

City still working to stop U.S. Postal Service’s massive mail processing center, public urged to contact legislators

The City has long opposed the USPS' plan to build a nearly 350,000-square-foot regional mail distribution center near homes, a religious facility, teen center, preschool, proposed affordable senior housing development and other vulnerable uses between 2A and 6 Liberty. The City has been pushing for alternate, more suitable locations that are closer to the freeway and away from such sensitive uses.

The City in its Oct. 22 written response to the Postal Service's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is ripe with “errors and serious omissions and should be scrapped, rewritten and re-circulated for additional public review. With so many errors and omissions, the document fails in its primary purpose' – to inform the USPS and public about the impacts of the project and ways to reduce those impacts. In short, the most disturbing concerns include the fact that the EIS fails to consider reasonable alternatives; grossly understates the potential noise impacts; and doesn't take into full consideration air-quality and potential health impacts on the community and ways to lessen those impacts. The traffic analysis does not respond to serious community concerns, and the EIS fails to acknowledge the massive project's land-use impacts. In fact, the EIS says the project will have no impact on land use – despite the fact that the property is surrounded by homes, churches, schools, parks and other vulnerable uses.

The following is a basic summary of the City’s significant concerns with the U.S. Postal Service’s plan to build a massive mail processing center in town:

Traffic— With close to 100 more large trucks and tractor trailers, along with vehicle traffic from more than 560 employees commuting from other areas, there will be increased traffic on our local roadways. Associated heavy big-rig traffic poses very serious risks to residents that live, work and play near the vicinity. We will face increased traffic accidents and more damage to our City streets.

Public Safety—impacts from large trucks and tractor/trailers can be significant. Independent trucking firms will be contracted to haul mail to and from the regional facility 24/7. These truckers will not be regulated by the USPS, and it’s a reported fact that many independent trucking firms have been repeatedly fined for faulty equipment and poor driving records. This fact alone poses more danger to pedestrians

and children walking. Other facilities have trucks leaking oil and diesel fuel, while drivers perform repairs on public streets.

Noise—Lost sleep for neighbors due to noise of large trucks and tractor/trailers, around-the-clock operations and from the 18-month construction period to build the facility. Construction will include heavy equipment operations, construction-related vehicle traffic, power tools and more. Employee traffic and mailer-truck traffic would impact surrounding homes and other vulnerable uses. Noise may have detrimental impacts on sleep, learning, worship and quality of life, particularly for residents living nearby. Light and glare impacts to the surrounding neighborhoods could be significant.

Water Quality— Contaminated runoff during construction and once the facility opens.

Air quality—greenhouse emissions impacts from vehicles and operations on health of the community, particularly children.

Cancer-causing agents—the facility will use solvents and other chemicals that are toxic in nature that could be released in the air and leached into the groundwater.

Excessive water and electrical use: The 24/7 facility will use 28,050 gallons of water per day and 8.1 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year.

The public is urged to contact the following individuals to help the City stop the facility from moving forward:

The Honorable John E. Potter
Postmaster General and CEO
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington D.C., 20260-0010
Information: 650-615-7233

Emmy Andrews
U.S. Postal Service
395 Oyster Point Blvd, Ste 225
South San Francisco, CA 94080-0300
For more information, contact Emmy Andrews at 415-974-1221 or 650-615-7200.

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Attn: James Peterson

Los Angeles office
11111 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 915
Los Angeles, CA 90025
Phone: 310-914-7300
Fax: 310-914-7318 231-1108

Senator Barbara Boxer

Attn: Gina Semenza
312 N. Spring St. Suite 1748
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-894-5000

48th District

John Campbell

1728 Longworth Building Washington, DC 20515 202-225-5611
Local Office 610 Newport Center Drive, Suite 330 Newport Beach, CA 92660 949-756-
2244
949-251-9309 (fax)

49th District

Congressman Darrell Issa

Washington D.C. Office
211 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 phone: 202-225-3906 fax:
202-225- 3303
San Diego County Office
1800 Thibodo Road, #310 Vista, CA 92081