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August 4, 2009

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Support the Recommendations of the Senate Committee on Appropriations related to the Halaco Superfund Site in Its Report on H.R. 2996.

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to sign attached letters to the respective leadership of the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees expressing support for the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Appropriations in H.R. 2996 as it relates to the Halaco Superfund Site.

FISCAL IMPACTS/MANDATES: None

DISCUSSION:

The Halaco Engineering Company, a metals recycling company, operated at 6200 Perkins Road in Oxnard, California from 1965 to 2004. The Halaco facility lies alongside the Ormond Beach wetlands and is neighbor to the Ormond Beach Lagoon, Ormond Beach, Nature Conservancy Lands, and Pacific Ocean. The wetlands are home to several endangered and threatened species such as the Western Snowy Plover, Tidewater Goby, and California Least Tern.

The Halaco facility consists of two parcels separated by the Oxnard Industrial Drain (OID): a smelter on the west and a waste disposal area on the east. An assessment report by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found hazardous substances sources in the waste disposal area and the smelter area. In September 2007, the Halaco Engineering Company site was listed as a Federal Superfund Site thus recognizing it as a national priority for hazardous substance cleanup and eligible for government funding. The Superfund declaration also serves as a directive to the EPA to assess the nature and extent of public health and environmental risks associated with a release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants and evaluate cleanup as required under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

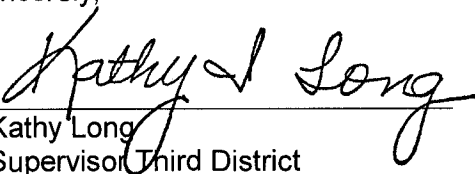


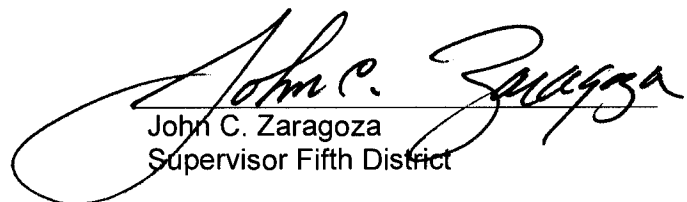
The Ventura County Board of Supervisors has urged complete removal of all hazardous material on the Halaco Superfund site to protect public health, safety and the vulnerable environment. Two dilapidated structures that remain on the Superfund site continue to be an immediate concern for public health and safety. The property owners have not complied with orders that defined the structures as dangerous and required repair or demolition. The unoccupied property continues to demonstrate evidence of on-site trespassing and vandalism. The site has also been a target for people to steal scrap metal or take up residence among the buildings. Community residents and representative organizations continue to express concern of impacts to the neighboring nature conservancy wetland restoration project, and public safety concerns where residents feel current security measures do not adequately prevent access to the site and dangerous structures. Removal of the structures must be the first priority while EPA completes the required environmental analyses on the Superfund site.

Earlier this month, the Senate Committee on Appropriations, through its Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies which is chaired by Senator Dianne Feinstein, issued its report on H.R. 2996, the bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010. The report indicates the Committee's concern that the two dilapidated structures on the Halaco Superfund site pose a significant and immediate risk to public health and safety. The Committee recognizes that the property owners have failed to comply with past orders to demolish or repair the buildings and noted that an EPA-retained structural engineer determined that the buildings are structurally unsafe and recommended that they be demolished as soon as possible. The Committee recommends that the EPA remove the structures through an interim removal action.

Please join us in supporting the Senate Appropriations Report language. Our support will demonstrate the continued commitment of the County of Ventura to the complete removal of all hazardous materials on the Halaco Superfund site, affirming the Senate Appropriations Committee's statement urging EPA to remove the dilapidated structures in an interim removal action to address significant and immediate risks to public health and safety.

Sincerely,


Kathy Long
Supervisor Third District


John C. Zaragoza
Supervisor Fifth District

ATTACHMENTS:

- I. Senate Committee on Appropriations Report on H.R. 2996 specific to Halaco Superfund Site (pg. 57)
- II. Letter of support to Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
- III. Letter of support to Honorable Lamar Alexander, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
- IV. Letter of support to Honorable Norman Dicks, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
- V. Letter of support to Honorable Michael Simpson, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies