From: Bigbillcutler@aol.com [mailto:Bigbillcutler@aol.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 11:41 AM

To: Bobel, Phil

Subject: Compost Action Plan

Phil,

I just reviewed the Compost Action Plan that will be discussed at the April 25 public meeting. It is likely that I will not be able to attend the meeting so I'd like to submit my comments via this message, if that is OK.

My concern is that the Plan, as I perceive it, is getting a bit ahead of the game. It Plunges into detail of the various technical options to be examined, and Lunges at presupposed solutions in the form of the technical specifics, without first laying the groundwork of the criteria that any compost facility must meet to be acceptable, and without first agreeing on the evaluation method that will be used to determine compliance of proposed options with the criteria.

Going ahead in this manner almost assures a train wreck some time in the future when the forces of opposition, who feel ignored or excluded from the process, gather their resources and attack the project. I can envision an expensive lawsuit.

Specifically, those who oppose the baylands location for the compost facility have raised valid concerns. for impacts on Byxby Park and the nearby streets regarding appearance, noise, odors, wildlife habitat and truck traffic. Also they raise issues of cost.

It is a principle of complex projects that all the important mistakes are made the first day. Generally that means ignoring the fundamentals, presuming that everybody knows what they are and they are automatically taken care of. Therefore, BEFORE Plunging into the details and Lunging at specific design concepts, we should hold dialog to establish consensus support for acceptance criteria and evaluation methodologies to support the final decision. The questions to settle, before moving into creation and evaluation of specific configurations for a compost facility, are the following.

- What are acceptable criteria on the appearance of the facility and how will various options be evaluated to determine whether they meet the criteria?
- What are the criteria and evaluation methodolgies regarding sound?
- What are the criteria and evaluation methodologies regarding odor?
- What are the criteria and evaluation methodologies regarding wildlife habitat?
- What are the criteria and evaluation methodologies regarding truck traffic?
- How will the cost effectiveness of various options be evaluated?
- What if the before-the-fact analysis of impacts and benefits turns out to be wrong when the facility is built? What corrective measures will be employed if such is the case?
- Are there any other top-level considerations that need to be considered before going ahead with the details?

Bill Cutler