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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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August 22, 2016

The Honorable Sam Liccardo
Mayor of San Jose
200 E Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Liccardo,

As a South Bay native who has received numerous requests from local residents to take action on this non-federal issue, I want to share my thoughts on the management of the Newby Island Landfill and Resource Recovery Park.

I have heard from many of my constituents, including over 40 residents from San Jose who signed a petition to the San Jose Planning Commission to stop the landfill expansion, and who are unhappy with the fact that these facilities allow odors to permeate through the air of the surrounding neighborhoods in San Jose, Fremont and Milpitas. They are frustrated that their complaints seem to not be taken seriously and their voices are not heard.

I understand that the State's Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) has authority over permitting for the landfill, but the composting operations in the Recovery Park are under the jurisdiction of the City of San Jose as the Local Enforcement Agency. Based on data BAAQMD gathered throughout 2015-2016, it appears that a majority of bad odor originates from the composting activities. The residents who have contacted me have requested that the composting operation be relocated, as this action would most directly and immediately improve air quality in the neighborhoods that are downwind of the current location.

The growth of Silicon Valley has brought a wealth of opportunity, but also new challenges for our communities. It is unlikely that the members of San Jose City Council envisioned the magnitude of development throughout the region decades ago when they originally designated land in North San Jose for industrial and commercial use and allowed for several odorous facilities to be constructed within a 4-square mile area adjacent to periodically exposed tidal wetlands. However, now our community must work together to ensure that our waste streams are managed in a way that minimizes impacts.

On August 5, 2016, I hosted a workshop for local waste managers and the community, bringing together experts from the Environmental Protection Agency, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), and I

appreciate that you sent a representative to attend. Our constituents deserve their quality of life and to be heard by their elected leaders.

Every level of government has a role to play in fostering sustainable, smart development and ensuring our communities a high quality of life. Protecting our water, air, and land is more than sound public policy – it's an obligation. In Congress, I am continuing fighting in my role as a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee to ensure a safe, sustainable, and healthy future for our community by providing funding for federal agencies such as the EPA. I'm encouraged by the great progress and development in San Jose, and I know that each of these decisions is difficult. In this case, I appreciate your thoughtful consideration in finding a way to better manage our waste streams and reduce the impacts on the community.

Sincerely,



Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

cc: Councilmember Manh Nguyen
Councilmember-elect Lan Diep
Raymond Wong, Milpitas Reach