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Citizens For Vallejo Announces Endorsement of Fresh Air Vallejo in opposing the proposed Orcem Cement Plant and Vallejo Marine Terminal, LLC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Citizens for Vallejo (CfV) urge the Vallejo Planning Commission and elected Mayor and City Council to reject the Orcem Cement Plant and Vallejo Marine Terminal project proposal.

After careful consideration and review of the pros and cons of the Orcem Cement Plant (Orcem) and Vallejo Marine Terminal, LLC (VMT) proposal, the Citizens for Vallejo joins Fresh Air Vallejo in taking an official position against the project.

Citizens for Vallejo believe that it is important to take a position on issues that affect our community, that have the potential to burden Vallejo with unreasonable cost, and or that harm our environment and quality of life.

VMT and Orcem have come to Vallejo with a proposal to build a deep water port facility and cement plant at the former site of the old General Mills flour mill. The project proposes to remove and replace old piers with a new deep water facility. Raw materials including ground granular blast furnace slag would be delivered to the cement plant and the finished products stored outside, and then loaded and shipped out on semi trucks over city streets and through Vallejo neighborhoods and on trains proposed to be used by restoring, replacing and rebuilding the old and dilapidated railway system that runs through the core of Vallejo.

Significant and unavoidable impact to our air quality, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, traffic, and public safety, are noted in the project Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

“The VMT/Orcem project requires the restoration, replacement and rebuilding of the old and dilapidated railway system that runs through the core of Vallejo. According to a city report, last year a water line broke under a railroad track costing the city hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair. How many water mains run under Vallejo’s railroad tracks that would be foreseeable damaged should the railroad lines be activated? At what cost to the tax payers? This fact alone should be of sufficient concern to doubt the practicality of moving forward with the VMT/Orcem project,” stated CfV Treasurer Paul Norberg.

“South Vallejo, the location of the proposed VMT/Orcem operation, has been found to contain extraordinarily high levels of contaminating emissions and low income residents. The State of California has designated South Vallejo as one of the State’s most disadvantaged communities, and, using it’s mapping tool, “CalEnviroScreen” has determined that South Vallejo is disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution. The VMT/Orcem project will negatively impact an already overburdened community with additional greenhouse gas emissions, noise and traffic,” stated member Dennis Albright.

“While climate change leaders are working to prevent greenhouse gas emissions to combat global warming by signing the Paris Agreement, Vallejo is considering a project with VMT/Orcem that will increase greenhouse gas emissions and cause increased damage to our environment and our neighbors. It is time for Vallejo to join the world community to build a safer more sustainable world for all. It is time for Vallejo to say no to VMT/Orcem,” stated CfV President Karol Heppe.

“The VMT/Orcem project proposes a 65 year lease for which the current Environmental Impact report only covers the first 10 years. Under the current proposal, it is reasonably foreseeable that Vallejo will be back at the drawing board in 10 years, again debating the future land use of this project. Given what we know and what we don’t know surrounding this project, Vallejo cannot afford to gamble with it’s future. Vallejo needs to invest in sustainable projects and partner with businesses that do not gamble with Vallejo’s future. Vallejo has demonstrated sufficient good faith to now tell VMT/Orcem, thank you but no thank you,” stated member Liat Meitzenheimer.

Citizens for Vallejo believes that through community awareness and education Vallejo can bring smart and environmentally thoughtful growth which will benefit all of it’s residents.

Citizens for Vallejo is a non-partisan political action committee dedicated to the health and welfare of all Vallejoans. **Frash Air Vallejo** is a non-profit organization of concerned Vallejo residents committed to the enhancement of the quality of life for all Vallejo.

For more information about CfV, visit our website and facebook page
www.facebook.com/citizensforvallejo.