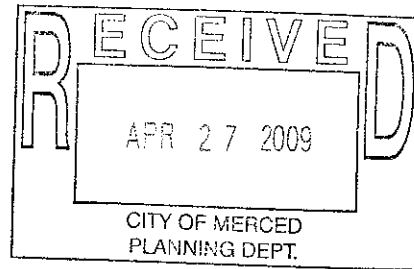
Gayle Beseker  
 Signature

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?

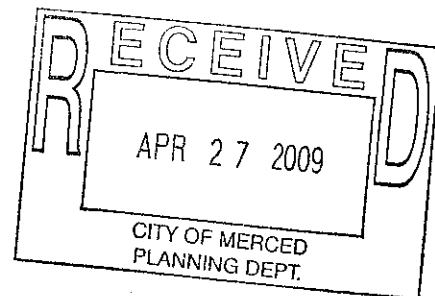
I'm very disappointed that your consultants took such a narrow view of this project and refused to study the effects of urban decay on the neighborhoods. Just because this isn't a store doesn't mean there won't be urban decay. The physical and surrounding area will look different (and not for the better) 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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

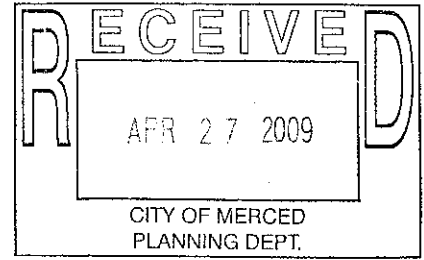
2545 E. Childs Ave  
Address

Merced, CA 95341

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

March 23, 2009

Kim Espinosa  
Planning Department  
City of Merced  
678 West 18<sup>th</sup> 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

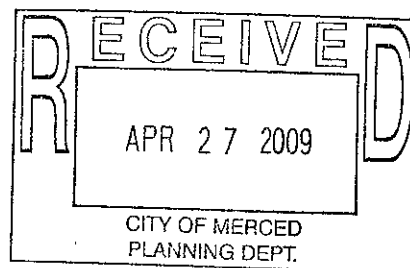
Pat Besecker  
Print Name

2545 Echols ave  
Address

209 723 6473  
Phone

April 14, 2009

Kim Espinosa, Project Director  
Merced Division of Planning  
678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> 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 PM<sub>10</sub> 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 PM<sub>10</sub>? 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:

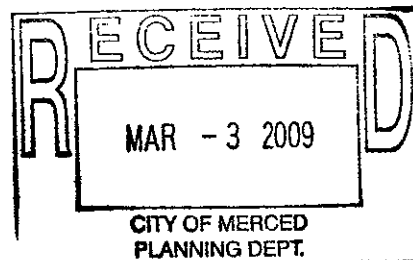
I strongly support the development of the Wal-Mart Center in Merced. This is an opportunity to have a major business with a large employment. Merced needs this!!

W. Ray Blevins, DDS

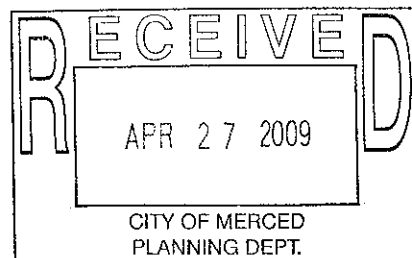
Dear Sirs

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.

Erin Boardman  
1901 Calaveras Ave  
Merced CA 95340



Kim Espinoza, Planning Manager  
City of Merced Planning Department  
678 West 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

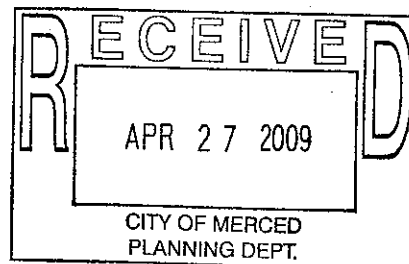
Judith Breckenridge  
Atwater

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4.12.2009

Ms. Kim Espinosa  
 Merced Planning Department  
 678 West 18<sup>th</sup> 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..

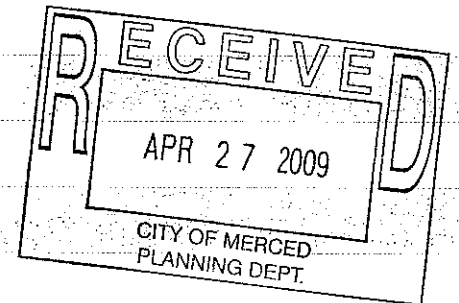
Thank you for allowing me to express my view, and hope someone does read this.

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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

3/26/2009

**Espinosa, Kim**

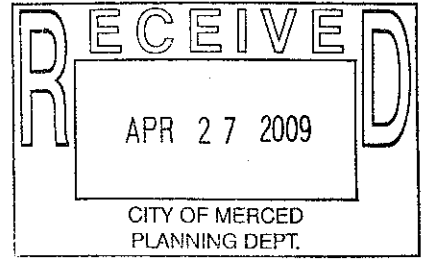
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**From:** Charlene Calhoun [chrclh@att.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2009 10:48 AM  
**To:** Espinosa, Kim  
**Cc:** Charlene Calhoun

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 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340



Estimada Señora Espinosa,

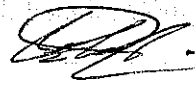
Animo la ciudad a proporcionar unos, si no todo, del centro de distribución de Wal-Mart DEIR en Español. Esto es un proyecto grande para Merced y es un estudio importante. Es algo que impresionará la comunidad, así que usted debe sentirse obligado a traducirlo y permitir a la gente que solamente habla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

Gracias,

Eduardo Carmona

2499 E. Gerard Sp #18

Merced, Ca.

  
.....  
.....  
.....



**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.

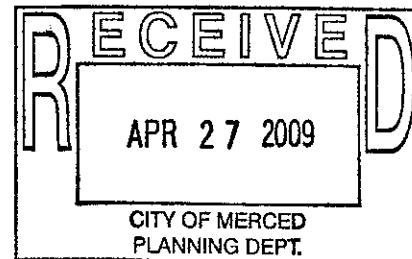
But this proposed project just doesn't seem to be the answer! There is going to be more pollution. Merced citizens are not guaranteed to get the jobs. Property values will probably go down in the area around the center. And a big center like this does not add to the beauty of Merced.

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 15<sup>th</sup> is almost here. File your Federal taxes FREE with TaxACT.

**Espinosa, Kim**

---

**From:** Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council  
**Sent:** Friday, March 06, 2009 8:36 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; Espinosa, Kim; Schechter, Jeanne  
**Subject:** FW: WAL-MART 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:** Thursday, March 05, 2009 11:33 AM  
**To:** city, council  
**Subject:** WAL-MART CENTER

WE SUPPORT THE WAL-MART CENTER, MAINLY FOR THE NEW JOBS.

DON'T LET THE LOONS OF THE WORLD DELAY THE PROJECT.

THIS IS AMERICA, WE SPEAK AND READ ENGLISH.

THANK YOU,

KENNETH AND PEGGY CARTER  
3415 PASEO VERDE AVE.  
MERCED, CA. U.S.A.

---

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

**Espinosa, Kim**

---

**From:** Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council  
**Sent:** Friday, March 06, 2009 8:38 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; Espinosa, Kim; Schechter, Jeanne  
**Subject:** FW: Wal-Mart support

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:** Mike Carter [mailto:dmikecarter@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2009 9:42 PM  
**To:** city, council  
**Subject:** Wal-Mart support

Council Members:

I strongly urge you to approve and support the proposed Wal-Mart facility in Merced. With our extremely high unemployment figures here the additional jobs will help our families.

I personally shop at Wal-Mart and enjoy doing so. Many of those in Merced do so as well-especially those needing to find a way to make their dollars go as far as they can.

Some have tried to make Wal-Mart a political issue for some reason but this is no time for petty bickering when so many jobs are at stake. We are fortunate that Wal-Mart has chosen to locate here in our community and we need to be thankful for this blessing and not let Wal-Mart go to another community who would welcome the new jobs.

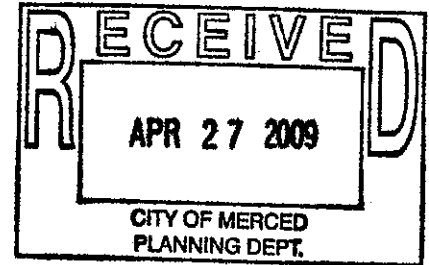
Sincerely,

Mike Carter  
Merced, CA

3/6/2009

CA License # 710358

**Outdoor Creations  
204 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340  
209 384-9020**



April 27, 2009

Re: Review & Comment of D.E.I.R. for proposed Wal-Mart Distribution Center

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Alan Claunch  
Owner

Dear Sir or Madam: After studying the D.E.I.R. I have compiled a list of comments that pertain to the information provided for public comment regarding the proposed Wal-Mart regional distribution center. The Section in question will be cited to help clarify and aid in a response.

Table 2-1 4.6-2 "Long term degradation of surface water quality from project related contaminants." I believe that a storm run off system can be designed and installed that would decrease the 24 Hour storm runoff volume for the entire 235 acre site from 26.2 af post development to 8-12 af. I believe that by increasing the holding capacity of storm runoff a greater amount of water would be made available to recharge ground water aquifers. I believe this system would be economically feasible and would be a benefit to the applicant and the City of Merced.

Table 2-1 4.12-1 "The increase demand for water supply and distribution is less than significant and no mitigation measures are required." I believe this to be an incorrect statement and this impact should be studied more.

The chart on Table 4.12-4 for domestic water usage fails to include the amount of water potentially used for landscape irrigation.

Table 2-1 4.12-4 "Increased demand for electricity and required extension of electrical infrastructure." I agree with the mitigation measures and would like to add the following: Study the feasibility of using electric vehicles on site to move products and people while taking advantage of the solar charging capabilities. Construct shade structures to include photovoltaic cells and misting systems.

Table 2-1 4.13-2 "Substantial degradation of the visual character or quality of the site and surroundings." I think the landscape plan should use California native plant material. I do not see a cost benefit to keeping any existing almond trees and I would use as little turf as possible.

**Espinosa, Kim**

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**From:** Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2009 8:16 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; Schechter, Jeanne; Espinosa, Kim  
**Subject:** FW: Wal-Mart EIR Language Translation Request

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:** tom@clendeninbros.com [mailto:tom@clendeninbros.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2009 2:08 PM  
**To:** city, council  
**Subject:** Wal-Mart EIR Language Translation Request

Dear City of Merced Council Members,

I am opposed to having the Wal-Mart EIR translated into different languages. This is just another stall tactic by those who oppose any type of development in our community. The planning department is already granting the community an extra 15 days to comment on the EIR. Please keep the hearing date on schedule.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Tom Clendenin

**Espinosa, Kim**

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**From:** Walker, Dawn on behalf of city, council  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2009 8:18 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

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:** Darlene Clouse [mailto:[darlene.clouse@sbcglobal.net](mailto:darlene.clouse@sbcglobal.net)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2009 9:32 PM  
**To:** city, council  
**Subject:** WalMart

Merced City Council Members,

Please do not extend the time frame on the WalMart vote. We have wasted enough time already.

We need WalMart and any other company that will offer jobs to our community. Our people need help finding employment now.

Vote yes.

Thank you,

Darlene Clouse



**Espinosa, Kim**

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**From:** James Clouse [j.clouse@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 07, 2009 2:10 PM  
**To:** Espinosa, Kim  
**Subject:** WAL-LMART

MERCED NEEDS JOBS. YES YES TO WALL-MART DISTRIBUTION CENTER.

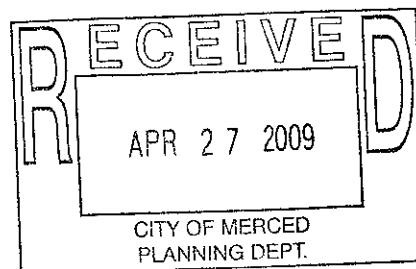
MERCED ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE GROWTH SHOULD GET OUT OF MERCED AND TAKE THEIR FAIRY SHRIMP WITH THEM.

EVERYONE WANTS GOOD JOBS, SO BE GLAD WALL-MART WANTS TO BUILD IN MERCED. LETS GET IT DONE.

JIM CLOUSE  
2254 LAKESIDE DR  
MERCED 95340  
723-3995

April 2, 2009

Kim Espinosa  
Project Manager  
Merced Planning Division  
678 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340



Ms. Espinosa,

I am writing in support of project alternative #3 for the proposed Wal-Mart distribution center. I think it makes the most sense for the city to put the distribution center as far away from residential homes and schools as possible. I sympathize 100% with the folks in Southeast Merced. I wouldn't want it in my neighborhood or near my children either. I hope the city will do the right thing and move it away from residents.

Thank you,

Susan Coggin  
Signature

Susan Coggin  
Print Name

1836 Barnett Way  
Address

Merced CA

Phone 384-2180

**Espinosa, Kim**

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**From:** Bingaman, Jamie  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2009 8:38 AM  
**To:** Espinosa, Kim  
**Subject:** FW: Walmart Distribution Center project

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Davidson, Dana  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2009 8:36 AM  
**To:** Bingaman, Jamie  
**Subject:** FW: Walmart Distribution Center project

For the record.

---

**From:** Walker, Dawn **On Behalf Of** city, council  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2009 8:28 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  
**Subject:** FW: Walmart Distribution Center project

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:** Ann Crawford [mailto:anncbf@att.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2009 8:25 AM  
**To:** city, council  
**Subject:** Walmart Distribution Center project

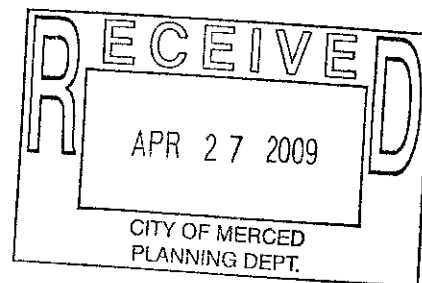
To the Merced City Council;

Please DO NOT delay the decision on the Walmart Distribution Center project.  
Our community is in a desperate employment situation at this time.  
A six month delay will not satisfy the opponents for this project.  
Thank you,  
Ann Crawford

3/12/2009

March 12, 2009

Kim Espinoza, Planning Manager  
 Planning Department-City of Merced  
 678 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Merced, CA 95340



Ms. Espinoza,

I think the traffic is very terrible already. Having this warehouse here will bring more truck traffic into our streets and close to our homes and children. People think that this isn't really a big problem now, but wait until reality is faced when the biggest corporation, Wal-Mart starts to own our town and run our streets with their 900 diesel trucks. There's already lots of trucks using our streets in Merced and most of them are from an existing distribution center already in place in the area.

Our air quality is a health crisis in Merced and the San Joaquin valley already and bringing this warehouse will cause more health problems, and accidents throughout Merced. I understand we need the jobs but, the Wal-Mart distribution center is not the right choice.

Concerned Citizen,

*Emmie Curtis*

Name

*1950 Merced ave*

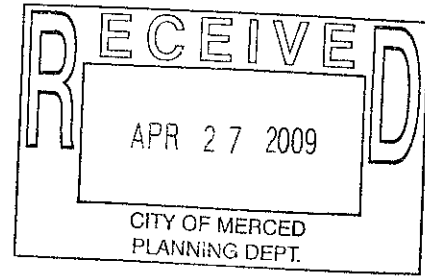
Address

*Merced Ca. 95340*

*Emmie Curtis*

March 19, 2009

Kim Espinosa  
Project Manager  
City of Merced Planning Division  
678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340



Ms. Espinosa,

Upon reading the Draft Environmental Impact Report on the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, it seems to me that some compromise could be made between you, the city who wants this project and the residents in South Merced, those who will be directly impacted. Reduce the size by half. A smaller DC will mean less truck traffic, something that is more appropriate for that location.

I agree that even if Wal-Mart is not approved to build on that site, then some other company will build on it. Maybe that is for the best. This Wal-Mart project is just too big. A smaller warehousing facility means fewer trucks and at the same time, will create some jobs. Both sides can win if everyone is willing to compromise.

Sincerely,

Emily DeCreme

493 Beckman Way

Merced, CA 95348

(209) 386-2577

**Espinosa, Kim**

---

**From:** midge eck [midgeyosemite51@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2009 9:34 AM

**To:** Espinosa, Kim

**Subject:** Walmart

I believe that we should move forward with the Walmart Distribution Center. I think we are displaying arrogant behaviors when we attempt to squash employment opportunities for our populace. It may not be a perfect plan but I believe Walmart has proved to be a good neighbor in other communities.

Mary Eck  
629 Mockingbird Court  
Merced, Ca. 95340

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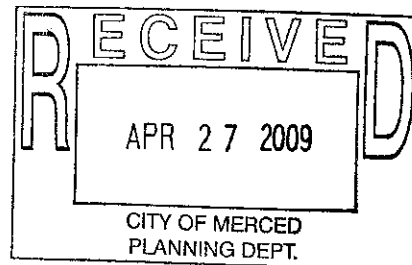
Windows Live™: Keep your life in sync. [Check it out.](#)

John Englert  
855 South Orchard Dr  
Merced, CA 95341  
(209) 722-1323

April 26, 2009

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

Attention: Kim Espinosa



Dear Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager,

I question how we went from a new university with a new campus parkway with limited access to an interchange to service an Industrial complex. We were going to turn Merced into university town & make it cultural and appealing. Now we turn onto campus parkway full of trucks and drive by huge warehouses with trucks. I think the only winner here is Wal-mart.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Englert".

John Englert

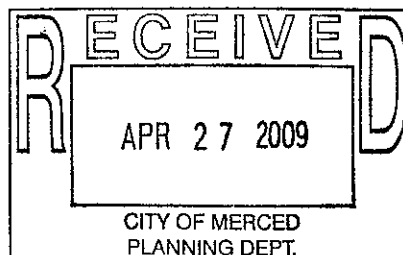
John Englert  
 855 South Orchard Dr  
 Merced, CA 95341  
 (209) 722-1323

April 26, 2009

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

Attention: Kim Espinosa

Dear Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager,



**Subject: Wall-Mart Distribution Center DEIR**

In the DEIR the traffic reports appear to be based on how many trucks they plan to start with and add it to what traffic they say will be here in 20 years which makes there contribution to traffic much smaller.

In the DEIR it suggests that everyone will come in on Gerard. A study should be done on impact of traffic coming in on back and side roads.

I question weather they will ever create enough extra taxes to pay for roads & upkeep, all of the extra infrastructure and services.

I also believe that alternative site #2 would have much less visual impact and traffic impact. Save-Mart and overpass are already all light up, it is already noisy from freeway traffic, truck traffic would not have as many back ways to come in and it would not be the one of the first things you saw going to the university. There would not be as many homes effected. A better route for Save-Mart trucks could also be created.

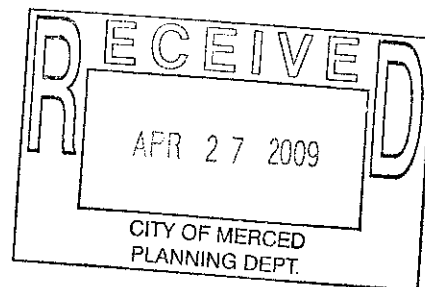
Thank you,

John Englert



March 26, 2009

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




Re: Opposition to Wal-Mart Distribution Center

Dear Ms. Espinosa,

The DEIR for the Wal-Mart Distribution Center states that the existing infrastructure is set to accommodate 644 tractor/trailer trips per day. However, it does not mention the number of vehicles associated with the 1,200 people that would be employed by such a center. The DEIR should specify what public transportation accommodations are being made for the proposal, particularly for the 1,200 potential employees. It should discuss the lighting, cross walks, bus routes, bicycle routes, and all safety items associated with public transportation. Is Wal-Mart going to provide an employee shuttle to reduce air quality issues? What devices is Wal-Mart going to implement to encourage employees to use alternative transportation methods to the distribution center? What infrastructure costs are affiliated with making the distribution center pedestrian friendly and accommodating? Thank you.

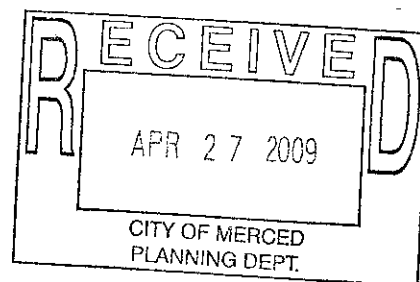
Sincerely,

  
John Englent  
855 S. Orchard Dr.  
Merced, CA 95341

75D

March 13, 2009

Ms. Kim Espinosa  
Merced Planning Division  
678 W 18<sup>th</sup> St.  
Merced, CA 95340



Dear Ms. Espinosa,

I am writing to advocate Alternative Site 3. While I do not want this large distribution center near Southeast Merced, if it has to come, keep it away from the neighborhoods! West of 99 makes much more sense, especially with the existing industrial activity. Please do what is fair. Keep it away from our schools and homes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Engler".

John Engler

855 S. DuChard Dr

Merced, CA 95341

75E

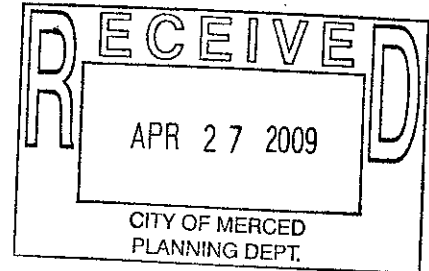
John Englert  
855 South Orchard Dr  
Merced, CA 95341  
(209) 722-1323

April 26, 2009

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

Attention: Kim Espinosa

Dear Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager,



**Subject: Wall-Mart Distribution Center DEIR**

During the construction of Mission Interchange we had periods of trucks running 12hrs. A day 6 days a week. The noise was terrible. Sunday was the only peaceful day of the week. I understand the Distribution Center will be running 24 hours a day year round with no end and it is a Significant and unavoidable nuisance.

During the construction the roads around my home were torn up by trucks. The county keeps filling in pot holes but they are in need of more repair. The construction lasted only a short time and the roads deteriorated. The report did not address upgrading existing roads or where the money will come from to pay for it.

During the construction I was run off the road several times, stuck behind trucks that couldn't make turns, lost one windshield from loose roadway being kicked up, was out of telephone service several times from trucks running over telephone boxes and this was only during a short construction period. At Kibby and Childs there is already not enough room for trucks to make turns onto Kibby if anyone is at stop sign. You either have to backup or trucks have to stop on Childs and wait for you. The report does not state if that is included in project or who pays for it.

The environmental impact report states that trucks waiting to unload would be able to park in long entrances. McLane is very small compared to Wal-Mart and have trucks stacked on both sides of Kibby many times two deep in the dirt (or mud when wet). Very often it has trucks blocking it down to one lane and is hard to get through. It looks like Kibby has more room than Wal-marts driveways. How will the city control the trucks at Wal-mart if they can't at McLane?

At Save-Mart trucks are allowed to come without an appointment. The report does not state how they will control trucks with no place to go. I am concerned they will be parking anywhere they can pull off of road. This I believe will impact whole area not only my home.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Englert".

John Englert

75F

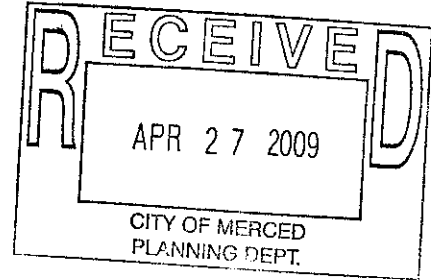
John Englert  
855 South Orchard Dr  
Merced, CA 95341  
(209) 722-1323

April 26, 2009

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

Attention: Kim Espinosa

Dear Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager,



**Subject: Wall-Mart Distribution Center DEIR**

I have sent a prior letter addressing loss of property value and it's exclusion from DEIR. Having looked at DEIR and learning more about Wal-Mart Distribution Centers I am more concerned. The DEIR uses Significant and unavoidable for many of my concerns: Long term traffic operational noise; Substantial Degradation of Visual Character or Quality of Site and Surroundings; Cumulative Air Quality Impact; Cumulative Noise Impact; Cumulative Visual Impact.

I still do not believe this could be excluded from DEIR. I bought my home in 1981 in an area of protected AG land, not by a 1 million sq. ft. Distribution Center My home value will be lowered. Why would you want to by it with Wal-mart Distribution Center upwind of you?

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Englert", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

John Englert

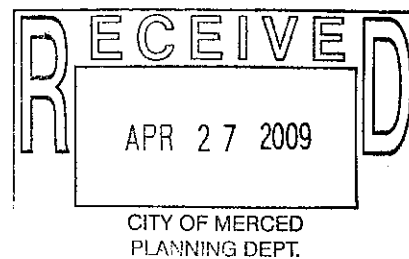
John Englert  
 855 South Orchard Dr  
 Merced, CA 95341  
 (209) 722-1323

April 26, 2009

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

Attention: Kim Espinosa

Dear Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager,



**Subject: Wall-Mart Distribution Center DEIR**

My home is located down wind of building site. I will be getting dust, fumes, suit and any other airborne particles from operation of Wal-mart. I could not find mitigation in DEIR.

In a previous letter I asked how much the wind air temperature would be raised coming off of roofs, solar panels and asphalt. I have no air conditioning. Irrigation lowers the wind temperature asphalt & roofs will raise it. I could not find study or mitigation in DEIR.

This project states it will use landscaping for visual, lighting & sound mitigation. It also will use landscaping to clean runoff water. I have noticed that McLane does not have as much landscape as it started with and has not replaced fallen trees. Crown Cork started out with very nice landscaping and after they went out of business much of it died, new business keeps it clean but not as nice. Once Wal-mart is in how will the city enforce that they keep and maintain if they decide not to?

There is a bicycle path proposed to go to West entrance I would like to see a bike and pedestrian path go to South East corner to provide safe access through site from East.

I will object to draining water into Fairfield Canal I would already be getting airborne pollutants I do not want to imigate with there waste water also.

I also would want to have variety of trees as high as building and light standards.

Thank you,

John Englert

To: Kim Espinoza, Planning Manager  
 City of Merced Planning Division  
 678 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Merced, CA 95340

My name is Jaime Enrique. I am a teacher in Merced who is concerned about the young ~~children's~~ <sup>children's</sup> health. When you make your decision, please think thoroughly how this distribution center will affect students with respiratory issues. On a regular basis I have students staying home with asthma which is affecting their education. You and other people will make that decision. Please consider all the advantages and disadvantages to this center.

463 Petunia Ct.  
 Merced, CA 95341

Thank you for reading my letter.  
 Jaime Enrique 04/23/09

Jaime Enrique

**Espinosa, Kim**

---

**From:** Keith Ensminger [keith@kramertranslations.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2009 8:25 AM  
**To:** Espinosa, Kim  
**Subject:** Wal-Mart

Dear Kim,

I welcome the Wal-Mart distribution center, although I have a concern about its location. It would make much more sense to build the distribution center on the south side of Hwy 99 near the Savemart warehouse. Truck traffic would turn away from the city instead of being directed near residential neighborhoods and schools. The planned expressway would have much less traffic if Wal-Mart was on the south side of Hwy 99, thereby allowing residents and UC students safer and less congested travel. I understand a mall is planned for the south side of Hwy 99, but a mall could just as easily be located on the north side and have easier access for residents.

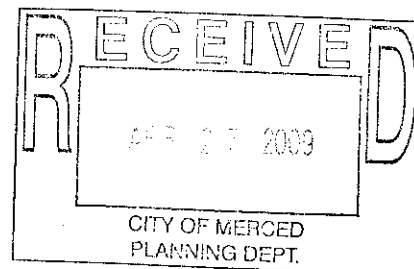
I support the Wal-Mart distribution center but would prefer the site be located on the south side of Hwy 99 for better traffic flow and safety.

Kind regards,

Keith Ensminger  
Kramer Translation  
893 Massasso St.  
Merced, CA 95341  
209-385-0425 tel  
209-385-3747 fax

April 2, 2009

Kim Espinosa  
City of Merced  
678 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340



Re: Merced Wal-Mart Distribution Center Project

Dear Kim,

As a long-time resident of Merced, I embrace the area's culture and Native-American history. The Draft EIR regarding the Project mentions that subsurface Native-American skeletal remains may be unearthed and disrupted due to the construction of the Distribution Center. Doing so would be to disrespect a race and culture which should be afforded more deference and in fact a reverence. Not much is known about the local Yokut tribe and damaging an area where burials may have occurred would not only harm their memory but also harm a chance to discover and learn more about them. I ask the City consider this when deciding on whether to approve this project.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Signature

ROBERT ESCOBEDO  
Print Name

430 Lily Drive  
Address

Merced CA 95340

(209) 722-4213  
Phone

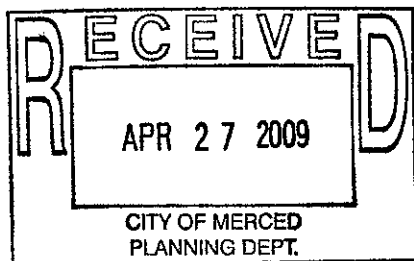


4/23/09

Dear Planning Manager: Kim Espinosa

I live on 2237 Concord Square, in Merced. Currently when I walk my dogs each evening I have to cover my face with a mask to avoid the truck exhaust as they pass us on Childs Ave. 20 years ago when I moved to Merced from Ohio to accept a teaching job with MCE (Merced County Office of Education) I had no allergies. Today I fight sinus infections and have a yearly bout with Bronchitis. Merced's air is one of the worst in the nation. I attribute the air quality to the onset of my allergies.

I have recently paid



COPY OF REVERSE SIDE ATTACHED

off my house here, and  
consider Merced my  
home. If the Wal-Mart  
Distribution Center goes in  
to the Merced area, it  
will have to leave  
my home and job for  
health reasons.

Please consider  
the air quality ramifications  
due to 74,802.1 tons of  
unmitigated carbon monoxide  
on the health of children  
& area residents. Without  
our health what is the  
accumulation economic  
sources?

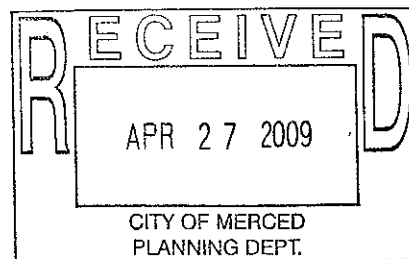
I beg you to consider  
healthy options to rebuilding  
Merced's economic base.

Cordially,

Kris Eslick (Kristin E Eslick)  
2237 Concord Square  
Merced, CA 95241  
H 209-725-1256

April 20, 2009

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



Dear Ms. Espinosa:

I was reviewing the traffic portion of the Wal-mart distribution center EIR. I am concerned that the roadways in my neighborhood were not constructed in a manner such that they could support 2,400 vehicle trips in and out of the distribution center per day.

A simple drive down the 99 shows how much those trucks rip up the road – and how quickly. I don't think the city is doing enough to prepare for maintaining the roads in the area for that level of truck service.

Could a special fee be placed on WM based on truck traffic to and from the facility to help pay to maintain the roads in the area? Its not like we're talking about 2,400 compact car trips. These are big 18-wheelers that will carry heavy loads, make wide turns and quickly chew up the roadways.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Kristin E. Esler*

Signature

*Kristin E. Esler*

Print Name

*2237 Concord Sq.  
 Merced, CA 95341*

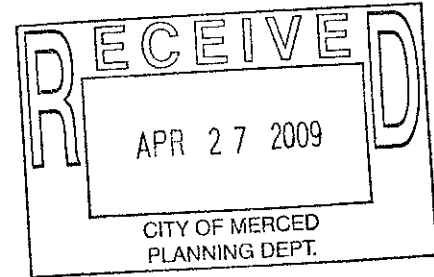
Address

*209 - 725 - 1256*

Phone

3/26/09

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



Dear Ms. Espinosa:

Truck traffic on Childs Ave and Gerard Ave should be restricted during the school day and the period immediately before and after school when children are present. Students and parents should not have to navigate to and from school while fighting distribution center traffic. If Wal-mart doesn't like it they should find another location far away from our children.

Perhaps trucks traffic should be restricted at all times on Gerard and Childs. That way our children would be safe. A truck route could be created to and from the 99 which is far away from schools and homes.

Sincerely,

Signature

KRISTIN E. Eshck

Print Name

2237 Concord Jr.

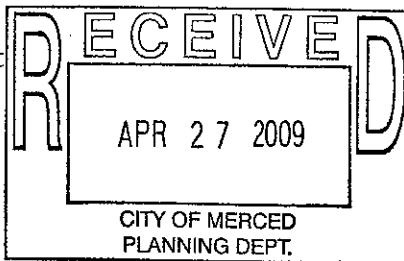
Merced, CA 95341

Address

209 - 725 - 1252

Phone

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



4/29/09

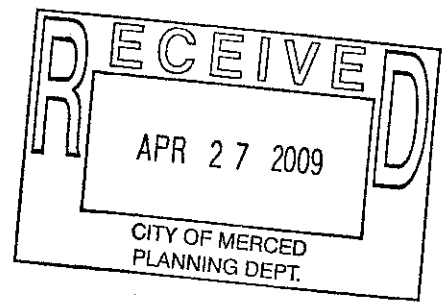
Ms. Espinosa:

The Wal-Mart distribution Center idea is a really bad one for south Merced. Local teachers and parents are upset because we know that south Merced will become less safe and more polluted just to win over a project that won't generate a dime of sales tax revenue for the City and doesn't guarantee that Merced residents will get the jobs created. As far as I've seen, Merced gets the traffic, pollution, bad property values and gets no trade-offs in return for the residents who live in the immediate area. Before the City Council approves this project it needs to do more to prevent the trucks and pollution from spilling into the neighborhood, and then it needs to cut a deal with Wal-Mart for that company to pay impact fees to Merced so take the sting out of the damage to this neighborhood.

Kristen E Eshik 209-725-1256  
 Name  
2237 Concord Square  
 Address  
Merced, CA 95340  
 City, State, Zip  
Kristen E Eshik  
 Signature

March 13, 2009

Kim Espinosa  
Project Manager  
Division of Planning  
678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> St.  
Merced, CA 95340



Dear Ms. Espinosa:

In regards to the draft environmental impact report for the Wal-Mart distribution center here in Merced, why doesn't the city annex the county land where alternative site 2 is currently located as well as some surrounding land? Put the center on the other side of 99 and create the necessary buffer zone between the industrial land and any potential residential land.

Thank you.

*Kristin E. Eslick*

Signature

KRISTIN E. Eslick

Print Name

2237 Concord Square

Address

Merced, CA

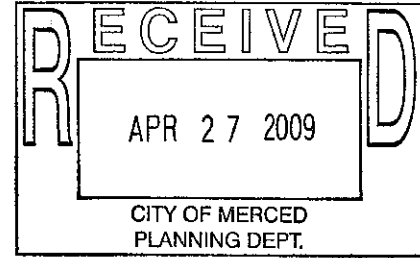
95341

Phone

209-725-1256

3/21/09

Ms. Kim Espinosa  
 Project Manager  
 City of Merced Planning  
 678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Merced, CA 95340



Ms. Espinosa:

I wanted to share a few thoughts on the Wal-Mart distribution center environmental impact report. First, I encourage you and the city to explore a location that is as far away from residential neighborhoods as possible. If you look at other Wal-Mart distribution centers, they're located far away from people's homes. Perhaps you should look at possible sites that would be as far removed from neighborhoods, but still accessible to the highway.

Second, as your own study suggests, a smaller sized distribution center will decrease the amount of negative impacts on air quality. The best thing you can do to minimize the air quality impacts on the city would be to not approve this project.

Thank you,

Signature

KRISTIN E. Eslick

Print Name

2237 Concord Square

Address

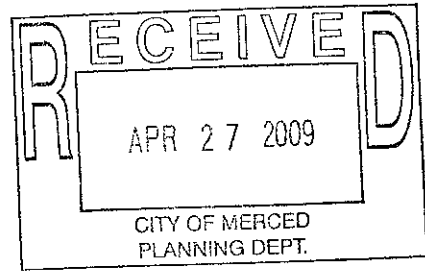
Merced Ct 95341

209 - 725 - 1256

Phone

4.5.09

Ms. Kim Espinosa  
 Project Director  
 Merced Planning Division  
 678 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Merced, CA 95340



Ms. Espinosa,

I am writing in regards to the environmental report on the distribution center in Merced.

As I understand, there are monitoring stations all over the San Joaquin Valley and some are located within 5 miles of the proposed site. How about placing some monitoring stations right on the site itself? Therefore, you will get an even more accurate measure of air pollutants in Southeast Merced. Please ensure this happens during both the winter and summer months.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Alejandro Espinoza  
 Signature

Alejandro Espinoza  
 Print Name

2213 Birchwood Ct  
 Address

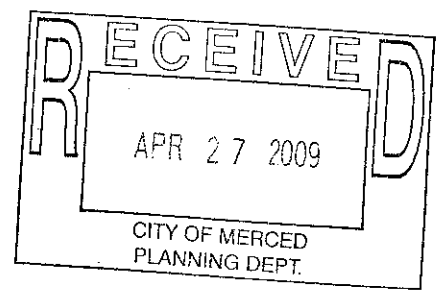
Merced CA 95341  
 City, State Zip

722-8806  
 Phone Number



3/28/09

Kim Espinosa  
Project Director  
Merced Planning Division  
678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340



Dear Ms. Espinosa,

I had the chance to review the Air Quality section of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center Environmental Impact Report. I'm curious as to why you didn't include Particular Matter 2.5 in your Toxic Air Contaminate Review? You state that there is no "routine way" to study diesel PM.

Hmm...seems to me that you need to find one. How many years have you been planning this distribution center? 5? At least give those of us who live near the site the courtesy to look at similar examples of distribution centers built next to schools and neighborhoods. Don't short change us on this project.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda Farias".

Linda Farias  
348 Donner Rd  
Merced, CA 95341

**Espinosa, Kim**

---

**From:** Leslie Fiedler [recarn8@netscape.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 19, 2009 11:16 AM  
**To:** Espinosa, Kim  
**Subject:** Walmart

My name is Leslie Fiedler. I live at 3025 Colony Park in Merced.

I am writing to voice my support for the Walmart Distribution Center. I am tired of watching environmentalists, good ole boys, Asthma Groups and people who are old fuddy duddies with their head in the sand running the whole agenda for the poeple of Merced.

They say they know what is best for us all. Well they haven't asked me my opinion on what I think is best for me and Merced. I do not agree with Lydia Miller and Kyle Stockard. Maybe they need to tour the town with me to see what I see. We need big business in the area.

I have lived here since 1985. I have watched Merced change from a booming, fun Air Force town with things to do, great businesses and quality people to a Welfare ridden, gang banging, meth town. My relatives back east hear nothing but the horrors of the forclosure rates, gang problems, and Merced being in the Meth Corridor.

The fact is we need jobs here. If the people who have asthna don't like that fact they can move. You are never going to get people to shop downtown if they don't have money. Downtown died a few years ago and the Farmer's Market became a gang heaven. Maybe if we get quality jobs for quality people we can drive out the riff raff and start rebuilding this town.

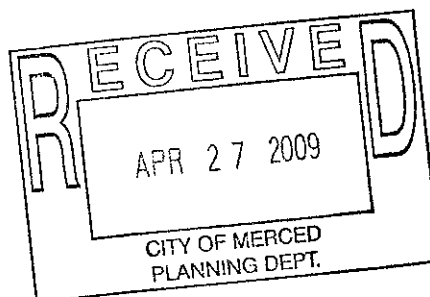
Walmart is a good idea. We need jobs here. Not in Madera or Livingston. It is not going to cause any more pollution than already blows in from the bay area or else where.

Please don't listen to these people who are old or too "green" to see what Merced really needs. PLEASE VOTE FOR THE WALMART CENTER

Thank You

Leslie Fiedler  
209-383-6797

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



Re: Construction Noise Impacts

Dear Merced City Council and Ms. Espinosa,

While the construction hours outlined in the DEIR are reasonable, they are not reflective of the existing environment in Merced. There are many children walking and riding bicycles to school throughout the year. Obviously, this is much more frequent during the active school year, particularly during school hours. I would like the city to consider changing the hours of construction for the Wal-Mart Distribution Center to 8:30am to 3:30pm. This would significantly decrease the amount of harmful pollutants children might be exposed to on a daily basis.

Thank you,

Robin Fisher

Name

118 Sweetwater AVE

Address

MERCED CA 95340

City, State, Zip

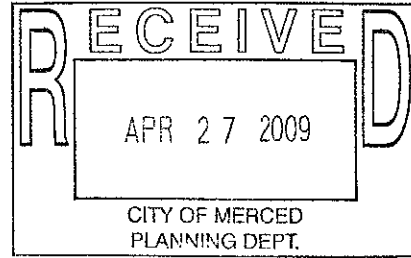
Robin Fisher

Signature

4-16-09

Date

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



Dear Ms. Espinosa,

I am writing with regards to the wall barrier discussed in "Mitigation Measures 4.8-3: Implement Measures to Reduce Exposure to Traffic from Project". I think it a fine gesture by the applicant to build a sound wall barrier between the affected residences and the distribution center. The final environmental impact report should address policing graffiti prevention on the wall barrier, perhaps at the cost of the applicant. Further, 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. It's the responsibility of the City of Merced to protect any current or future homeowners from falling into another situation in which people's home values drop exceedingly because of a development project they city has approved. Please address this more thoroughly in the final environmental impact report.

Sincerely,

*Timothy Fisher*  
Name  
*118 Sweetwater Ave*  
Address  
*Merced Ca 95341*  
City, State, Zip  
*Timothy Fisher*  
Signature  
*02/16/2009*  
Date

Kim Espinoza, Planning Mgr  
 City of Merced Planning Division  
 678 W. 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Merced Ca 95340

4/23/9

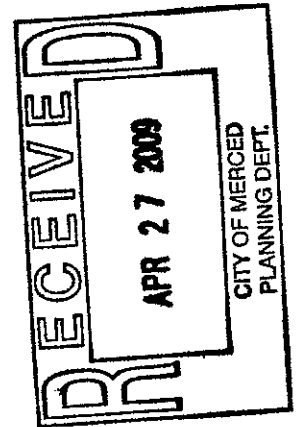
Dear Ms Espinoza,

I am concerned that the proposed Wal Mart D. C. approval process has not given sufficient consideration to the many negative impacts such as the many concerns over environmental impacts and quality of life for our community.

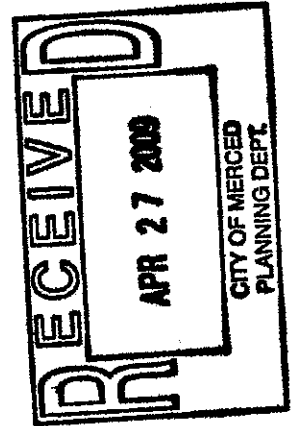
I feel the process is being unnecessarily rushed, and more time given for the public to consider the project.

Thank You

Douglas G Fleming  
 Douglas G Fleming  
 3624 Loyds Ct  
 Merced Ca 95348  
 209 947-4852



Kim Espinosa, Planning Mgr  
 City of Merced Planning Div  
 678 W 18th  
 Merced CA 95340



Dear Ms Espinosa,

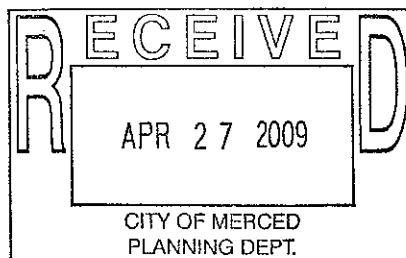
I am very concerned about the lack of consideration for the record of WalMart as an employer. The employees are undercompensated, and turnover is atrocious. Employee rights are widely, routinely violated. WalMart has been convicted of knowingly & deliberately employing undocumented aliens in Federal Court.

They have overstated both the number of workers they will hire and the compensation they will receive.

Thank You  
 Jovita L. Garcia  
 5624 Loyola Ct  
 Merced CA 95348  
 (209) 947 4852

April 1, 2009

Ms. Kim Espinosa  
 Planning Director  
 Planning Division, City of Merced  
 678 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Merced, CA 95340



Reading your assessment of what an “odor” means in the environmental impact report for the Wal-Mart distribution center, it’s so reassuring that you report there is “no discrete source of odor in the vicinity of the project site.” There are no repugnant smells in the Merced air.

Do you leave your office at all? Do you venture outdoors? As a commuter who travels from Merced to the Southside of the Bay Area, there is a noticeable smell between both regions.

I also appreciate your “1-day site visit” to the area where the distribution center will be built. Here is a suggestion. Travel up to Red Bluff or Porterville and stand outside their Wal-Mart distribution centers. Maybe take some Toxic Air Contaminant samples while you are at it.

Let us know what you find. Thank you.

*Eleazar A. Flores*  
 Signature

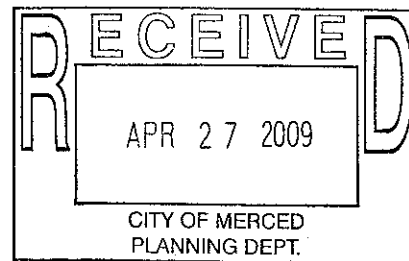
Eleazar A. Flores  
 Print Name

3496 San Bruno Ct.  
 Address

Merced, CA 95348

(209) 383-9052  
 Phone

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



Re: Noise Impacts

Dear Merced City Council and Ms. Espinosa,

While the construction hours outlined in the DEIR are reasonable, they still pose a public safety issue for children in Merced.

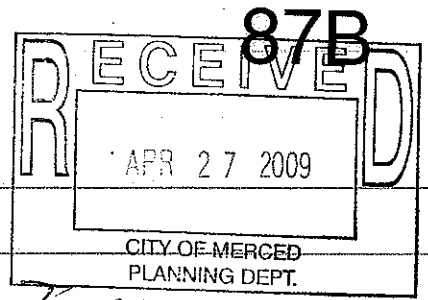
There are many children walking and riding bicycles to school throughout the year. Obviously, this is much more frequent during the active school year, particularly during school hours. I would like the city to consider changing the hours of construction for the Wal-Mart Distribution Center to 8:30am to 3:30pm. This would significantly decrease the amount of harmful pollutants children might be exposed to on a daily basis.

Regards,

Jason Flores  
5740 E. Olive Ave.  
Merced, CA 95340



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



Hello

My name is Jason Flores; I am 26 years old and a lifelong resident of Merced, California. I grew up in east Merced with my parents and two siblings. Growing up in the area, and Central Valley, I have witnessed my older brother and my mother develop respiratory problems, such as slight cases of asthma. I am very concerned about the proposed Wal-Mart distribution center coming to Southeast Merced. I am concerned about the environmental hazards the distribution center poses for the surrounding community. I have nephews that are toddlers and live in the area, and I must say that I worry about the future of their health. With 3 ~~so~~ public schools within 2 miles of the proposed Wal-Mart distribution center, the Merced City Council should be taking the health of the local community seriously, without a cornucopian mentality.

Jason Flores  
Jason Flores  
5740 E. Olive Ave.  
Merced, CA 95340

**Espinosa, Kim**

---

**From:** Mike Flores [mikeflores2000@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2009 2:12 PM  
**To:** Espinosa, Kim  
**Cc:** mikeflores2000@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Wal-Mart distribution center report

Dear Ms. Espinosa,

Diversifying Merced's economy is long overdue. Based on the Air Quality portion of this detailed report I am confident Wal-Mart will do an excellent job of mitigating the deleterious effects of the distribution center. Global warming is a global issue that will require a global effort to solve and reverse. No one firm can be held accountable nor can responsible industry be hampered. I vote YES to Wal-Mart Distribution Center for Merced.

Regards,

Michael Flores  
2626 Capella Dr.  
Merced, CA 95341  
(415) 675-1919

**Espinosa, Kim**

---

**From:** ghford@att.net**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2009 9:47 PM**To:** Espinosa, Kim

I would like to say this Wal Mart Warehouse is probably the best thing to happen to merced. Our growth in industry and jobs has always been held back by the city fathers for years but it seems like we may be able to move ahead now. Since Castle AFB closed (which hurt) but the University came, The new race track would have been really great, now the warehouse will be a big boost. With the economy as it is jobs are needed badly and this is great, keep going we need it. It is allway amaizing that there are allway people that just want to stop anything good from happening. (Spend more money for translations (this is America and we speak English, I have nothing against and body but they have interpreters), worrying about trucks that don't hurt anyone plus they will not be going through the city to get to the location, I have been a trucker for 32 years and my truck never hurt anybody and i had to travel into and around all cities picking up and delivering cars and if they are worried about a little smog, that has been almost abolished now. Why do people have to be so discriminating and not wanting progression, more money for merced and more jobs. Get a life folks and let other people enjoy life and make a decent living, it won't hurt you, but may God bless you and talk to you stright because we all have a right to persuit of happyness. Merced don't let this fail and go down the tube. Personnaly I am far more concerned about the mess that is planned for Gst which is going to be a long drawn out disaster, Also thing about our economic times now.

Thanks for the good work

Grant & Helen Ford  
3240 Franklin Rd  
Merced Ca., 95348  
2097696341

3/23/2009

**Espinosa, Kim**

---

**From:** ghford@att.net

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 03, 2009 12:29 PM

**To:** Espinosa, Kim

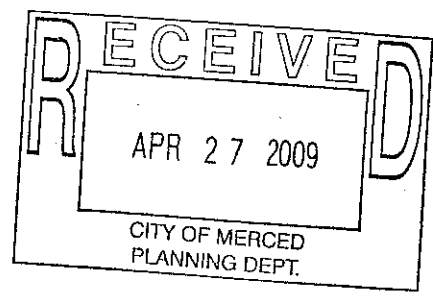
**Subject:** wal-mart dist center

i can not relate to someone not wanting positive growth for merced there are many people who would love a job which wal mart can provide.so lets roll !!

Helen

March 28, 2009

Ms. Kim Espinosa  
City of Merced  
678 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340



Re: Merced Wal-Mart Distribution Center Project

Ms. Espinosa:

The suggestions the Draft EIR makes, which Wal-Mart will likely take into consideration to protect against the potential problems with storm water runoff, are inadequate for our future needs. First of all, using BMP standards are on their way out and many cities are using IMP's (Integrated Management Practices). Many cities have already begun using IMP's as the standard and as such Merced should do the same.

The Draft EIR states that the usual regulatory measures will mitigate pollution from storm water impacts over time. That may happen - but this may be avoided sooner if IMPs were the standard. This begs the question of whether Merced should begin with a new standard and require Wal-Mart to switch to IMPs if their Distribution Center Project is to be approved. Without an IMP standard, storm water runoff and the associated pollution could wind up being more costly than expected.

Christopher Fox  
Signature

Christopher Fox  
Print Name

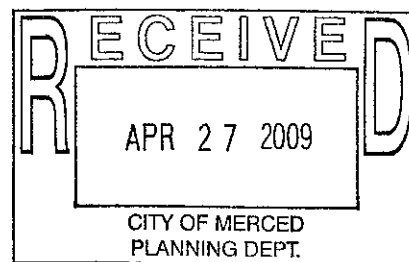
95343 Merced, CA  
Address

N. Lane Rd. NE Merced

(562) 201-9196  
Phone

Jeff Freitas  
 Freitas.jeff.s@gmail.com  
 459 W. 25<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Merced, Ca 95340

Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager  
 City of Merced Planning Division  
 678 West 18th Street  
 Merced, CA 95340  
 Fax: (209) 725-8775  
 Email: [espinosak@cityofmerced.org](mailto:espinosak@cityofmerced.org)



**RE: Public Comments for Wal-Mart Distribution Center DEIR**

**Air Quality Comments**

- 1) **(2-13, from Table 2-1)** The last paragraph of 4.2-2a states: *"The (mitigation) requirements listed above can be met through any combination of on-site emission reduction measures **or offset fees**, including those required and additional measures listed in Mitigation Measures 4.2-2b, 4.2-2c, 4.2-2d, and 4.2-2e for emissions of CAPs; and Mitigation Measures 4.2-6b and 4.2-6d for emissions of GHGs below; however, any on-site reductions of CAP emissions must be both quantifiable and verifiable to be credited towards the requirements of the ISR Rule."*

The inclusion of an "offset fee" alternative implies that Wal-Mart can bypass SJVAPCD's ISR Rule by simply writing a check to SJVAPCD in the form of "mitigation offset fees". Wal-Mart could then disregard any and all mitigation options such as constructing solar panels, participating in an employee trip reduction program or an urban forest program, etc. Paying "mitigation offset fees" will not prevent pollution from being dumped on Merced residents and will lead to increased exposure to toxic emissions. Increased exposure to diesel PM and other TACs also increases indirect health costs for the taxpaying public, as shown in a report titled "The Benefits of Meeting Federal Clean Air Standards in South Coast and San Joaquin Valley Air Basins" by Jane Hall and Victor Brajer.

- 2) **(4.2-46, from Table 4.2-9)** Outbound truck trip distances (and therefore emissions) are based on the assumption that trucks would only travel to the 49 existing Wal-

Mart stores, yet Wal-Mart distribution centers typically service between 75-100 stores. Wal-Mart has shown a clear history of growth and has already demonstrated interest in expanding current stores and building new ones, such as the case in Livingston. **The truck trip assumption should also present estimates that account for probable future regional growth and assume the Distribution Center running at full capacity, not only the minimum baseline of 49 existing stores.** (this is an environmental issue, apart from the regional Urban Decay issue which is dismissed by both the City of Merced and Wal-Mart on Page 1-3)

- 3) **(Appendix A – Air Quality Data, Health Risk Assessment Appendix A – Detailed Emission Calculations)** The particulate emissions from Diesel-Fueled Engines appear to only consider truck activity taking place directly on-site (the assumptions include only the total distances traveled by all trucks within the site boundaries). **Health risk assessment calculations should include all particulate emissions, including those released in surrounding neighborhoods.** Also, please provide a deeper explanation of the calculations, including assumptions for ingress/egress travel, the decrease of daily truck trips from 900 to 644, and the line-source statement: "Travel distance determined by multiplying the number of ingress/egress volumes in the line source (102) by the per volume side length of 12 feet."
- 4) **(4.9-9)** "... the County currently experiences a 10.9% unemployment rate" & "... it is anticipated that the proposed project would likely draw largely from the local employment pool, including the unemployed."

Again, this is non-binding. There are no real assurances that employees will come from the Southeast Merced unemployment pool. **With Central Valley unemployment reaching approximately 20%, many higher-qualified individuals could be willing to commute from Turlock, Modesto, or even Fresno for these jobs. To mitigate this situation, Wal-Mart should sign a local hiring contract to verify they will hire only from Merced or Southeast Merced.**

### Traffic Comments

- 1) **(2-16, from Table 2-1)** *"The Applicant shall fully fund **or contribute its fair share of funding** for the development of a Class II Bike Lanes along Childs Avenue and Gerard Avenue from Parsons Avenue to the project's eastern boundary line..."*

**(4.11-32)** *"The project would be required to improve, **or contribute** to street improvements in accord with the mitigation measures identified in this EIR for cumulative impacts."*

These are not strong mitigation statements – they are non-binding promises Wal-Mart employs in the EIR in order to reduce impacts to "less-than-significant". In the past, both the City and County of Merced have been given the short end of the stick by big developers who make promises they don't keep. These statements provide no assurance or method of deliberation for ensuring that Wal-Mart "pays its fair share" of the transportation infrastructure costs.

- 2) **(4.1-22)** *The traffic scenario entitled, "2010 Background Condition without project", appears to be inflating the trip counts using speculative data that incorporates future housing projects that may never come to pass. It seems possible that the speculative residential trip counts are surpassing the allowable LOS threshold and masking Wal-Mart impacts, whose trip count contribution becomes less-than-significant because they become 5% of the overall increased projected trip volume and are no longer the initial trigger of an intersection's LOS failure.*
- 3) **(4.1-29)** *"The project design shall incorporate a designated on-site waiting area within the site between Gerard Road and the truck gate that is located further within the site."*

The site plan does not appear to provide for additional parking for waiting trucks, as given in the above statement.

- 4) **(4.1-66)** *"The widening of the roadway, however, may require right of way acquisition, the need for utility relocation and, approval by Caltrans. With implementation of this mitigation measure, the cumulative impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level. "*

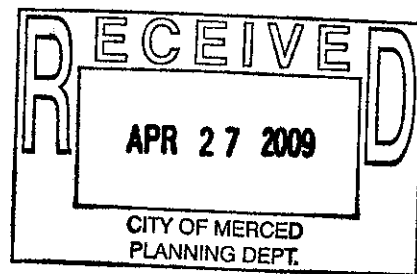


Impacts should still be considered **Significant**, because the mitigation is purely speculative, and the Final EIR cannot provide any legal assurance that this mitigation can/will actually occur.



April 2, 2009

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



Dear Ms. Espinosa,

It's unfortunate that the DEIR says Wal-Mart will only comply with 'recommended control measures' regarding exposure to contaminants through airborne emissions. This is particularly alarming given the size and scope of this development, both during construction and once it's built.

As the Planning Manager, it is your duty to make recommendations to the city council regarding the city's position on the DEIR. I implore you to recommend that Wal-Mart do more than just the recommended control measures to control exposure of airborne pollutants. There is nothing that Wal-Mart can do curb a significant increase in particulate matter generated by diesel truck traffic. A more detailed mitigation plan should be included in the DEIR. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Chris Beatty MD*

3554 Beals Ave

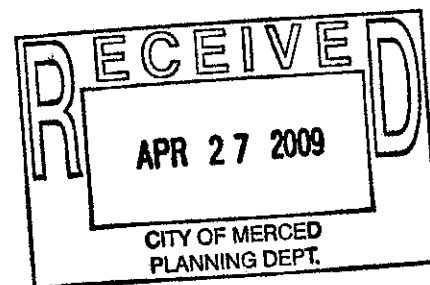
Merced, CA 95348

209-723-2342

Address

City, State, Zip

Chris Gallery MD  
Lucy Snyder RN  
3554 Beals Ave.  
Merced, CA 95348  
209-723-2342



April 25, 2009

Kim Espinosa  
City of Merced - Planning Department  
678 W. 18<sup>th</sup>  
Merced, CA 95340

Re: Opposition to the Proposed Wal-Mart Distribution Center

Dear Ms. Espinosa,

We are opposed to the Wal-Mart development. Wal-Mart is proposing to build it's Merced distribution center in the middle of a residential neighborhood, less than two miles away from four public schools. The central valley is already one of the most polluted air basins in the country. The truck exhaust will worsen this problem severely.

In the table 4.2 - 10 of the DEIR, the project is estimated to produce 12,708 tons of unmitigated carbon dioxide per year. The San Joaquin Valley cannot afford any increase of unmitigated pollutants to it's air. We are already experiencing crisis level asthma and respiratory illnesses in Merced County. The Air Impact Assessment process as described in the DEIR does not adequately address mitigation measures. How specifically will Wal-Mart mitigate on-site actual emissions from vehicles entering and exiting the center? Off-setting mitigation measures in another area in the future does not help the residents that live in Merced. We need immediate mitigation measures both regionally and locally.

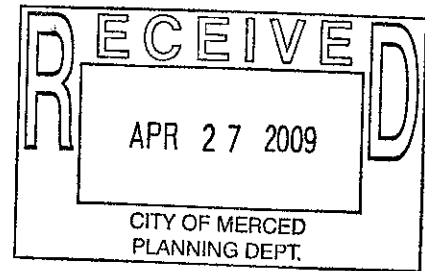
Wal-Mart is not stating that all trucks coming into the center will be hybrid diesel engines. Even if Wal-Marts fleet of trucks were hybrids, how will Wal-Mart regulate subcontracted trucks coming into the facility?

The only valid argument for the center is job creation. If this center were located in a more remote region of the county, the jobs would still be created, but the neighborhood impact would be lessened. Has Wal-Mart guaranteed that all job positions would be filled by local employees? This project if approved will lessen the quality of life in our city. Yes, Merced county needs jobs, but not at any cost.

Sincerely,

*Chris Gallery & Lucy Snyder*  
Chris Gallery MD & Lucy Snyder RN

Kim Espinosa, Directora de Planificación  
Ciudad de Merced Departamento de Planificación  
678 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340



Re: El Reporte del Impacto Ambiental de Wal-Mart

Kim Espinosa,

¿Por qué será que guías de votante, formas de DMV, formas médicos y formas de IRS son escritos en muchos idiomas diferentes estos días, pero el reporte del impacto ambiental de Wal-Mart no es? ¿Cómo puede la ciudad privar el derecho de la gente que no habla Inglés por no traducir ninguna parte de esto en Español?

Nadie gustaría vivir al lado de un grande edificio feo industrial como esto, pero es muy conveniente para descargar esta cosa donde minorías viven para que sea aprobado antes que nuestra comunidad comprenda realmente lo que la ciudad y Wal-Mart tienen planeado.

Haga lo que es el razón y permite que las minorías estén aparte de un proceso VERDADERO.

Fernando Garcia  
3042 Bellevue  
Atwater Ca 95301  
Fernando Garcia

**Espinosa, Kim**

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**From:** Tom Grave [tgrave@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 04, 2009 3:42 PM  
**To:** city, council; Espinosa, Kim  
**Subject:** Public Review Period for Wal-Mart Draft EIR

Good Afternoon-

I would like to respectfully request that the review period for the Wal-Mart Distribution Center Draft EIR be extended from the announced 60 days to at least 90 days. According to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a review period of more than 60 days would be warranted in the case of "unusual circumstances" (15105). I would submit that the following factors would support a claim of unusual circumstances: (1) the sheer volume of the EIR; (2) the highly technical nature of the document; (3) the magnitude and importance of this project; and (4) the language groups (primarily Spanish and Hmong) who lack ready access to the contents of the EIR; time will be required to provide outreach to these groups.

CEQA (15140) says "EIRs shall be written in plain language..."

CEQA (15141) says "The text of draft EIRs should normally be less than 150 pages and for proposals of unusual scope or complexity should normally be less than 300 pages."

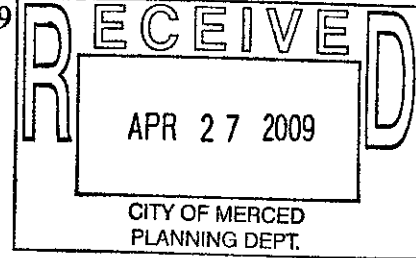
I would like to further request than consideration be given to placing this matter as an action item on the agenda of the next City Council meeting, March 16.

Thank you.

Tom Grave  
3425 Sueno Ct.  
Merced, CA 95348  
385-3503

3425 Sueno Ct.  
Merced, CA 95348  
April 27, 2009

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



RE: Draft Environmental Impact Report: Proposed Wal-Mart Regional  
Distribution Center

Dear Ms. Espinosa,

I offer the following comments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Wal-Mart Regional Distribution Center. Please give them consideration and response pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Executive Summary, page 2-69

The following statement is made at the top of the page above Table 2-2: "Note that the City may wish to calculate and require the project to contribute on a pro-rata basis to the improvements (Improvement Measures) described below and based on the information in Table 2-2 below, or identified in Table 6-7 on page 6-29."

First, the use of "may" conveys uncertainty and perhaps it indicates that a decision will be deferred to some time in the future. How and when will the determination be made to require or not a pro-rata contribution? What facts will be brought to bear in order to make this decision? The lack of clarity about these points is not acceptable. Second, it is not clear at Table 2-2 or at Table 6-7 what the "Improvement Measures" are. These need to be identified in a less confusing manner.

Project Location and Site Development, page 3-1

It is stated that City of Merced Water Well 10-R2 is located on the project site. What is the future of this well if the project is built? Will the well continue to be in operation to support the City's water supply and conveyance system? Will an easement be dedicated to permit continued City maintenance of the well? Will fees be involved? How will these be determined? How will the well be expected to affect the water supplied to the project? What measures will be instituted to safeguard the well from contamination from hazardous materials handled at the site? How will the well be protected from contaminants occurring in storm water run-off from the site?

Necessary Entitlements, page 3-4

One of the entitlements required for the proposed project would be the abandonment of the Kibby Road right-of-way. This action would involve a General Plan amendment. How will the Kibby Road closure affect traffic patterns in southeast Merced? Has this

been studied? Where are the analyses and data? Should Wal-Mart be assessed a fee for the right-of-way abandonment?

Project Background, page 3-11

One of the reasons given by Wal-Mart for selection of this site is "the location's proximity to the labor pool of Merced." What are the characteristics of this labor pool? Do they match the requirements of the Wal-Mart jobs? What type of training will there be for prospective employees? What are the assurances that jobs will be given to Merced residents?

The possible location of the Wal-Mart distribution center in the City of Merced represents a business relationship between the two entities. Accordingly, a contract should be drawn up, stipulating the number of jobs to be allocated to Merced residents, the hourly wages to be paid, the health and other benefits, including deductibles and co-payments, and so forth. There should also be specified the penalties that would be incurred by Wal-Mart in the event any terms of the contract are violated.

City Objectives, page 3-11

One of the objectives listed: "To encourage development of projects that will contribute toward improving roadways adjacent to the proposed development site."

Where are the agreements that set forth just how Wal-Mart will contribute toward improving roadways adjacent to the site? How will fees be determined? How would a "fair share" be identified? How will Wal-Mart be expected to defray costs associated with on-going wear and tear to surrounding roadways? How will nearby county-maintained roads be affected? Has the County of Merced been contacted regarding these issues?

Right now, the Campus Parkway is being constructed. It will directly serve the needs of the Wal-Mart distribution center, yet this roadway has not been funded in any great measure, if at all, by Wal-Mart. Taxpayers have also funded the Mission Interchange at state highway 99, which will directly serve both Wal-Mart and the University of California at Merced. How will the needs of UC Merced at full build-out be served when the Mission Interchange and the Campus Parkway are glutted by 900 diesel trucks per day?

Buildings and Operations, page 3-12

The main building for the Wal-Mart distribution center is identified as a 1.1 million-square-foot warehouse. Where will the aggregate material come from to pour this huge concrete slab? What will be the impact on current aggregate mining operations in eastern Merced County? Will there be an expansion of these mines? Has this issue been analyzed? When and where?

A large number of trucks will be hauling aggregate and/or mixed concrete to the site. How many truck trips are estimated? What will be the impact on County roadways? Are there agreements between Wal-Mart and the County concerning road degradation and necessary maintenance and repairs? How much dust will likely be generated by the truck

trips? Will there be other air contaminants? How will these be studied? How will they be mitigated?

Proposed Sustainability and Energy Conservation Measures, pages 3-14, 15

"According to Wal-Mart representatives" is not an adequate basis for establishing assurance that the measures will actually be implemented. What are the guarantees that steps will be taken toward the sustainability goals as set forth? To what degree do these goals need to be reached? What are the consequences if there is not a high level of effort toward reaching these goals?

Construction and Operation, page 3-15

"According to Wal-Mart representatives" again is not acceptable. Where are the assurances?

"Wal-Mart has indicated its intention to continue to monitor these technologies and incorporate those that are effective, reliable and make business sense." What is the standard? There needs to be a stronger commitment, and Wal-Mart needs to be held accountable. The welfare of the overall community needs to take precedence over issues related to "business sense."

Transportation, pages 3-15, 16

"According to Wal-Mart representatives..." does not offer an adequate level of assurance that the stated actions will occur.

Throughout the discussions of the Wal-Mart truck fleet, there is no mention whatsoever of the many trucks serving the distribution center that are independently owned and operated. The other Wal-Mart distribution centers in California are served by a significant percentage of non-Wal-Mart trucks. To what standard of "superior" environmental performance will these independent trucks be held? What are the assurances? How is Wal-Mart to be held accountable? Why was no mention made in the EIR of independent trucks and truck operators?

Agricultural Resources, pages 4.1-1 to 4.1-13

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Merced Vision 2015 General Plan states that the General Plan designates urban growth areas that contain less productive agricultural lands. But in the case of the proposed Wal-Mart project, 70% of the 230 acres to be developed are considered "prime farmland". This means it is the best land for the long-term production of agricultural crops. Indeed, application of the California Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) model to the proposed Wal-Mart parcel yields a significance score of 88.4 out of 100 possible points. Why would the City of Merced wish to contribute to the alarming pace of conversion of prime soils to non-agricultural uses? Surely a site could be found for the Wal-Mart distribution center that would not involve such loss of productive land. Not only is the 230-acre parcel of concern, but as the current EIR sets forth, "...industrial uses adjacent to agricultural land can result in land use conflicts and create incentives for agricultural producers to discontinue agricultural operations and sell their land for development." (p. 4.1-11)



The Wal-Mart EIR is unequivocal in its assertion that the conversion of farmland involved in the proposed project is a significant impact. There is the further statement that no mitigation is available. This is not accurate. Rather, it is commonly the case that counties and municipalities in California mitigate for the loss of productive agricultural land by setting aside through permanent easements similar parcels of land. In the present instance, we would recommend a 4:1 mitigation, whereby Wal-Mart would be required to offset their use of 230 acres of farmland by purchasing and placing in easements a total of 920 acres of agricultural land in the vicinity of Merced.

#### Air Quality: Environmental Impacts

During discussion of vehicle trips and associated emissions, the following was stated:

No adjustments were made to account for increased fuel efficiency of Wal-Mart's truck fleet due to its participation in the U.S. EPA's SmartWay Transport Partnership. The Partnership is a voluntary program; therefore, although the current Wal-Mart fleet would have better than average fuel efficiency, nothing mandates them to continue to stay in the program. (p. 4.2-26)

Would there be any reason not to require, through the City's contract with Wal-Mart, that Wal-Mart continue its participation in this program? Such a requirement should be made, along with specified penalties in the event participation is discontinued.

On page 4.2-27, the following sentence appears: "Modeling was based on project-specific data (e.g., size and type of proposed use and vehicle trip information from the traffic analysis prepared for this project (DKS Associates 2008) and truck trip information from an existing Wal-Mart distribution centers in California (McAlexander, pers. comm., 2007)". (emphasis added) It is unclear whether the truck trip information was obtained from one or more than one distribution center. This needs to be clarified. Which distribution center or centers? How was it determined that the data obtained would be relevant to the proposed project?

#### Air Quality: Mitigation Measure 4.2-1d

How are opacity and porosity measured? What type of equipment is required? How will this process be monitored?

On page 4.2-33 there is mention of carryout and trackout "within rural areas, construction projects 10 acres or more in size..." Why is this reference even included? After all, the site is urban and 230 acres in size. Is this simply a "boilerplate" specification that EDAW routinely pumps out?

#### Air Quality: Mitigation Measure 4.2-2b

"Elements of the employee trip reduction program may include..." (emphasis added) The requirement is too vague. What will Wal-Mart be held to? How will the standard be enforced? Why would a 25% reduction in single occupancy vehicle trips by employees

take 3 years to accomplish? Is this just an arbitrary figure? How will the baseline be established, given that the number of employees will increase over time?

Air Quality: Mitigation Measure 4.2-2c

How will the City determine the applicant's fair share monetary contribution toward the costs of bicycle lanes? What factors will be considered?

Geology, Minerals, etc.: Mitigation Measure 4.5-5

"On-site monitoring by a geotechnical engineer..." Would monitoring occur daily, on a periodic basis, or what other frequency? This needs to be specified.

Hydrology: Mitigation Measure 4.6-2

How would the proposed stormwater detention ponds prevent contaminants from invading the groundwater? The basins are described as having a maximum depth of 5 feet below ground surface (page 4.6-10) , yet on page 4.6-22 "stormwater treatment system detention basins" are said to be 10 feet deep. Which is the correct figure? What assurances are there that during periods of heavy runoff the finer particles of contaminants will be able to fall out of suspension and remain in the detention basin, rather than moving on to infect groundwater or surface sources of water? Detention basins are said to be "conceptually designed". This suggests that an actual system similar to that proposed has not been identified, observed, and studied to assess its effectiveness. Is that the case?

Noise: Mitigation Measure 4.8-3

"The applicant shall maintain its truck fleet in proper working condition, including truck mufflers and exhaust systems, according to manufacturers' specifications."

Here, as elsewhere in the EIR document, there is no mention of standards or requirements that would apply to independent (non Wal-Mart) trucks. Failure to address standards, monitoring and enforcement for independent trucks is unacceptable. What is the percentage of independent trucks at the existing Wal-Mart distribution centers? How will this figure change if the proposed distribution center becomes operational? How will the percentage of independent trucks change as additional Wal-Mart stores and Super Centers are built throughout the region?

Public Health and Hazards

Page 4.10-10: "The project site is located over 4 miles west of the Merced Municipal Airport and approximately 10 miles northwest of the Castle Airport." (emphasis added) A quick check of the map reveals that the project site is actually east of Merced Airport and southeast of Castle. It is puzzling that such an error could have escaped the attention of the many reviewers of the EIR document. What other inaccuracies and errors might there be in the EIR? Wasn't there a standard or a process in place to prevent this type of mistake?

Traffic and Transportation

Page 4.11-3: "Parsons Avenue is a two-lane urban street serving as a minor arterial road from Childs Avenue north to Old Lake Road." This is a very misleading statement. At

**4. Heat Island.** This massive building, surrounded by many acres of paved surfaces, will likely create a heat island or heat sink. What will be the impact? Why was this issue left out of the EIR?

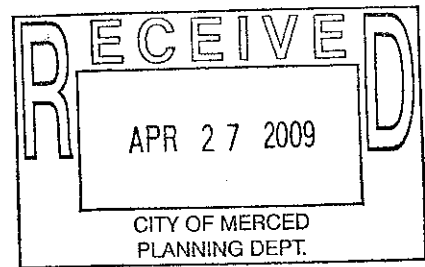
In conclusion, I appreciate the opportunity to comment of the Draft EIR for the proposed Wal-Mart distribution center in Merced. I reserve the right to comment further, especially upon circulation of the Final EIR. Please keep me informed of any and all meetings, hearings, and publications relating to this project.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Grave". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Thomas C. Grave  
3425 Sueno Ct.  
Merced, CA 95348

Ms. Kim Espinosa  
Merced Planning Department  
678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340



Ms. Espinosa,

I've been reviewing some of the alternative sites for the distribution center which are mentioned in the draft environmental impact report. I am against putting the project at the proposed site, so I hope you will seriously consider site alternative #3 and put it on the other side of Highway 99.

I understand that is County land and not owned by the City, but if the City Council wants to jobs to be available to its residents, I hope it will work with the County Board of Supervisors and make the project a reality.

Thank you for your time.

*Michelle Gray*  
Signature

Michelle Gray  
Print Name

*Home* 2416 Whipplewood Dr  
Address  
Atwater, CA 95301

Phone  
(209) 769-6002

*Work* Sheehy School  
1240 W. 6<sup>th</sup>  
Merced, CA 95341

**Espinosa, Kim**

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**From:** Shirley Gregory [shirleygregory2@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2009 9:28 AM  
**To:** Espinosa, Kim  
**Subject:** Wal-Mart

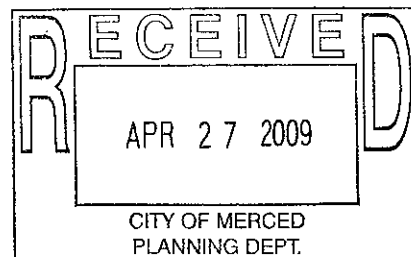
Who are these people who oppose Wal-Mart coming to Merced? Are they on the government dool or welfare assistance? We need all the help we can get in Merced for workers. I am FOR WAL-MART DISTRIBUTION CENTER! The environmental people care more about the fish and wildlife than they do human beings.

Count my vote for WAL-MART!

SHIRLEY GREGORY  
2240 YOSEMITE PKWY. SP. 125  
MERCED, CA 95341

3/28/09

Kim Espinosa  
 Project Director  
 Merced Planning Division  
 678 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Merced, CA 95340



Ms. Espinosa:

After the reading the mitigation measures in the Air Quality section of the distribution center EIR, I have a question about measure 4.2-1b. Why would the staging area for heavy-duty construction equipment be located as far as possible from sensitive receptors?

Shouldn't there be some type of measuring receptors on the site, to make sure the amounts of pollution released do not exceed acceptable levels?

Sincerely,

*V. Gresham*

Signature

*Valarie Gresham*

Print Name

*124 W 6<sup>th</sup>*

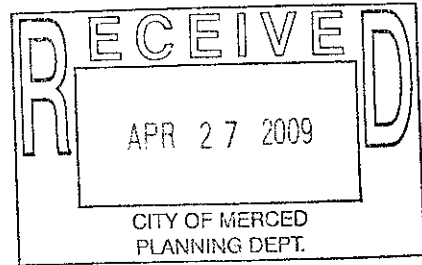
Address

1240 ?

*Merced, CA*

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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



Dear Kim Espinosa,

Please enter the following study from the Center for Transportation Research Argonne National Laboratory titled "Estimation of Fuel Use by Idling Commercial Trucks," January 2006. The figures stated in the attached study should be weighed against those estimates conducted in the Merced Wal-Mart Distribution's DEIR study. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chansamay Guzman  
Name

157 Sweetwater Ave  
Address

Merced, CA 95341  
City, State, Zip

  
Signature

4-20-09  
Date