Dear Mr. Sibbit, other County officials and elected representatives,

My husband Jon Brooks and I live at 27908 High Vista Drive, off the Deer Springs exit on the 15 FWY. We oppose this dumbed down Site Plan Permit. The no supervision permit was acquired by Hilltop by lowering their estimated trucks in and trucks out to a below profitable volume and will put the burden of oversight on residents already ignored by overburdened Code Enforcement. Mr. De Jong has ties to this proposed facility and has proven himself capable of grievous wrong doing against the environment, even with supervision, as seen here


The use of an expired EIA (applied for in 2011) which was never able to be satisfactorily completed is now being described by Hilltop as “complying with environmental regulations and reporting” and the current permit offers us, as residents no practical and timely protection from activities which will be acceptable under the zoning where the project is.


If the process by which the pocket rezoning of this area happened is investigated, the Heavy Industrial zoning of the site will show it’s self to be questionable to the point of at least illegal and most probably criminal. The applicants permit at that time was for a commercial nursery...why not slide it through...wink, wink, nudge, nudge,. Say no more!

Most frightening, research by another resident shows this type of facility is a fire waiting to happen. Most of us in Hidden Meadows already have trouble getting fire insurance and there is property adjacent to the proposed site which hasn’t burned for 100 years.

This is a list of fires at the extremely similar facilities, previously submitted to the Planning Department by concerned residents.

#1. San Marcos Nov. 7, 2014 - A raging fire at a San Marcos trash and recycling facility prompted a major fire

#2. Spring Valley July 20, 2016 - Fire at Spring Valley recycling center

injures firefighter, damages home

#3. Lakeside September 23, 2016 Fire sparks at Lake side recycling Center #4 Ontario, October 21, 2016 Fire burning at a recycling plant sending plumes of smoke wood pallets on fire propane tank exploding
#5 El Cajon May 16, 2018, Recycling plant bursts into flames

#6 2018 Fire threatens Escondido neighborhood - Interstate 15 near Deer Springs Road. A location within a mile of the proposed NORTH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES site.

On a daily basis, we will have to deal with the trucks going in and out of the facility. The number of trucks per day on the current permit is NOT ENOUGH TO PAY THE OWNERS A PROFIT. THEY TAILORED THEIR NUMBERS TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE Site Plan Permit.

More investigation and consideration is needed to afford residents the level of protection promised by the General Plan. I also believe that the hundreds of pages of information submitted by the applicant cannot be adequately reviewed by residents in the 30-day time period allowed by your department – the comment period is closing on October 14, 2019. I request that time period be extended 90 days from October 14, 2019.

Thank you

Jon and Julie Brooks