

Suellen Witham
P.O. Box 42, Colusa CA 95932
(530) 219-6267

FEB 22 2017

February 22, 2017

Colusa County Planning Commission
220 12th Street
Colusa, CA 95932

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing this letter to address the incorrect information presented in Petition in Objection to the Issuance of Administrative Permit No AP#16-10-1 presented to the Commission by Curtis Pyle. The petition's misrepresentation of facts covers a variety of topics:

Topic 1: Marketing of Compost

It is stated in Curtis Pyle's petition that "applicant says she will be selling locally, but once they see the amount of landfill garbage in the compost I wonder how many local farmers will want this garbage in their fields".

Correction:

It is offensive that Mr Pyle's petition claims that I can not nor will not be able to sell West Contra Costa Organics compost locally. Not only did I say that I would sell the West Contra Costa Organics compost locally, but I have sold WCCO compost locally. There are multiple farmers in Colusa County who purchased and applied WCCO compost in 2016. Please see Exhibit A for a letter from one Colusa County farmer who purchased WCCO compost and was pleased with the compost quality and benefits. I could list additional Colusa County farmers who have purchased and applied WCCO compost in their fields, but I am uncomfortable providing a customer list in a letter that will become public record.

Topic 2: On-site Water

It is stated in Curtis Pyle's petition that "The compost piles may ignite or smolder and there is no water on the property.

Correction:

The property at 6835 Wisconsin Ave has two sources of water. First, on site there is a domestic well. Please see Exhibit B for the original Water Well Drillers Report produce in 1991. In Summer 2015 the domestic well on site was dry, but

the well has pumped water throughout 2016. In December 2016 Alsco Geyer Irrigation Inc lowered the domestic well's pump 62 feet. For additional water there is access to the Colusa County Water District, with Meter Number 728. Please see Exhibit B for the 2016 Colusa County Water District Assessment Invoice. I have discussed with the Irrigation District with regards to purchasing water in the future for both fire & dust control.

Topic 3: Gypsum particle size and safety

It is stated in Curtis Pyle's petition that on site "one of the materials is tons of gypsum ranging from fine particles to approximately 8 inch chunks. It also has sulfur content of 17% which is high enough to emit obnoxious, possibly toxic fumes.

Correction:

The gypsum being used at 6835 Wisconsin Ave is being purchased from Art Wilson Co. Please see Exhibit C for a letter from Richard Taylor, Agronomist for Art Wilson Co, explaining the safety of their product. Mr Taylor's letter also includes a spec sheet for their Agricultural Grade Calcium Sulfate which contains a Grind Analysis. The Grind Analysis states that the particle size of the gypsum is 1/4" and less, which I can verify after using this product for approximately 10 years.

I ask that that the Commission disregards Mr Pyle's petition due to the multiple inaccuracies contained in the petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suellen Witham".

Suellen Witham

Exhibit

A



CHAMISAL CREEK
Ranch
LLC

Colusa County Planning Commission
220 12th Street
Colusa, Ca 95932

Dear Commissioners,

It has been brought to my attention that a petition has been circulated regarding Westside Spreading's project on Wisconsin Ave in Arbutle. It is claimed in the first paragraph of reasons for the petition that Westside says that they will be selling the West Contra Costa Organics compost locally, but how many local farmers will want this garbage in their field. I would like to go on record that in 2016 I purchased West Contra Costa Organics' compost from Westside Spreading. I used it in my Colusa County vineyard, saw a benefit and will continue to use it. The wineries that I sell to, encourage the use of quality compost in vineyard operations. I would not want to jeopardize these contracts by purchasing inferior grade compost.

Contact me further with any questions,
Sincerely,



Michael F. Doherty
President of Chamisal Creek Ranch LLC.

Exhibit

B

Colusa County Water District
P. O. Box 337
Bucklin, CA 95610

11/25/15
Page 1

15301476-2669

WITTHAM, SUELEN
205 MADELL WAY
WOODLAND, CA 95697

Account Number	Amount Assessed	Previous Balance	2016 Assessment	Payments	Amount Due
11/25/15	2016 Assessment-\$9.25/acre		90.61		
021-29-0-080-3	9.6	0.00	90.65	0.00	90.65
			Total		90.65

assessment bills are delinquent if not paid within 30 days of the due date. A basic penalty of 3% followed by a 1 1/2% monthly penalty will be added to past due accounts. Delinquencies remaining on August 1st will be added to the county tax roll. 1st INSTALLMENT OF 1/2 OF THE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT PLUS ANY PREVIOUS BALANCE is due JAN 1, 2016 and the balance is due JUNE 1, 2016

DO NOT combine assessment payments with water payments

To ensure proper credit please return copy with your payment.

Exhibit C



February 8, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

It will be very difficult to show calcium sulfate that is piled in the yard is of any potential harm to plants, animals or people.

Calcium sulfate does carry a sulfur content of 17% COMBINED sulfur. This is the same material that has many uses. It is the same material that is used in drywall, which is used in the complainants' home.

In addition, food grade calcium sulfate, the same material, but held to a higher sanitation standard, is used in many pharmaceuticals, the bread and pastry industry, canned fruits and vegetables, breakfast cereals, energy drinks, processed meats, preserved seafood products and the list goes on.

Considering the wide spread use of calcium sulfate in so many different products, it would be hard to conceive it as being a health hazard.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Taylor'.

Richard Taylor
Agronomist

RT/cr



AGRICULTURAL GRADE CALCIUM SULFATE

Guaranteed Analysis

Calcium (Ca)	23.28%
Sulfur (S)	18.62%
Calcium Sulfate (CaSO ₄).....	79.00%
California Gypsum Equivalent	100%

Derived From: Mined Anhydrite Calcium Sulfate and Hydrated Calcium Sulfate.

Grind Analysis

95% passing.....	4 mesh
73% passing.....	10 mesh
55% passing.....	20 mesh
43% passing.....	40 mesh
30% passing.....	60 mesh
7% passing.....	100 mesh

Characteristics of Agricultural Grade Calcium Sulfate

Moisture Content	2%
Solubility per 100 gms water	0.205gms
Bulk Density, Loose	87 lbs./cu.ft.
Bulk Density, Tapped	103 lbs./cu.ft.

- ◆ Cal-CM Plus Agricultural Grade Calcium Sulfate is a registered material for use in Organic Agriculture by the Washington State Department of Agriculture. It is also listed by OMRI for use in organic production.
- ◆ Use in accordance with the recommendations of a qualified individual or institution, or according to an approved nutrient management plan.
- ◆ Available in bulk only.
- ◆ To locate a dealer near you, call the numbers listed below.
- ◆ For additional information visit our Website: <http://www.calcmplus.com>

Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the internet at <http://www.aapfco.org/metals.htm>

BULK
Net Weight: See Scale Ticket

MANUFACTURED BY:

Art Wilson Co., P.O. Box 20160, Carson City, NV 89721
Ph. 775-882-0700 / Toll Free 888- 497-6463 / Fax 775-882-0790 / Email: sales@calcmplus.com

Label Agricultural.June2013. nwr