



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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HILDA L. SOLIS
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

September 6, 2019

The Honorable Lloyd Johnson
City of West Covina
1444 West Garvey Avenue South
West Covina, CA 91790

**RE: CONCERNS ABOUT PROPOSED INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT ON OR
NEAR BKK LANDFILL IN WEST COVINA DUE TO POTENTIAL HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS**

Dear Mayor Johnson and West Covina City Councilmembers,

I am writing to you to express my concerns over future intensive development on or near the BKK landfill located in the City of West Covina. As a longtime advocate of environmental justice and public health, I urge you to ensure that thorough environmental assessment and risk mitigation planning are conducted and completed before any development plan moves forward.

Members of my staff, as well as representatives from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and Los Angeles County Counsel, have met with Livable West Covina, a coalition of residents from West Covina, Walnut, Valinda, La Puente, Covina, and Baldwin Park, to hear some their concerns. I share the residents' concerns about the potential health and environmental risks posed by construction on or near this landfill.

The primary concern that has been shared with me is the potential for intensive development on or near the landfill to cause the harmful and irreversible release of hazardous substances. This concern is not unfounded as the toxic hazardous waste in this (Class 1) landfill led to almost two dozen families being evacuated from their homes in July 1984 and the ongoing remediation of the site 35 years later. Specifically, migration of landfill gases is a major concern for intensive development due to the risk of fire and explosion associated with methane and the health risks posed by other volatile chemicals.

Members of Livable West Covina also shared that they would prefer that the land be preserved or developed as open space as an alternative to construction and intensive development of the site. As a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, I have worked to expand public

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access to parks and open space throughout the county, and I would strongly support any effort by the City of West Covina to create greater access to parks in the San Gabriel Valley.

My top priority for the residents of the First District is their public health and overall well-being. I know that this is also a leading priority for your council. I understand that any project consisting of development on or near this landfill must undergo a thorough environmental review by the appropriate regulatory agencies, and I will continue to monitor any proposal involving the BKK landfill.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



HILDA L. SOLIS
Supervisor, First District

Cc: U.S. Representative Grace Napolitano, 32nd Congressional District
Senator Susan Rubio, 22nd Senate District
Senator Ling Ling Chang, 29th Senate District
Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, 48th Assembly District
Assemblymember Phillip Chen, 55th Assembly District
Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Mary Wickham, Los Angeles County Counsel