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January 6, 2009

To: Mayor Shelton and City Council
City of Galt

Subject: Consideration of Delta Greens Project

Violates the Blueprint, Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Regional Air Quality Plan for Regional Growth Patterns. The decision to accept this project for processing is a decision to reject the regional Blueprint. Since the Blueprint is widely considered at least part of the region's mitigation for greenhouse gas emissions from growth over the next 40 years, Galt's action to reject the Blueprint has not only local consequences but regional consequences. Galt will have to deal not only with immediate project impacts, but the mitigation for greenhouse gas emissions beyond those accounted for in the regional transportation and air quality plans.

The Attorney General has asked all cities and counties to include climate change mitigation plans and greenhouse gas emission reduction measures in their General Plans, and the EIRs. Galt will be very hard pressed to find ways to mitigate for the impacts of Delta Greens. Avoiding these obligations is a wiser course of action.

Approval of this project is inconsistent with the regional transportation plan and the regional air quality plan. The consequences will be quite significant in the preparation of environmental review for both this project and for the Galt General Plan Update.

Makes the New General Plan Update a Sham.

The General Plan update sets parameters for Galt's population growth through the year 2030. The plan says:

"This General Plan sets out a long-term vision for Galt's growth and outlines policies, standards, and programs to guide day-to-day decisions concerning Galt's development through the year 2030.

Every city and county in California must adopt a general plan. A general plan is a legal document that serves as a community's constitution for land use and development. The plan must be comprehensive and long-term, outlining proposals for the physical development of the county or city, and any land outside its

boundaries which in the planning agency's judgment bears relation to its planning

The plan must be comprehensive in covering all territory within the adopting jurisdiction and it must be comprehensive in addressing all physical aspects of the community's development.”

However this project, if they approve this letter, is now reasonably foreseeable and should be evaluated in the DEIR for the general plan update. This project contradicts the Plan's policies and standards.

Ignores Substantial Evidence of Significant Environmental Issues with Development of this Site.

There is a long history among conservation organizations in Sacramento, including the Sierra Club and Environmental Council of Sacramento, in opposition to the expansion of Galt to encompass the now-called Delta Green project. This opposition is based on conservation principles, policies of LAFCo, the County General Plan of 1993, the final Environmental Impact Report for the previous Sphere of Influence Expansion for the City of Galt approved by LAFCo, the South County Habitat Conservation Plan, the declining status of the Swainson's Hawk and loss of habitat in its range, and the need to protect agriculture, wildlife and the Cosumnes River Preserve from urban impacts. Attached is a document prepared by Friends of the Swainson's Hawk and Sierra Club in 2004 to summarize these issues.

The Delta Greens proponents' request to the City simply ignores these monumental issues and claims falsely that mitigation has already been provided for the project.

We request your “no” vote on the proposed agenda item #3 before you tonight.

Sincerely,

Judith Lamare
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