

From: Craig Young <craig.m.young@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:52 PM
To: pbscommissions
Subject: Case #: UM_2020-0006 Cold Creek Compost

DEC 06 2023

Planning & Building Services

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Commissioners,

I am writing as a concerned citizen and impacted neighbor of the existing the Cold Creek Compost facility in Potter Valley. I do not support the proposed project and respectfully request additional study of the impacts from both the existing operation and the proposed expansion project.

Our home is over 1.6 miles from the Cold Creek facility and on several occasions over the last year we have been unwilling to go outside due to the extreme negative odors coming from the compost operation. It is common practice for us to check the wind as a means of determining when to spend time outdoors during the day, given the negative impacts to air quality from the compost operation. We hope there are no harmful gasses accompanying the sour smell that seems to settle in the valley on calm mornings and when the wind blows in the wrong direction. Note that unfortunately the wind is always blowing in the wrong direction for someone in the community given the constant stench from the operation.

An expansion of the project is untenable. Have we conducted sufficient air and water quality (discharge and flows into nearby tributaries of the Russian River) inspections related to the proposed project? Have we studied the impacts to the other stakeholders and neighbors in the community? Have we studied the impacts to our wildlife and other natural resources? How often have people complained of the odor over the past few years? Have we studied and implemented best practices for odor control for similar facilities? Have we confirmed prior commitments and mitigants agreed to by the project applicant have been conformed to? Have we studied the impacts to our roads and the noise created by the truck trips to the facility? Have we studied what is being processed at the facility and whether that is within compliance of the use permits and entitlements? Have we considered that many more people live near the facility today than when the original approval occurred in 1997. Are more people impacted by the operation today? Are there ways to mitigate the existing impacts, let alone the new impacts that would be created with a 40% expansion of the facility?

How can we get comfortable that the above questions (and others I certainly failed to provide) have been sufficiently studied when none of the oversight agencies contacted as part of this process have commented on the staff report?

Are we confident that the community has been properly notified and given a chance to voice its support or opposition to the proposed project? I note that only 3 people received the official notification from Planning, during the week of Thanksgiving for that matter, and two of the people

notified own the property on which the facility is located. Surely we should take the time to educate the fulsome group of stakeholders impacted by this project, no?

I understand that this project has been under review in some capacity for over 3 years. We have had no outreach from the project applicant to date. We would welcome the opportunity to connect so we can better understand the overall plan and discuss ways to mitigate the disruptive (and hopefully not dangerous) impacts of the existing and proposed project.

Thank you for all of your help and support and thank you for considering our request for additional study.

Sincerely,
Craig Young
8675 E. Side Potter Valley Road, Potter Valley, CA