

June 5, 1997

PLANNING COMMISSION READING FILE

COMMENTS RECEIVED ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

#U 26-93 COLD CREEK COMPOST FACILITY

MILECK/GUNTLY

(NOTE: THE ENCLOSED COMMENTS WILL BE PART OF THE FINAL EIR)

AGENCY COMMENTS

University of California
Cooperative Extension • Mendocino County



Ag. Center/Courthouse • 579 Low Gap Road • Ukiah, Ca., 95482 • 707-463-4495 • fax 707-463-4477 • e-mail gagiusti@ucdavis.edu

Planning Commission
County of Mendocino County
501 Low Gap Road, Rm. 1440
Ukiah, Ca., 95482

RECEIVED

JUN 04 1997

BY _____
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
Ukiah, CA 95482

June 2, 1997

Dear Planning Commission Members,

I am submitting this letter of support for the Cold Creek Compost facility which I understand you will be visiting on Thursday, June 5. A scheduling conflict prohibits me from personally attending the public hearing.

I have had the opportunity to visit the compost site on a number of occasions under various weather conditions. In each visit I have been positively impressed by the measures taken by the management of Cold Creek Compost, Inc. to minimize the impacts of their operations to water quality, air quality, scenic viewsheds and other resources associated with oak woodlands.

I fully appreciate the concerns that have been raised regarding possible negative impacts to the environment from the compost facility. However, in every case, when I have visited the site, I have not witnessed any situation that would support some of the concerns being raised regarding negative environmental impacts.

Though I have long supported alternative, commodity production for agricultural lands, I have never supported any operation that I believe would have long-lasting negative impacts on the environment. Given the measures that have already been instituted by Cold Creek Compost, Inc., the length of time they have been operating and first hand experience of witnessing their facility I have no qualms in continuing to support their efforts to diversify agricultural activities on their property.

I am personally very please that you are visiting the site. I think the visit will help alleviate your concerns and allow you to personally assess the situation.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this issue. If any member of the Commission has any questions or concerns regarding my comments, please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Giusti
Forest & Wildlands Ecology Advisor

cc: Board of Supervisors
Cold Creek Compost, Inc.



RECEIVED
JUN 24 1997

MEMORANDUM

PLANNING SERVICES
MENDOCINO COUNTY

To: Angel Howell
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-0613

Date: May 27, 1997

Pamela Townsend
Mendocino County Planning and Building Services
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1440
Ukiah, CA 95482

From:

Marcia Kiese

Marcia Kiese
Environmental Review Section
Permits Branch
Permitting and Enforcement Division
CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Subject: SCH# 96032033 - Draft Environmental Impact Report
(DEIR) for the Cold Creek Compost Facility (23-AA-0023)
County of Mendocino

California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) staff thank the Mendocino County Planning and Building Services (Lead Agency) for the opportunity to comment on the scope and content of the draft EIR.

The following represents CIWMB staff's understanding of the scope of the proposed project based on the project description provided by the Lead Agency.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION**Background**

The Cold Creek Compost Facility is located on the Guntly Ranch, approximately 10 miles northeast of Ukiah in Mendocino County. The 3,700-acre Guntly Ranch is devoted to rangeland for cattle, crop production, and timber land. Topographically, the project site varies from 1,500 feet to 1,550 feet above mean sea level.

The Applicant, Cold Creek Compost, Inc. (CCCI) has been composting at this site since July 1995. The facility's service area includes Mendocino, Humboldt, Lake, Napa, Sonoma, and Yolo Counties. The facility's maximum design capacity is 50,000 tons per year of incoming material, an average of approximately 200 tons per day, with a maximum of 400 tons per day of incoming material. Currently the facility operates at about 25% of its expected average or 50,000 tons per year.

A Negative Declaration was prepared to support issuance of the project's Use Permit # U26-93. In February 1995 the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors upheld the Negative Declaration on appeal from the Planning Commission. At that time, the feedstocks did not include street sweepings and sewage sludge biosolids. This EIR is being prepared pursuant to Superior Court Order No. CV71886, *Preserve County Neighborhoods v. County of Mendocino*.

Proposed Action

The EIR will focus primarily on the issues specified by the Court. It will also assume that construction of additional improvements to the proposed compost facility will be completed and fully operational by the year 2000.

The Superior Court Order summarized its concerns as follows: the effect of compost leachate on domestic water wells in the area, the Russian River and Lake Mendocino; the effect of the construction of a roof (shed) over a 3.5-acre portion of the compost pad; public health impacts to ground and surface water; impacts due to the fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus*; and impacts related to traffic noise, safety, and odors.

The project which is the subject of this EIR incorporates several changes to the original project approved and litigated as Use Permit 26-93. On January 21, 1997 a revised Notice of Preparation (NOP) was circulated, replacing the earlier March 4, 1996 NOP. The Report of Composting Site Information (January 15, 1996), together with the September 27, 1996 Amendment and other information provided by the Applicant represents the revised project.

- 1) Facility size is reduced from 12.5 acres to 10 acres to reflect elimination of leachate ponds. The compost pad is increased from an estimated 5.5 acres to 6.0 acres. The project site to include an area lying 1,800± feet easterly of the 10-acre project site for three 22,000 gallon storage tanks (set on concrete pads) for process water and potable water, and one 2,500 gallon tank at the wellhead for potable water;
- 2) A floor drain system under the roof to capture and channel rain water that blows under the roof to a 22,000 gallon tank;
- 3) Project site to include auxiliary areas near the 6-acre compost pad for storage of lime and gypsum, additives and amendments may also be stored outside the roof structure on the compost pad;
- 4) Addition of biosolids and street sweepings as feedstocks;
- 5) Process water may include brewery process water from an off-site source and rain water collected by the floor drain system; and
- 6) Maximum daily load capacity/design capacity is increased from 200 tpd (250 days per year) to 400 tpd. Maximum truck traffic

generation is estimated to be 40 round trips (80 one way trips) per day, an increase from the previous estimate of 12 round trips per day.

Additional feedstock materials may include: manures from chicken ranches, dairies, turkey farms and other agricultural facilities; other agricultural materials, including grape pomace, plant trimmings, and culled fruit); green material; animal stall bedding; grocery store food waste; restaurant food waste; street sweepings (primarily from autumn leaf collections); fishery waste; and sewage sludge biosolids. Amendments and additives may include wood ash (including fly ash and scrubber ash), lime, rock phosphate, gypsum, or other commercial fertilizers. No contaminated soils would be accepted at the site.

The proposed project is intended to provide CCI a new production facility that will:

- Replace its former production sites in Covelo and Hopland, California;
- Allow CCI to consolidate its compost production facilities at one location;
- Provide the additional capacity necessary to meet the needs of an expanding market for compost products;
- Be sited and permitted such that it can provide public jurisdictions within its market area a facility that is available to assist in meeting the goals and objectives of AB 939; and
- Possess the necessary site characteristics to ensure the facility can meet the permitting requirements of the CIWMB and other regulatory agencies, while minimizing impacts to off-site receptors.

Environmental Evaluation

The Lead Agency determined that mitigation measures described in the EIR would reduce the following potential environmental impacts to less than significant: Visual, Hydrogeology and Water Quality, Air Quality, Noise, Public Health & Safety, and Traffic Safety. For some of the impacts labeled "Less Than Significant", the Lead Agency has also included mitigation measures recommended to create a project that further minimizes project environmental impacts.

GENERAL COMMENTS

One purpose of CIWMB staff's review of an environmental document is to help decision-makers identify potential impacts from proposed projects, evaluate whether any such impacts are

significant, and determine whether significant impacts can be mitigated to a level of insignificance in compliance with the CEQA statutes and guidelines.

CIWMB's Environmental Review Section (ERS) staff must also ascertain that the subject environmental document is adequate for use in the permitting process. The proposed project must be described in sufficient detail to allow estimation of the *facility's ability to meet the standards to prevent environmental damage and to provide long-term protection of the environment*, the primary consideration in issuing, modifying, or revising any permit (See Title 14 Section 18201). To that end, ERS staff offer the following comments:

- It was not clear to ERS staff which elements constituted the proposed project that was evaluated in this DEIR. For example, on page 1-3 the addition of biosolids as a feedstock is listed as a change to the project since the March 4, 1996 NOP was issued. Later, *street sweepings* and sewage sludge biosolids are listed as added feedstocks (see page 2-5). ERS staff recognizes that the project has changed several times and that the Lead Agency sought to document these changes and how and when they came about. The "composite" project description included at the beginning of this comment letter represents ERS staff's understanding the project. It would be helpful if the finalized EIR included a more concise presentation of the elements of the project that were evaluated.
- In the last paragraph of page 1-4 the Lead Agency states that California Code of Regulations Section 17850 et seq allows the applicant to "compost an unlimited amount of manure upon notification of the local enforcement agency", then states that "[t]his activity is exempt from CEQA." This statement is somewhat misleading. Since the described activity would not require a permit from CIWMB, the Board would not have discretionary authority over the project and thus would not require compliance with CEQA. Although the project might be considered "exempt" from the perspective of the CIWMB, this activity may still be considered a "project" as defined in CEQA and would be subject to its requirements.
- With regard to mitigation measures, Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 18208 requires that the permit issued include conditions necessary to specify a design and operation for which "the ability to control the adverse environmental effects of the facility" have been demonstrated.

As the Lead Agency is aware, descriptions of potential environmental impacts or consequences associated with this project and proposed measures to minimize or mitigate adverse environmental effects must be included in a

Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Program (MRMP) and adopted as part of the project. The MRMP should be designed to ensure compliance during project implementation and include measures to track the effectiveness of the mitigation measures. These factors may be used in determining the effectiveness of the proposed mitigations. Public Resources Code Section 21081.6(b) requires the public agency to "provide that measures to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment are fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other measures."

CIWMB staff request that the EIR specifically indicate which mitigations measures must be placed in the SWFP and suggest that the final environmental document establish enforcement procedures and penalties, as well as develop conflict resolution provisions.

- A major purpose of an EIR is "to demonstrate to an apprehensive citizenry that the agency has, in fact, analyzed and considered the ecological implications of its action" (CEQA Guidelines § 15003[d]). Does the Lead Agency's proposal, including the mitigation measures to be adopted as a part of the project, adequately address concerns brought forth by the public and other governmental agencies?

Written proposed responses to the preceding comments must be provided to CIWMB at least ten days prior to certification of the EIR (Public Resources Code Section 21092.5[a]).

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 255-3880.

cc: John P. Morley, LEA for Mendocino County
Russ Kanz, CIWMB - Permits

May 9, 1997

To: Angel Howell
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Pam Townsend ✓
Dept. Of Planning & Building Services
501 Low Gap Road #1440
Ukiah, CA 95482

From: John P. Morley, REHS III *JPM*
Mendocino County
Local Enforcement Agency

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Report For Cold Creek Compost, Inc.

RECEIVED
MAY 12 1997
BY _____
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
Ukiah, CA 95482

The Mendocino County Division of Environmental Health acting as the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for the California Integrated Waste Management Board has completed review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for Cold Creek Compost, Inc. The LEA offers the following comments for consideration.

1. HOURS OF OPERATION

- a) Page 2-17, 7a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.
- b) Page 2-17, nighttime deliveries during grape crush.
- c) Page 2-17, may occasionally be open on Sundays.

There appears to some ambiguity to the hours and days of operation. CUP #26-93 and SWFP 23-AA-0029 have as permitted hours of operation 7a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Proposed changes to hours and days of operation were not identified in DEIR Section 2.1.3 Changes To Previous Project. Would changes to hours and days of operation constitute a change in the project?

2. WINTER OPERATIONS

- a) Page 2-8, compost operations will be maintained under roof structure.
- b) Page 2-9, facility operations will occur under the roof structure.
- c) Page 2-20, composting operations will be conducted under the roof.
- d) Page 3-19, the most important mitigations to conduct active composting and storage of feedstock under the roof structure..... Eventually all composting operations will be moved under the roof structure.
- e) Page 3-20, the project applicant shall conduct active composting and storage of feedstock under the roof structure.

- f) Page 3-22, the most important of these measures are storage and processing of materials under the roof during the rainy season.
The applicant plans..... and to perform all operations and storage under the roof year round.

Please define winter operations, facility operations, and processing. Operations (windrowing, aerating, screening, blending, storage, grinding) to be limited to under the roof structure during winter months need to be clarified. Also, are winter/wet weather operations to be defined by calendar month or by individual storm events.

3. MATERIAL VOLUME

- a) Page 2-11, average daily feedstock volume will be 200 tpd.

It is my understanding the compost pad is designed to accommodate an average daily throughput of 200 tpd material (feedstock, additives, and amendments). The facility is currently permitted to accept a total of 50,000 tons of feedstock per year. With the proposed auxiliary area included what is the design capacity for all material at the facility? Also, if the auxiliary storage area is outside the permitted facility boundary and is described as part of the project should the facility boundary be adjusted to include the auxiliary area?

4. ODOR CONTROL

- a) Page 3-31, inversions and winds blowing toward the northwest (page 3-27) most commonly occur during the winter months. Composting odor can be controlled at the source by implementing best management practices and good processing control. These include **prompt and thorough processing** of incoming feedstock. On page 3-13, ESA notes during December inspection, "in the area in front of the roof structure, ESA observed ruts apparently caused by vehicles and heavy equipment across the pad. ESA observed that some of the ruts were filled with water and saturated manure or compost. In places, this material was four to six inches deep, and had a **strong odor.**"

Does ESA consider static pile composting to be prompt and thorough processing? Also, in the event winter operations outside the roof structure cause ponding and rutting, and the compost pad is nutrient rich from summer operations, what is the mitigation for possible odors from the ponded liquid?

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

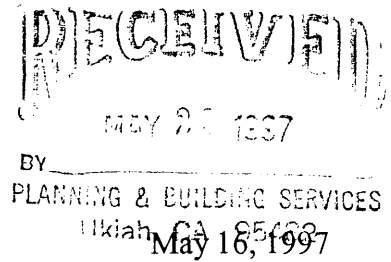
- a) Page 3-52, amendments and additives may include wood ash, lime..... Page 3-11,


lime and wood ash are of particular concern because of their extremely high pH. If storm water were to contact lime or ash..... The run off would have a high pH, which would be hazardous to humans, wildlife, and aquatic organisms.

Calcium hydroxide/hydrated lime: mildly toxic by ingestion. A severe eye irritant. Dust is considered to be a significant industrial hazard. (Dangerous Properties of Industrial Materials, Sax, 1989).

Please clarify what type of lime is to be used at the facility?

Mendocino County Water Agency
Memorandum



To: Pamela Townsend, Planning Department
From: Dennis Slota, MCWA 
Subject: U 26-93, Cold Creek Compost Draft EIR

Water Agency staff has reviewed the subject document and accompanied Dave Evans with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) on a site visit to the project this afternoon. We met Jim Guntly and Martin Milick at the site. The site exhibited very good house keeping, soil amendments were tarped and composting material was under the roof. I discussed the issue of quality control on the water quality samples and have assurance that additional samples will be collected by RWQCB staff as a verification system. This assurance alleviates several potential concerns.

Overall, this Draft EIR does a good job of describing the potential hydrologic and water contamination impacts of the project. Enclosed below are suggested modifications to protect ground and surface water from potential negative impacts.

The brewery waste water may not be a secure source of water. The preferred alternative for additional water, if needed, is the capture of winter runoff by ponds. The less desirable alternative is the use of riparian water rights on the East Fork Russian River and Cold Creek. The diversion of water from either the East Fork Russian River or Cold Creek should be limited to those times when flows in the East Fork Russian River equal or exceed 200 cfs. This requirement will reduce the impact to riverine resources during periods of drought or very low flow. Also, any diversions should be properly screened according to current Fish & Game regulations.

The leachate tank should have a secondary containment structure sufficient to hold the entire contents of the tank. The secondary containment structure should also be structurally sound to withstand the pressure of a catastrophic tank failure in which the entire tank contents are suddenly emptied, as for example during toppling in an earthquake. There are some site constraints at the leachate tank due to the access road. An acceptable method of containment could be a drain around the tank that empties into a containment pond outside the access road. Also, provisions to prevent overflows from the leachate tank during storm conditions should be identified.

The most likely source of leachate runoff will be from between rows of tarped compost (or compost amendments) on the compost pad during winter operation. The ideal solution will be the construction of a concrete pad with a roof. The applicant states that this is the desired final condition. Meanwhile, the potential stormwater runoff contamination issue should be closely monitored to determine the level of significance. If the stormwater samples indicate a contamination problem, additional measures must be taken to control the runoff.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. Please contact this office at (707) 463-4589, if there are any questions or concerns regarding these comments.

cc: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, Route File

**FAX TRANSMITTAL
SHEET 1 OF 2**

R. V. PARKER, ACTING DIRECTOR

Ex-Officio
Road Commissioner
County Engineer



**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

UKIAH, CALIFORNIA 95482
(707) 463-4363
FAX (707) 463-5474


27 May 1997

FAX TRANSMITTAL ONLY
 COPY IN MAIL

DIVISIONS

Administration & Business
Airports
Engineering and Technical Assistance
Land Improvement
Transportation/Roads

TO: Alan Falleri, Chief Planner
Department of Planning and Building Services

FROM: Stanley Townsend, Deputy Director 
Department of Public Works

SUBJECT: USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. U 26-93 (GUNTLY)
PROJECT COORDINATOR --- PAMELA TOWNSEND

We have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the above referenced project, dated 7 April 1997, prepared by Environmental Science Associates (ESA) and received under cover of your NOTICE dated 11 April 1997. We offer the following comments for your consideration.

1. In our 31 January 1997 memorandum we commented on traffic issues based by the Revised Notice of Preparation which anticipated a substantial increase in traffic levels. In our 4 March 1997 memorandum we expanded on these comments based on the Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Report (ADEIR). We bring both of these memorandums to your attention.
2. Because the *existing* project access road approach onto East Side Potter Valley Road was designed, evaluated and the constructed based on lower proposed traffic volumes, in our 4 March 1997 memorandum we recommended that an engineer's evaluation be provided addressing the adequacy of the approach. The DEIR addresses the existing approach, but stops short of providing such an evaluation. The DEIR (page 3-64) states:

[T]he addition of project trips would increase interaction between project traffic and other motor vehicles on project *[sic]* roadways at this location, and thus would increase the potential for conflicts. However, project-generated trips would not be expected to result in a significant increase in the potential for accidents.

We believe that the intent of the preparer was to address the potential for interaction on the public roadway, not on project roadways as stated. We continue to recommend that the adequacy of the existing approach be *specifically* addressed by the Professional Traffic Engineer. See item 5 below.

3. Because the *future* (after bridge replacement) project access road approach onto East Side Potter Valley Road was being designed based on lower proposed traffic volumes, in our 4 March 1997 memorandum we recommended that the preparer of the traffic analysis coordinate with the engineer performing design services for the planned bridge replacement to allow the preparer to perform an analysis of the proposed approach to assess the

**FAX TRANSMITTAL
SHEET 2 OF 2**

feasibility of designing and constructing an approach capable of safely accommodating the increased volumes. In response, the DEIR (page 3-64) states:

Aspects of the proposed project (e.g., number of truck trips and types of trucks) are being taken into account in the design of the realignment/bridge replacement project, including the placement and design of the compost facility access road connection to the realigned Potter Valley Road (Rockway, 1997).

"Rockway" is identified as Chris Rockway, the County's bridge design consultant. With assurance of professional evaluation (see item 5 below), this statement will satisfy our concerns regarding the design of the future road approach.

4. The DEIR (Impact 3.6.3) identifies the potential for vehicles parked along the County Road to interfere with queuing of inbound trucks, and recommends mitigation measure 3.6.3:

Post "No Parking" signs on northbound approach to the project access road on Potter Valley Road (east shoulder of roadway).

Note that (based on consultation with County Counsel) such parking restriction will require an amendment to Chapter 15.12 of the Mendocino County Code.

5. In our 4 March 1997 memorandum we commented that the traffic engineering qualifications of the ADEIR preparer were not indicated, and there was no traffic study to backup the conclusions made. In the DEIR the preparers of the traffic section are identified and include Jack Hutchison, a Professional Traffic Engineer, but no signature or seal appears. We have recommended an evaluation (item 2 above) and evidence of coordination (item 3 above), both critical to the decision on certification of this EIR. In our opinion the information requested constitutes a "report" in the context of Business and Professions Code §6735, necessitating the signature and seal of the professional preparer. We strongly recommend that the requested evaluation and statement regarding coordination be provided (either within the EIR or as an accompanying document) under the signature and seal of the appropriate professional.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact me at your convenience.

cc: Charles Guntly
Martin Milleck
Paul Miller, ESA
U 26-93 File

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State of Cal

To	Pam Townsend	From	Tess Albin
Co.	Mendo Co Planning	Co.	SMITH CDF
Dept.		Phone #	707 964-5674
Fax #	463-5709	Fax #	964-0941

The Resources Agency

Bradley

Memorandum

To: G1
Coast-Cascade Region

Date: April 23, 1997

R46

Telephone: (916) 657-0300
CALNET 437-0300

Attention: Environmental Coordinator
Mendocino Ranger Unit

From: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Subject: 5300 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Environmental Document Review

Name: Use Permit for Cold Creek Compost Facility
County: Mendocino
Type: Drft EIR
SCH # 96032033
DUE DATE: 5/23/97

The above referenced environmental document is attached for your review and comment. Please note the day on which comments are due back to me. If you will be unable to complete your review by that time, please contact me at least seven days before that date so I can request an extension of the review period.

() Commented or consulted with local government.

() Comments attached.

If you have comments, attach them using DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY letterhead.

(X) No Comment

If you have NO COMMENT, explain briefly on the lines below or use the back of this form.

4290 Fire Clearance discussed as approved. Conversion to non-agricultural uses of 3.5 acres may need county approval. No timberland jurisdiction for CDF other than end-use of trees removed. (Firewood?)

Name of Reviewer: Tess Albin-Smith

Phone: (707) 964-5674 ext 115

Forester
RPF # 2150

Allen S. Robertson
Environmental Coordinator

tb
Attachment



MENDOCINO EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY
175 SOUTH SCHOOL STREET #175 UKIAH, CALIFORNIA 95482
TELEPHONE: (707) 463-5630 FAX: (707) 467-2504 EMAIL: mesaofc@pacific.net

DATE: 15 May 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services

FROM: Rick Paige, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Cold Creek Compost, Inc. Case U 26-93

Applicant Martin Mileck, Cold Creek Compost, Inc. has requested a permit to establish a mixed solid waste composting site. I have reviewed the comments furnished and made a preliminary map study of the area. There are major areas of concern which would lead me to recommend that the site and project NOT be approved, unless significant mitigation measures are taken. Items to be addressed include:

GEOLOGY: Based upon the information provided on the Mendocino County Hazard Map, the site is located immediately North of an unnamed earthquake fault which runs immediately adjacent to, and parallel with Silver Creek. Adjoining sections are also listed as landslide hazards. This would indicate that the site is located on or near a geologically unstable area which poses potential hazards to the facilities and the composting storage area (particularly the potential for liquefaction of the compost and the resulting slide into a water way).

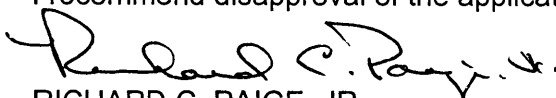
LOCATION: The site is located immediately up stream of a major water source for the general population (Russian River and Lake Mendocino). Heavy rains can produce run off which could carry matter from the compost site into the main water source for the area. The concentrated levels of contaminants could pose a significant health hazard. Common lore teaches that you never put your garbage or waste up stream of your living site.

Use of levees or other containment devices is not adequate as was demonstrated in San Mateo County at the Browning-Farris Industries site near Half Moon Bay. This site had a retaining dam which collapsed after winter rains and flooded/mudded out SR 92 and destroyed several businesses more than a mile away.

RECOMMENDATION: Unless the applicant can prove:

1. That the area is geologically stable, or
2. That the facilities are constructed to withstand a significant earthquake on the immediately adjoining fault and/or the other faults located within five miles of the proposed site, and,
3. The site can contain its contents and eliminate contaminated run-off under any adverse conditions

I recommend disapproval of the application.


RICHARD C. PAIGE, JR.
Executive Director

RECEIVED
MAY 16 1997
BY _____
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
Ukiah, CA 95482

PUBLIC COMMENTS

**COLD CREEK RANCH
5010 Highway 20
Ukiah, CA 95482**

RECEIVED

JUN 04 1997

BY _____
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
Ukiah, CA 95482

June 2, 1997

Planning Commission
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Rd.
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Commission Members:

I am the owner of the property where the Cold Creek Compost is located. As a long time Potter Valley resident, we would like you to know that we are just as concerned about the environment as anyone else in the community. In the beginning I also had many concerns about the operation of the facility. I am now satisfied that this facility has done everything possible to correct any problems that have come up during their growth process.

We believe the county should be pleased to have such a fine composting facility right in the center of this agriculture area. The benefit of this facility is they are able to use all of the waste material that otherwise would be filling the local landfills.

In regard to the smell, the process in which the compost goes through creates very little odor. Also, because of the upgrading of the old quarry road, we have alleviated several problem areas on the road by constructing culverts. This is a much needed benefit for the environment by improving the land erosion that would have washed into the Russian River.

I hope the commission can see the benefits of this composting facility. The benefits to the environment definitely outweigh any other concern.

Sincerely,

Charles C Guntly

Charles Guntly

TO: Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1440
Ukiah, CA 95482

PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: Case No. U 26-93, Mileck Regional Solid Waste Facility, aka "Cold Creek Compost"

We object to approval of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on the above-numbered project and we object to the project itself. The DEIR relies upon incomplete, erroneous, misleading, and deliberately deceptive information with regard to historic and present fact, CEQA, Court and other legal mandates. The DEIR fails to accurately list or describe project alternatives including NO PROJECT, misstates and underestimates significance of adverse impacts, and fails to analyze significant unmitigatable adverse impacts on the environment from this project, including but NOT LIMITED to:

1. Toxicity and pathogenicity of materials transported, stored and handled in mass volume. Due to unique sensitivity of site and road to site above the Russian River, the water source for one half million people in three counties, materials should be analyzed alone, in combination with other materials, and in combination with water. Materials with potential for contamination of air and water include but are not limited to raw animal waste, street sweepings, winery waste, brewery "activated sludge waste," lime, gypsum, human sewage sludge, and the boiler and scrubber ash from the Masonite Corporation, and all other materials.
2. Visual impacts of large turquoise reflective metallic structure placed in a formerly pristine, natural setting. Prior to project, this site was an oak-forested mountaintop. With described expansion this will be one of the largest industrial structure complexes in Mendocino County. Because of its position on a mountain top and because of its incompatibility with all surrounding land uses, this presents significant visual degradation affecting residents and visitors up to 15 miles away. During afternoon hours, the reflective metal structure produces a blinding glare visible to thousands of residents and visitors to greater Potter Valley.
3. Visual, noise, water quality, and air quality impacts of illegally bladed road to project, including hillside slicing, debris dumped into Russian River, removal of natural vegetation on east bank of River, erosion, and cumulative visual degradation of a natural riparian and rural-forest setting.
4. Geology, topography and seismology of site, including but not limited to ridgetop location, steepness of slope and approach, porosity of shale formation, stability, potential for earthquake (estimated at 100% in Conway Report), erosion, compaction, and soil productivity impacts from site and road excavation, and off-site development.
5. Impacts on air, water, soil, wildlife, aquatic life, and humans from proposed land-spreading of industrial petroleum waste ash, greenwaste, brewery "waste-activated sludge," human sewage, and other substances disposed off by land-spreading off-site.
6. Traffic impacts, including impacts of 80 big rig truck trips per day-- a 25% increase in cumulative truck traffic--on safety and serenity of residents, visitors and users of the McKee County Park.
7. Site-specific and cumulative Impacts of site, road to site, and off-site operations on birds, fish and wildlife, including Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive species, and other proposed-listed and unique species.
8. Site-specific and cumulative impacts of removal of native vegetation, including old growth oak and other vegetation on site, on road to site and at off-site operations.
9. Air quality impacts from transport, dumping, and turning of waste materials, including dust, stench, diesel fumes, spillage, and air and windborne particulates and pathogens on site, on road to site, and within a five-mile radius of site. Residences lie within one-quarter AIR mile of site, and only a few hundred feet from road to site. Ridgetop topography will cause winds to carry pathogens, odor and particulates far into the Potter Valley, affecting hundreds of residents to the north, west, east, and south of project.
10. Noise, including truck, equipment, and grinder operation on site, on road to site, and at offsite operations to residences as close a one-quarter AIR mile and visitors to the McKee County Park.
11. Public health impacts, including pathogenic contamination of air and water generated by transport and storage of huge volume of waste material, including but not limited to aflatoxin (aspergillus), salmonella, e. coli and other contaminants, on residents as close as one-quarter AIR mile and as far as five miles from site, and users of McKee County Park.

12. Public health impacts from heavy metals, dioxins, furans, benzene and other carcinogenic and toxic substances found in Masonite boiler and scrubber ash. Masonite ash is not "wood ash," but is the end product of burning millions of gallons of petroleum waste products such as "Fuel Oil #6 and recycled motor oil, as well as remnants of Masonite's own toxic glueboard.
13. Public health impacts from carcinogens and toxins contained in treated sewage sludge, including but not limited to pathogens including salmonella and e.coli, heavy metals, and radioactive hospital waste.
14. Impacts of illegally pumping up to 21,000 gallons per day of water from the Russian River and/or Cold Creek. Neither project nor landowner has legal right to pump and/or transport water to a leased commercial enterprise more than two miles from source; nor does landowner possess rights to water from the Russian River.
15. Fire hazard from lack of on-site water source.
16. Air quality and public health impacts from inability to properly handle and moisten materials due to lack of on-site water source.
17. Spread of contaminants by vectors to wildlife, domestic livestock, and human residents from one-quarter AIR mile to 15 miles distant.
18. Impact of spread of contaminants, toxins and pathogens through marketing of toxic ingredients in "mulch" and "compost." Failure to label contaminants, heavy metals, and sewage sludge on materials sold as safe for food production.
19. Impacts of non-permitted storage of waste materials far beyond perimeters of 10-acre compost pad, including storage of brewery "waste-activated sludge," yard waste, lime, gypsum, Masonite ash and other materials stored over 1800 feet from site.
20. Odor, public health, and other impacts of "static-pile" composting, i.e., failure to turn and moisten raw materials.
21. Noise, traffic, public health, odor, and cumulative impacts from expanding hours of operation from 13 hours per day to 24 hours per day, including unannounced night operations at project's discretion.
22. Incompatibility of project's industrial use with surrounding land uses including rural residential, recreational (McKee County Park and the Mendocino National Forest), and its own previous zoning as Agricultural Preserve.
23. Archaeological, historical and cultural impacts.
24. Responsibility for monitoring of water quality, air quality, odor, and public health, and the public's right to know under the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. Responsibility for clean-up of potentially toxic spillage and contamination on site, on road to site and at off-site operations.
25. Impacts on recreational uses of the McKee County Park, including noise, dust, visual degradation, public health impacts of potential air and water contamination, reduced parking and access, and incursion of industrial operation and traffic into formerly serene riparian public Park.
26. Cumulative impacts on water quality, including degradation of the source of water of one half million humans served by water from the Russian River adjacent to and below this project.
27. Cumulative impacts on air quality from generation of particulates, dust, odor and diesel fumes.
28. Cumulative impacts of project including but not limited to impacts of importation of waste into Mendocino County from six or more other counties, degradation of environment and quality of life to residents of Potter Valley, a community of 5,000 people from waste-truck traffic, odors, visual degradation, wildlife impacts, and other cumulative impacts.
29. DEIR contemptuously proposes mitigations which are ineffectual and/or which exacerbate significant adverse impacts, e.g., eliminating parking along McKee Park, and posting a "windsock" at compost site as "mitigation" of air quality impacts.
30. DEIR fails to accurately list or describe or offer alternatives to project including NO PROJECT. DEIR falsely describes NO PROJECT as existing project without permit, in contempt of CEQA. NO PROJECT means restoration of site, road to site and off-site operations to pre-project conditions of undisturbed natural oak forest, meadowland, and riparian landscape.

We request that this letter in its entirety be included as Comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report and that all Comment be addressed and incorporated into the final Environmental Impact Report.

DATE: June 3, 1997

FROM: Richard & Pattie Gardner
PO Box 25 11777 East Road
Potter Valley CA 95469

RECEIVED
JUN 04 1997
BY

DATE: 6/2/97

FROM: Lynne & Bob Browne
P.O. Box 377
PVCA 95469

RECEIVED
JUN 02 1997
BY
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES

DATE: June 2

FROM: Mart Scaramella
PO Box 672
Boonville CA 95415

RECEIVED
JUN 02 1997
BY
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
11kiah, CA 95482

DATE: June 2, 1997

FROM: Jeannie L Canevari
Box 71
Potter Valley CA 95469

RECEIVED
JUN 04 1997
BY
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
11kiah, CA 95482

DATE: 6-3-97

FROM: Elizabeth Raybee & Robert Taxin
12773 Pine Ave
P.V. CA 95469

RECEIVED
JUN 04 1997
BY
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES

DATE: JUNE 4, 1997

FROM: TERRY & DELAMY RYAN
6451 W. HORSESHOE CIRCLE
UKIAH, CA 95482

DATE: 6-4-97

FROM: Chrissy Dadds
208. S. State

DATE: 6-4-97

FROM: DAVID POMA
504 CAPPS LANE
UKIAH, CA, 95482

DATE: 6-4-97

FROM: BRUCE POMA
204 No. BUSH ST.
UKIAH, CA, 95482

DATE: JUNE 3, 1997

FROM: ANNA CZUPRINSKI
P.O. Box 104
Redwood VALLEY, CA. 95482

DATE: 5/2/97

FROM: RICHARD A THILL
7030 POTTER VALLEY RD
UKIAH CA. 95482

DATE: 6/3/97

FROM: Vicki Larsen
1620 MADRONE
UKIAH, CA 95482

DATE: 6-3-97

FROM: Donald C. Allen
722 Myron St
UKIAH, CA 95422

DATE: 6-4-97

FROM: Michael A. Spencer
1280 YOKA St
UKIAH, CA 95482

DATE: June 04, 1997

FROM: Gilbert & JEAN Trujillo
6850 POTTER VALLEY Rd
POTTER VALLEY CA 95469-0514

DATE: 6-4-97

FROM: Ray Trujillo
9420 W Rd
POTTER VLY, CA 95469

DATE: 6.3.97

FROM: Lisa Beamer
11021 Beaman Lane
Potter Valley, CA 95469

TO: Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building

DATE: June 4, 1997

FROM: DAWN SEWFTEN
153 GIORDO AVE
UKIAH, CA 95482

DATE: 6-4-97

FROM: CURT LYON
2100 ROBINSON CR RD
UKIAH

DATE: 6/3/97

FROM: Pierre Houli & Jill Forsythe
7400 PATER VALLEY RD
UKIAH CA 95482

FROM: Lorraine Mathews

JUN-04-97 11:45 AM BEVERLY SANDERS REALTY 707 743+1104
UKIAH, CA 95482

The Howland Agency
Fax 707-468-0910 Phone 707-468-5342
419 Talmage Rd. Suite C Ukiah Ca. 95482

RECEIVED
JUN 05 1997
BY _____
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
Ukiah, CA 95482

Date: 6/4/97

Time: 1600

To: Planning Commissioners
County of Mendocino

Fm: Richard Howland

Re: Cold Creek Compost, Inc.

I favor full licensing of this project without further delay. It is my opinion that Cold Creek has shown they are ready willing and able to comply to all (normal, conforming) mitigations within reason.

The area chosen for the composting process is one of the best sites available. It is my personal opinion and that of many of my friends and colleagues that the Guntleys are honest and capable stewards of the property concerned. They care about this county and about the people surrounding their project. (it should be noted that no one lives at or near the compost site)

My letter has a two fold purpose. One, to give my encouragement to you the commission for approval of this process without further delay and to advise you, of facts that I am sure you are already aware.

There have been two recent court cases, (state and federal) that has held if an entity, in this case the County of Mendocino, deprives a citizen of their ability to operate their business on their land, that entity could and should be held responsible for costs, damages, and loss of future income. Commissioners, while we were all working, the tide has turned. The laws are now being interpreted more "Constitutionally" than before, especially when it comes to personal property rights.

Having set on the Planning Commission for the City of Ukiah, I am aware of the many challenges that commissions face, from hearings to E I R's and back again. But being somewhat comfortable with the process I can see that there is no overwhelming reason, legal or otherwise to stop or hinder this project any further. The draft E I R lists few mitigations with the note that there are no "adverse" impacts that cannot be mitigated. Your prompt approval would seem to be warranted for this project at this point in time without any major delays.

I thank you for your time and I ask you to remember that composting is a must for this country, and this community. It is what has to be done, and the longer we (you) delay the larger the problem. We are all a part of this country. Another persons problem is our problem. It makes little difference that composting comprises waste material from other locations outside Mendocino County. We are all in this together.

JOHN MAYFIELD, Jr.
P.O. Box 1460
Willits, California 95490

RECEIVED
JUN 05 1997

BY _____
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
Ukiah, CA 95482

June 4, 1997

Tom Piper, Member
Planning Commission
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road, Rm. 1440
Ukiah, CA 95482
Fax: 463-5709

Re: Cold Creek Compost Application

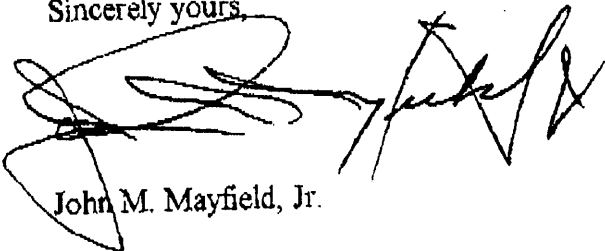
Dear Mr. Piper:

It is important that this compost facility which is scheduled for hearing on June 5 be approved and permits be issued so that it can continue to operate. This facility provides a much needed composting operation for the greater Eastern half of Mendocino County.

I recognize there has been much controversy and allegations made by people opposed to this project. In reading the public documents with regard to this application, I have found that most of the allegations and charges are not substantive but are the usual flack that any project attracts from the same group who opposes any progressive or new projects in Mendocino County.

I urge your favorable consideration and affirmative action regarding this proposal.

Sincerely yours,



John M. Mayfield, Jr.

JMM:lsa

**RECEIVED**

JUN 05 1997

BY _____
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
Ukiah, CA 95482P.O. Box 1329
Laytonville, CA 95454
(707) 984-6522

June 4, 1997

Planning Commission
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1440
Ukiah, CA 95482
FAX 707 463 5709

RE: Cold Creek Compost, Inc.

Gentle people:

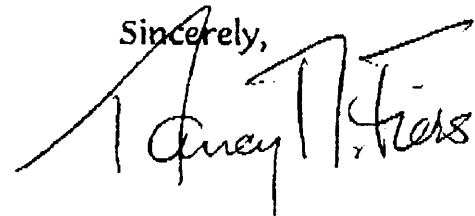
I understand that there is opposition to the composting facility operated by Martin Mileck as Cold Creek Composting. We have been buying our growing media from them for the past few years, and are very pleased with the quality of their product and their close location. We had been bringing our media in from Sonoma County, adding considerable cost to the nursery.

We are a small specialty nursery, propagating, growing and mail-order selling Japanese Maples. We provide jobs for 4 people full time and are a growing business. Our business was created because we wanted to live and work in this beautiful remote location, and we have received wonderful support from the business community, including West Company and Mendocino Private Industry Council. It is however difficult at times to do business here. We have struggled through the problems of getting PG & E to provide service, and now learn that the county is trying to close down the only reliable provider of soiless growing media available to us locally. PLEASE consider the difficulty you will be causing a growing horticulture industry, not to mention the jobs and money you will be sending out of the county.

Please know that I consider myself an environmentalist, and do not wish you to OK any project that will harm the water or cause other environmental problems. If this is simply a NIMBY problem, however, I ask that you put the greater good of the community ahead of individual concerns. No one will want this project in their back yard., and we will lose another local business. We need to compost the yard and farm wastes and get them out of the land fills, and we need a good supply of compost for local farmers, nurseries and gardeners.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy N. Fiers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "N".

Nancy N. Fiers

cc: Martin Mileck @ Cold Creek Compost

RECEIVED

Walter M. Smith
12301 Power House Rd.
Potter Valley, CA 95469

JUN 04 1997

June 2, 1997

BY
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
Ukiah, CA 95482

Mendocino Co. Dept of Planning & Bldg.
501 Low Gap Rd. Rm. 1440
Ukiah, Co. 95482.

Re: Case # U-26-93 Melick Regional Solid Wast.

Sirs:

I would like to go on record as
being in favor of letting Martin Melick
Cold Creek Compost Inc. continue his
Compost business without further delay.
I cannot see where it is harmful
in any way and what could be
more beneficial to our environment
than to be able to dispose of this
waste? I am so exasperated with
all of these protestors. Mendocino County
needs more businesses.

Walter M. Smith



June 3, 1997

BUILDING PRODUCTS
300 FORD ROAD
UKIAH CA 95482
PHONE 707 462 2961
FAX 707 462 9348

Planning Commission
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1440
Ukiah, CA 95482

RECEIVED
JUN 04 1997

BY _____
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES

RE: Cold Creek Compost, Inc. Draft EIR Ukiah, CA 95482

This letter is to express support for continued operation of the Cold Creek Compost facility located in Potter Valley. As we understand it, the facility is undergoing review of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) submitted in conjunction with their operating permit.

Cold Creek produces an agricultural product to meet specific needs of it's customers by utilizing what would otherwise be waste materials. This process is beneficial in several ways. First, it is an efficient method of providing needed nutrients without the use of purchased chemicals being put into the environment. Secondly, the material helps to establish a good soil base for plant growth while replacing depleted minerals from previous crops. Third, and most importantly, the materials used in the compost process would otherwise take up valuable shrinking landfill space or require being hauled a great distance.

With industry, regulators, and private citizens calling for, and practicing, more environmental awareness, it is important to keep responsible recycling and reuse a priority. As landfills close and disposal options diminish, recycling and composting otherwise nonhazardous materials makes more sense than ever for the economy and environment. Having visited the Cold Creek Compost site, I feel that the facility has been operated in a responsible manner and encourage your approval of the EIR.

Sincerely,

MASONITE CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Robert A. Scaglione'.

Robert A. Scaglione
Environmental Engineer

cc: Michael Delbar - County Board of Supervisors
Martin Mileck - Cold Creek Compost

June 3rd, 1997

RECEIVED

①

JUN 04 1997

BY
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES

Dear Mendocino County Department of Planning & Building
RE: Case No. U 26-93, Milek Regional Solid Waste Fac.

★ We live directly across from this proposed project
our address is 7030 Potter Valley Rd. As I
am sure "Milek" will make its case - I would
like to show you a "Human" side, that is I
~~have~~ no monetary gains in making my case.

I am no environmentalist, just a mom,
concerned for the health and safety of my
children. Its not just a matter of Smell or Scenery.

Living on top of a hillside - I know first hand
how hard the wind blows. This concerns me
about the horrible type of wastes now proposed
to be dumped at the Milek site. (I dumped
3 yards of Compost on my land for a garden
site - I couldn't get to it for a week - and most
of it blew away.) You should be aware
that most of the land around here is Solid
Rock and Clay - you can't mix wastes into
it. We have found ^(previously planted in the McKee Park) Pheasants on our
property that originated from the McKee Park (Milek)
area - wildlife from there - travels over
here - they are going to bring the →

RECEIVED

JUN 04 1987

BY
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
MILICK, CA 95885

2

e. coli bacteria from human waste, salmonella, and lots of other disease to our animals and then to ^{our} children. If you allow that waste to be dumped there.

(Health)

Water runs off land like ours - and the toxic dump run off will contaminate

Our water source. (we are on a community well)

that like most are near the creek) Our children swim in the creek, we fish there too!

Please, don't let this happen! During the

summer the creek goes as low as 2 feet - how

can you allow Milick to pump up to 21,000

gallons of water per day? - We can't pump

any water out of the creek - how can they?

Only one "big rig" truck is so noisy - because

it has to use "jig" Air Brakes" all the way down

- the descending drive way slope. The proposed 80

truck trips per day - would be like living

next to a perpetual highway accident.

Not only that, but the trucks slam their

bed trailers constantly, at the bottom of

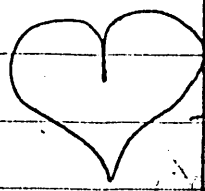
the drive - as to empty any extra waste so

it doesn't fly out on the road.

Speaking of Pottin Valley Rd. - Our family has seen so many (and helped so many) victims of accidents - who because of the gravel brought up by the big rig trucks onto Pottin Valley Rd. - didn't make the sharp corner and rolled off the side of the road and even the bridge! When the big rig trucks have to turn into the driveway for this site - they often cross over the line into oncoming traffic - I have even had to veer off the road to the right to avoid hitting a truck head on.

Surely there must be a more remote area to dump, raw animal waste, human sewage sludge and toxic Masonite substances. We moved here for peace and quiet - this was to be a healing place. I have a disease called Endometriosis that is directly related to "Dioxins" ^{and activated by ?} a product found in Masonite's products. I have had ~~two~~ major surgeries in the last year, and don't have any more disposable organs - so it's imperative that I live healthy - my environment, water etc. Please, please, please don't let them →

contaminate our home, and risk the health and safety of our children.



I will pray that you are given the courage to stand up for Human Rights and represent the local residents.

If you just can not get out of this bad situation, can you please make a clause that "Mileck" has to purchase our property

★ so we can move somewhere else?

Please make this a Win/Win proposition, if Mileck can profit from this let him use some of that money to release those of us who can not afford to pay for his project in a physical way - with our lives.

Sincerely

Janine Thill

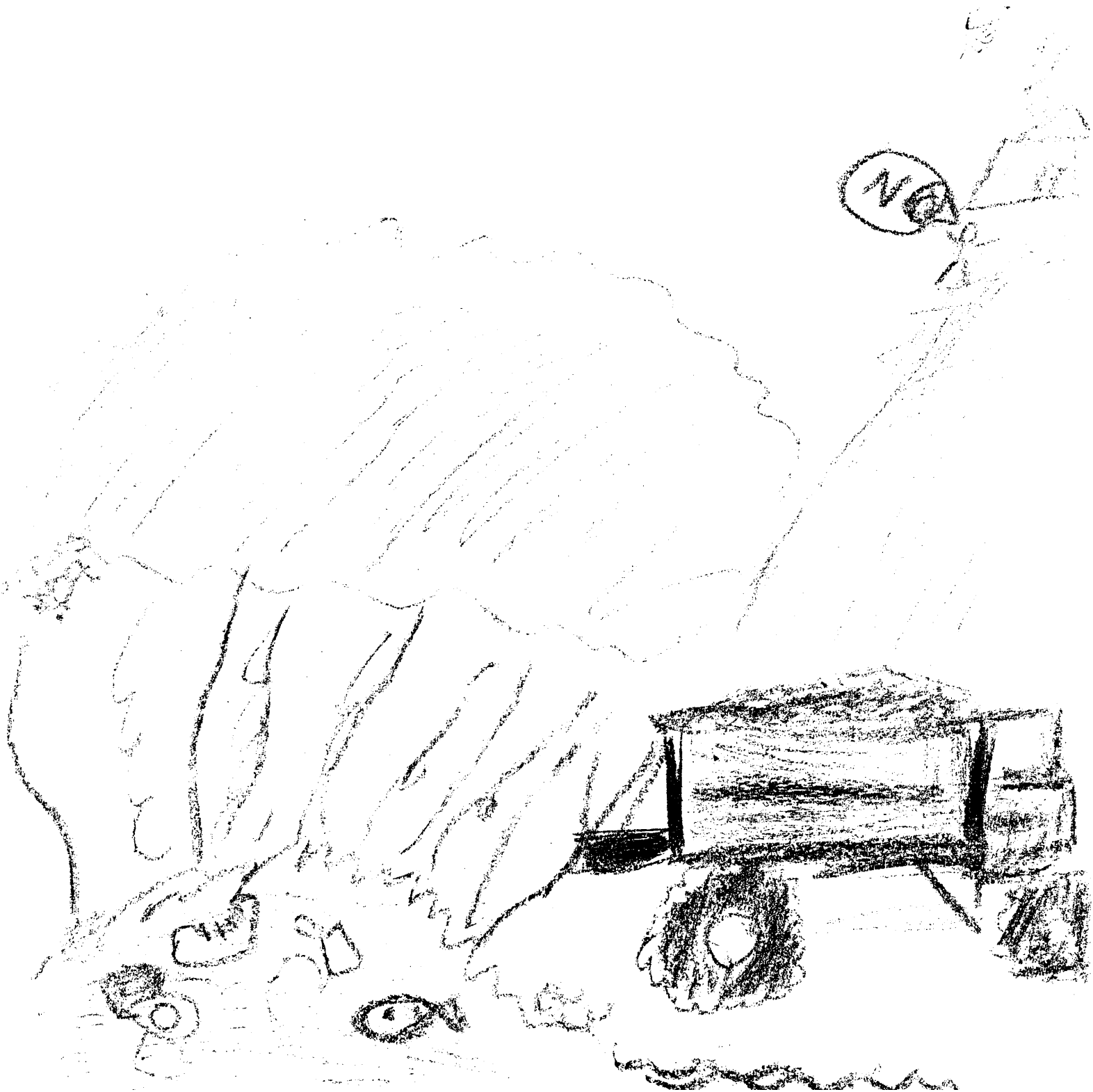
7030 Potter Valley Rd.

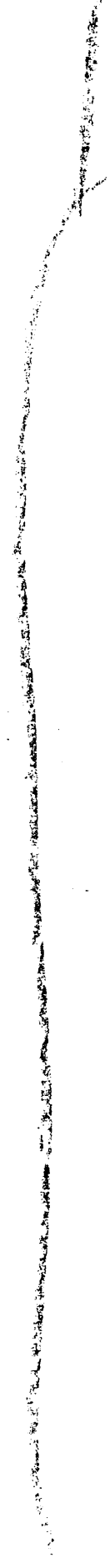
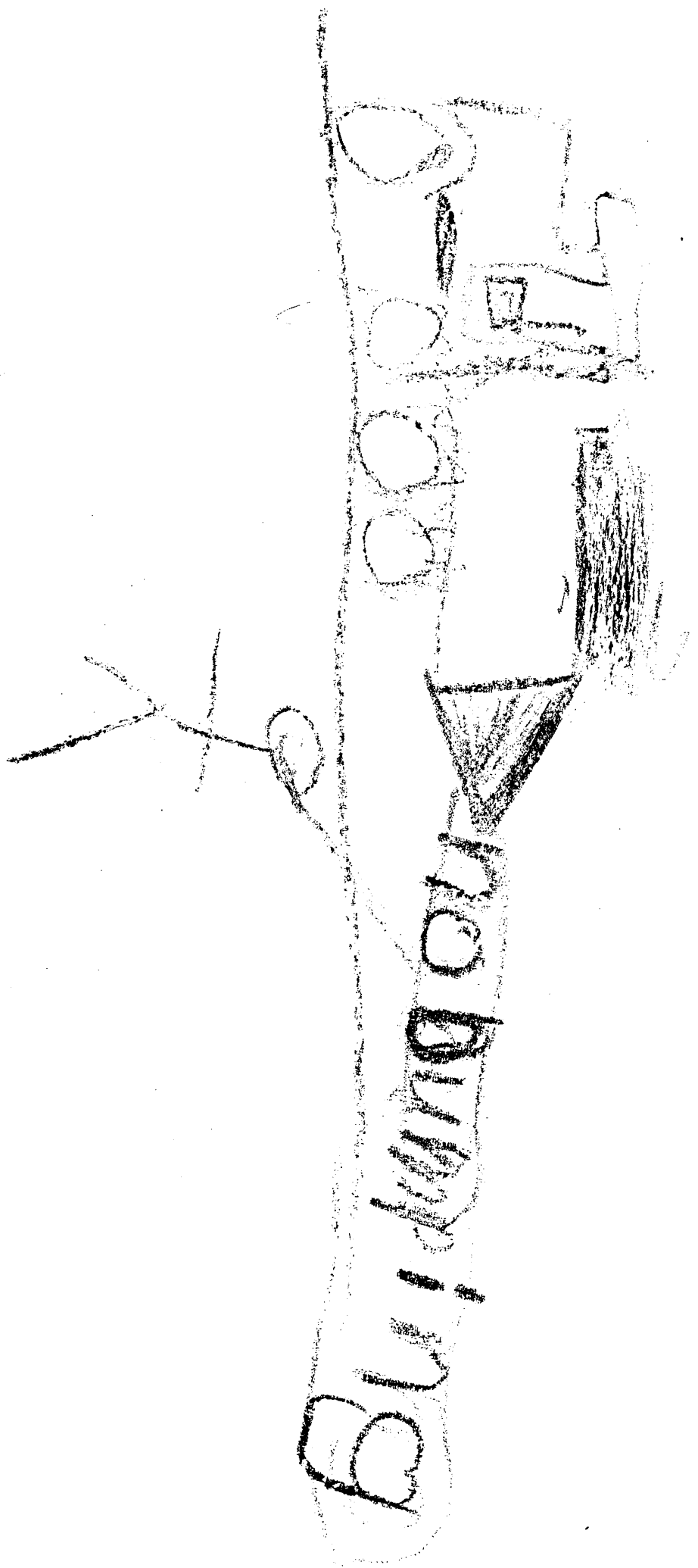
Ukiah, Ca 95482

(707) 743-1636

Grape leaves are One thing, Toxic Sewage is Another!

PLEASE
NO Dump!





157015111
JUN 1 1997
157015111

RB 656
Laytonville, CA
95454
28 May 1997

Dept. of Planning & Building
501 Low Gap Road Room 1440
 Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Case # U26-93 Milick Regional Solid Waste Facility
aka Cold Creek Compost

I am a longtime Mendocino county resident and property owner. I am writing to strongly oppose the Milick / Cold Creek Compost facility & urge you to immediately shut down this menace to our county.

This operation is operating without legal permits & impacting its neighbors, & possibly shoring down prices, adversely. It is too large for its present location & should not be allowed to bring in waste from 5 other counties.

The dust etc, furthermore, does not address serious environmental impacts of toxicity, odor, pathogenicity, noise, & visual aesthetics.

I also object to spending taxpayers money to rebuild an historic bridge / parkway / road to service this private outfit.

This operation is a blight to the integrity of all that surrounds it.

Please help protect us from this menace & keep Potter Valley from being destroyed. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Patricia Kovner
PATRICIA KOVNER

MENDOCINO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
AND BUILDING SERVICES
501 LOW GAP ROAD, ROOM 1440
UKIAH, CA 95482

ATTENTION; PAMELA TOWNSEND

RE; USE PERMIT #U 26-93 - COLD CREEK COMPOST FACILITY,
SCH# 96032033

AFTER READING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, THESE THOUGHTS CAME
TO MIND:

1. IN THE EVENT THAT TOO MUCH METAL CONTAMINATION IS FOUND -
WHAT IS THE MITIGATING PROCEDURE?
2. DOMESTIC WATER WELLS ARE OMITTED FROM THE MAP. THERE ARE THREE
IMMEDIATELY WEST OF THE BRIDGE - NOT JUST ONE, AND THERE IS ONE
SEVERAL HUNDRED FEET EAST OF THE BRIDGE. WHY WERE THESE
OMITTED?
3. IF ONE WATER TRUCK IS USED TO CARRY CONTAMINATED WATER TO WIND-
ROWS, AS WELL AS DUST CONTROL, DOES THIS POSE A RISK OF
CONTAMINATION?
4. AS A POSSIBLE MITIGATION OF AIR BORN POLLUTANTS HAS A BAND OF
TALL TREES BETWEEN THE FACILITY AND NEARBY RECEPTORS BEEN
CONSIDERED?

SIGVART HORNEMAN
6261 S. HORSESHOE CIRCLE
UKIAH, CA 95482
PHONE/FAX 485-0424

Ceāgo Vineyards
Post Office Box 309
Calpella, CA 95418-0309
Accounting Office (707) 485-1293/FAX: (707) 485-0635
Vineyard Office (707) 468-0377/FAX: (707) 468-1314

June 2, 1997

Planning Commission
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1440
Ukiah, CA 95482

SENT VIA FAX: (707) 463-5709

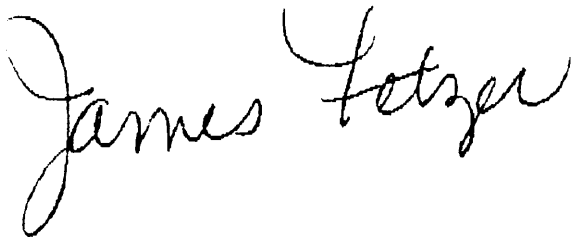
Dear County of Mendocino Planning Commission:

In regard to the composting performed by Cold Creek Compost, Inc. I personally feel there is a great need for this type of operation in Mendocino County in order to pursue a more environmentally friendly way of farming grapes. The Fetzer family currently farms 1,200 acres under organic conditions in which this type of compost replaces other synthetic fertilizers that are much more harmful to the environment and watershed areas.

I have personally visited the Cold Creek Compost operation on several occasions and was very impressed with their facilities. If you have any further questions regarding my use of organic composting materials that I purchase from Cold Creek Compost please do not hesitate to contact me at the address and telephone number listed above.

Sincerely,

Ceāgo Vineyards



James Fetzer
Owner

JF/drw

cc: Cold Creek Compost, Inc.

ODELL & ELIZABETH COMBEST
56350 Hill Road
Covelo, California 95428

June 2, 1997

Mendocino County Planning Commission
901 Low Gap Road, Room 1440
Ukiah, California 95482

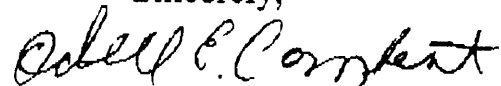
Re: Support for Approval of Martin Mileck's Cold Creek Compost Permits

Mr. Mileck has lived in Round Valley for approximately 10 years, dedicating himself to establishing M & M Feed, one of the very few bright spots in the valley's economy. He succeeded at building a business that is not only a significant employer in our valley, but also provides a much need farm supply resource. M & M Feed and its ancillary agricultural operations are well maintained and are a credit to Mr. Mileck's effort to be a good neighbor and a positive influence in our valley.

I am not as familiar with Mr. Mileck's Cold Creek Compost operation as I am with his business in Round Valley. However, I have seen the facilities in Potter Valley and Mr. Mileck is obviously running a professional, first-class operation - I wish we had it in Round Valley. Not only is he helping with the County's very serious waste disposal problem, but he is also generating a much needed organic soil additive that is of great benefit to our local agricultural industry. He is also generating much needed employment and revenue within Mendocino County.

I know Mr. Mileck to be a very responsible businessman and farmer. He is concerned with the environment and also with the need for jobs, a growing economy, and responsible waste management. I believe, considering all of these factors, you should reach a favorable decision for Cold Creek Compost.

Sincerely,



Odell E. Combest

BELLS ECHO

VINEYARDS

3 June 1997

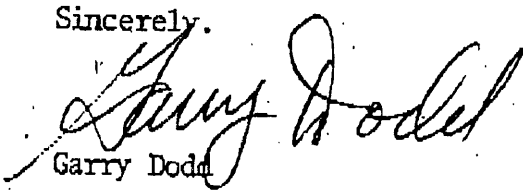
Planning Commission of Mendocino County
Via Fax 463 5709

Gentlemen:

I support Cold Creek Compost at the site where it is currently located. I cannot imagine a better site in this county.

I urge your support of this project. Further I hope that you and the other various government agencies can cooperate to facilitate this project.

Sincerely,


Garry Dodd

17651-A Van Arsdale Rd.
Potter Valley, CA 95469
May 27, 1997

Pamela Townsend
Mendocino County Planning Dept.
501 Low Gap Rd.
Ukiah, CA 95482

RECEIVED
JUN 02 1997
BY _____
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Ms. Townsend:

I am writing to you to express my concern regarding the Cold Creek Compost in Potter Valley, where I live. It has come to my attention that the facility exists for the purpose of collecting and containing "biosolids" (sewage), manure, "process water" and "fly ash." It certainly makes me ask the question, "Why is hazardous waste being shipped into my community?" I am skeptical that these types of materials are really safe for the environment and for compost used for growing food! I believe that the presence and potential leakage of these materials will be certain to degrade the local environment, including air quality, groundwater, the Russian River, wildlife, and, not to forget, the local residents of Potter Valley. In addition, I would like to know if the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) adequately addresses my above concerns.

I would also like to submit some alternative measures that can be taken. One possibility is decentralizing the "compost" by putting sites for collection in various locations. This will certainly relieve some of the impact. Another suggestion is to make the facility smaller, or even put it in a different place altogether, perhaps a place not so proximate to a main river and neighbors.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Grant

Warbonnet Rock Products
12901 Eel River Road
Potter Valley, CA 95469

June 1, 1997

Planning Commission
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Commission Members;

As a small business owner/operator, and long time member of the Potter Valley community, we would like to express our support for the Cold Creek Compost venture. It is our opinion they will provide a service and product for Potter Valley and the adjacent areas. Additionally, this enterprise provides an important benefit to the environment...responsible management and recycling of waste products.

We think the Cold Creek company is making a notable effort to create a viable operation which complies with todays stringent environmental standards. Likewise, they have spent valuable resources on a Draft Environmental Impact Report, to fulfill the information requests of the public and governing agencies.

Please consider the advantage of any competent business to our community, and the long term benefit to the environment, in your assessment of this new venture.

Sincerely,



Hank Oberfeld

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JUN 02 1997
BY
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
Ukiah, CA 95482

DALE McCULLEY . 7360 POTTER VALLEY RD. . UKIAH, CA 95482
Voice 707-743-1168 . fax 707-743-1903 . email cavideo@pacific.net

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BY PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
UKIAH, CA 95482

The following comments pertain to the DEIR on Case#U 26-93, an application by Martin Mileck, Cold Creek Compost, Inc., for a mixed solid waste composting facility permit.

1. 3.1.1. (Visual impact) It is significant that the pictures of the compost site with its metal roof were taken from two of the lowest spots in the nearby area. Had they been taken from the deck of my home, which is at approximately the same elevation as the compost facility, the roofed area, which is proposed to be enlarged, would be clearly visible. Why is it not feasible to paint this structure in tones of brown and/or green to minimize its industrial character?

2. 3.3.2 (odors) To speculate about potential odor problems resulting from an enlarged operation without a data base which includes future feedstocks, and varied combinations of feedstocks, is unscientific and blithely optimistic.

3. 3.3.3.(Aspergillus) Analysis of wind patterns at the site overlooks a significant weather phenomenon, heretofore highly prized by residents in the hills on the west side of the valley. At night, cooler air slides down the slopes and collects on the valley floor. When the morning sun warms this cold air, it expands and moves up the slopes, creating a pleasant morning breeze. The implications of this air movement in terms of both Aspergillus spores and odors are ominous. All night long the air surrounding the composting site will migrate downward to collect and concentrate on the valley floor, where it will remain until the heat of the sun drives it uphill to nearby residences. There is no indication in the DEIR that any tests have been done to evaluate this potential hazard to homeowners.

4. 3.4.1, 3.4.2., 3.4.3. (noise problems) The simplistic conclusion that because the present composting activity produced no significant dBA increase there is therefore no noise problem completely ignores the **qualitative** aspect of sound. For example, it would be possible to record the agonized screams of a terminal cancer patient and play them back at a level that would scarcely tick the meter needle. But which of the ESA staff would find such a sound acceptable if it were broadcast outside his home for several hours a day? Conversely, waves crashing on the shore near a seaside home may significantly elevate the dBA, but few would find it objectionable; in fact, many residents pay premium prices for homes within earshot of the surf. Those of us who purchased property in areas now adjacent to the compost facility were prepared to accept the sounds normally associated with a rural environment. What we're not willing to accept is the kind

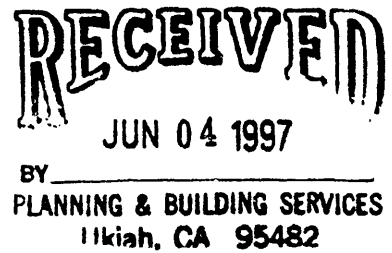
of noise inevitably produced by an industrial complex, foisted upon us without prior knowledge or community input. A partial mitigation of this most egregious violation of our legitimate property rights might be achieved by relocating the access road. It's interesting to note that the map supplied with the DEIR shows jeep trails connecting Potter Valley Road with the compost site. Any consideration for nearby residents would have dictated such a route in preference to the one chosen by the applicant.

5. 3.5.3. (potential public health hazards) While monitoring of heavy metals is specified, there is no indication that end use conditions have been factored into the supposed acceptable levels. Low pH in the soil, for example, will result in a high crop uptake of many such metals.

6. (Enforcement) It is not encouraging to discover that enforcement of the standards for the compost facility will be delegated to county agencies which in some instances seem to have colluded with the applicant to the detriment of the general welfare. Therefore the most stringent protective measures must be adopted at the outset, since little can be expected from regulatory agencies.

Signed: Dale McCulley Date: June 1, 1997
Dale McCulley

June 2, 1997



Mendocino County Dept. of Planning and Building
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1440
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Case No. U 26-93, Cold Creek Compost facility in Potter Valley

Dear Dept. of Planning and Building:

We object to approval of the Draft Environmental Impact Report on the Cold Creek Compost facility. This facility is already adversely affecting the local environment, and has the potential to create an environmental disaster.

Composting is critical to the health of our planet, and we strongly feel compost facilities should be encouraged on principle. They are one answer to the waste disposal problems our society faces. We would be pleased and honored to have a compost facility of appropriate size and scope in our small community. However, this particular facility is a good idea poorly executed and supervised.

Our objections are based on the following concerns:

1. Much of the material now being or planned to be trucked into this facility contains dangerous residual toxins: animal waste, agricultural waste laden with pesticides and herbicides, sewage sludge, and particularly Masonite boiler and scrubber ash, which contains heavy metals and other toxins. These toxins do not disappear in the composting process.
2. The size and scope of this project are far too large for its setting. The traffic, noise and odors are already causing significant adverse impacts on the people of Potter Valley. The potential for degradation of water quality is enormous--the facility is located on a ridge directly above the Russian River.
3. The project's access road and traffic have significant adverse effects on McKee County Park and its resident wildlife.
4. The possibility of pathogenic contamination of the air in the area immediately surrounding the facility is very real; similar industrial operations of this size have resulted in such contamination of the air the neighbors have to breathe.
5. We don't think the lines of responsibility for monitoring of the facility and its impacts on the environment are clearly drawn.

Please consider these concerns, and do not hastily and mistakenly approve this draft report.

Sincerely,

Christina Kelly *Bob Steiner*

Christina Kelly and Bob Steiner
12851 Mid Mountain Road
Potter Valley, CA 95469

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BY _____
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
UKIAH, CA 95482

June 4, 1997

14250 Powerhouse Road
Potter Valley, CA 95469

Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1440
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: Case No. U 26-93, Mileck Regional Solid Waste Facility, aka "Cold Creek Compost"

We want to express our support of the Draft Environmental Impact Report on the above numbered project and our total support of the project itself.

We have been driving the road to Ukiah every weekday and do not recall ever seeing the large turquoise reflective metallic structure placed on this mountaintop. Our son states he has seen it from Highway 20 for about 15 seconds as he drove down the road. The project seems a very suitable one for an agricultural area since it provides two needed services—compost for growers and a productive use of waste products. In addition to that the business creates jobs and income for the county.

The illegal road the opposition complains of has been in existence for several years. It was in fact used to haul great quantities of rock and fill for the Coyote Valley Dam in the fifties.

We don't have any actual statistics but the traffic created by this business appears to us to be less than that previously experienced when the mill was operating on the Eel River. We certainly don't have the impression that traffic will be increased 25% in cumulative truck traffic. Especially in view of the fact that the trucks are not even entering the valley floor! Previously trucks traveled on East Road and Eel River Road, affecting both residents and visitors to the McKee County Park. How can this be construed as an increased nuisance.

Public health issues are regulated by the County and the business would be expected to meet any legal standards regarding health impacts. Sewage sludge must meet mandated standards for marketing and labeling. Agencies are in place to assure these standards are met.

The industrial project is not visible from McKee Park and it will be no less serene than it has in the past. The reports we have read in the newspaper stated that additional parking will be created with the realignment of the road.

We request that this letter in its entirety be included as Comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report and that all Comment be addressed and incorporated into the final Environmental Impact Report.

Rose Ellis
Ray Ellis
Raymond and Rose Ellis



A DIVISION OF BURGESS TIRE, 1790 S. MAIN ST., WILLITS, CA 95490, (707) 459-4626

June 2, 1997

Planning Commission
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1440
Ukiah, CA 95482

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JUN 04 1997

BY _____
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
Ukiah, CA 95482

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to show support for Cold Creek Compost's compost facility.

As business people and taxpayers in Mendocino County, we would like to see the Planning Commission do everything possible to help businesses and not let anyone hinder them or shut them down. These businesses increase the Mendocino County tax base and create employment and profits for all.

I am sorry that we will be unable to attend the hearing on June 5, because we as business people have to work so all of our employees can work.

Once again we would like to reiterate that we support this project and hope the planning commission takes this letter very seriously.

Sincerely,

[Signature] Glen's Tire

Samantha Newell Kickin' Outch Co.

Mark Smedley Glen's Tire

Susan Hunter

Robert Baker (Baker Trucking)

Wayne Karpis (Rancher)

Gene York Knebaldo's Cafe

Larry Bender (Country Town Travel)

Michael (Social Concern)

Michael (GAM AVIATION)

June 4, 1997

As a farmer in this community, I support the approval of the E. I. R. on the Cold Creek Compost Facility. This business is a vital part of the farming community. By furnishing compost material to the local farmers, it saves on transportation costs which could be a large expense. It would be very beneficial for the farmers at this location.

Bill Neese

Bill Neese
401 School Way
Redwood Valley Ca 95470

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	6/4/97	# of pages	▶
To	Planning Comm	From	BILL NEESE		
Co./Dept.		Co			
Phone #		Phone #	783 6458		
Fax #	707-463-5709	Fax #	785-5343		