

Gregory Osorio
PO Box 430
Pittsburg, CA 94565

November 13, 2015

David Brockbank
Senior Planner
Contra Costa County
Department of Conservation and Development
30 Muir Road
Martinez, California 94553

**Re: Comments on Notice of Preparation of the Proposed Supplemental
Environmental Impact Report to Amend Keller Canyon Landfill's Land Use
Permit 2020-89**

Dear Mr. Brockbank:

I am writing to comment on the scope and content of environmental information in connection with the preparation of the proposed Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) in connection with the project to amend Keller Canyon Landfill's Land Use Permit 2020-89 as indicated in Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development's Notice of Preparation and Public Scoping Meeting dated October 15, 2015.

As background, I have been a Pittsburg resident for 30 years and business owner. In addition, my personal residence is located right in the vicinity of the Keller Canyon Landfill and was dramatically impacted by its construction, and continues to be impacted by its ongoing operation. Through my church and other community involvement, I have mentored young people from disadvantaged communities, including those already impacted by this landfill's operations. From my view, it is very important that such communities are treated with respect and protected from harms that other communities are not forced to endure. Already disadvantaged communities should not always be the ones that bear the burden of the environmental impacts and safety risks such as those that come from the greater air pollution, noise, and traffic impacts that happen if a lot more garbage is brought through our city, especially from an entire region. With that fundamental concept in mind, I submit the following comments.

As a member of the community, I would like to first comment on the fact that the public was not provided with enough notice regarding preparation of this proposed SEIR, especially with regards to the November 2, 2015 scoping meeting (which I did not find about until after the fact). Even though the County's website indicates that discussion on this proposed SEIR has been in the works since 2008, the newly *revised* notice of the proposed project to amend Keller Canyon Landfill's land use permit and its operations has only recently been made available to the public. I note that many folks who have been actively engaged in commenting on landfill operations now and in the past, including me, were given no notice. Even had we been given sufficient notice, thirty days is not a lot of time to thoroughly review and comment on the scope and content of the environmental information and review for this *revised* Proposed Project.

Beyond the fact that we did not know about the scoping meeting (did anyone attend?) the notice we did get seems to be incomplete and vague. The notice refers to an application made at least 7 years ago, but does not seem to acknowledge all of the things that have changed in the years since the original application. The notice should have included a description of what is happening now at the site and in the region and what exactly is being proposed to change all of that.

In any case, one of the most important, and often overlooked, impacts of *any* proposed landfill expansion project, such as with this proposed project, is the impact regarding environmental justice concerns. In other words, environmental review of this project should include discussion and analysis of the issues dealing with how Keller Canyon Landfill's location and operations are directly and disparately impacting nearby residents in areas that are disproportionately minority (and/or lower-income) communities.

Even in the beginning when location for landfills in this area was discussed, the Keller Canyon site was the specially-appointed task force's *least* preferred choice for a landfill because of its close proximity to residential and commercial areas. More specifically, the Keller Canyon site was the closest of all the proposed sites to residential areas that were (and are) predominantly populated by minority communities. However, other higher-ranking potential sites in the County were passed over and at least one such site was near neighborhoods that consisted of residents that were/are predominantly white.

And in the years since Keller Canyon Landfill began its operations, nearby residents, including myself and my family, (again, many of whom are from predominantly minority and/or lower-income communities) have been impacted by environmentally hazardous conditions on a *daily basis*, including having to deal with the constant trash, dust, odors, toxic substances, noise, and traffic that have resulted from Keller Canyon Landfill's operations.

This project appears to be intended to “pile on” to the impacts on disadvantaged communities, instead of working to resolve the problems the landfill already causes in Pittsburg. Nearby residents will continue to suffer with such livability issues, and these conditions will only worsen if Keller Canyon Landfill is allowed to amend its land use permit and operations to include, among other things, lots more daily tonnage, lots more truck traffic, and lots more in the size of the area allowed for disturbance of soils.

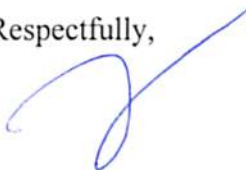
Worst of all, while it’s not very clear from the documents the County has made available, it looks like the Landfill owner want us to carry the burden of dealing with trash from distant, wealthy communities, such as Marin and Sonoma. This is classic environmental *injustice*.

In sum, in order to ensure that there is adequate environmental review of Keller Canyon Landfill’s proposed expansion, one of the major issues that should be reviewed under the SEIR is the extent that these proposed amendments to Keller Canyon Landfill’s land use permit and operations will affect the environmental justice concerns for our community as a whole, and more specifically, for the nearby residents who have already endured such disparate impacts since Keller Canyon Landfill began its operations more than 23 years ago.

In particular, the SEIR needs to analyze a no-project alternative under which no expansion is allowed as well as look at alternative disposal sites for all of the additional materials the operator is proposing to bring into our area. I especially believe that one alternative that has to be considered is having Marin and Sonoma residents live with their own garbage instead of sending it to us.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced proposed SEIR and proposed project. I look forward to the County’s response in addressing the concerns I have raised. Please also consider this letter a request for notice of any further proceedings regarding Keller Canyon Landfill.

Respectfully,



Gregory Osorio