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May 8, 2009

RAYMOND J. O'BRIEN

Ms. Lou Ann Texeira  
Executive Officer  
Local Agency Formation Commission-  
Contra Costa County  
651 Pine Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Martinez, California 94553

RE: Negative Declaration-Proposed Expansions of the Sphere of Influence  
for the City of Pittsburg, Contra Costa Water District, and Delta Diablo  
Sanitation District

Dear Lou Ann:

It's just not true to say that this proposal, if passed, will have no consequences, and that it will not effect any changes. In fact, if this proposal is passed, it will set a dangerous precedent so that, instead of responding to municipal and growth needs, LAFCO will be in the position of initiating growth (not providing for it). To authorize the extension of municipal services without first receiving a mandate from jurisdictions (municipalities and Contra Costa County) (where the issues of growth have been vetted, debated, and approved) and the appropriate environmental impact studies conducted, is to put the "cart" (authorization of services and service capacity) before the "horse" (mandates from the representative governing bodies of municipalities and the County). **This measure subverts representative government.**

To say that there is no significant effect or consequence to LAFCO's passage of this measure is to disproportionately represent reality, and to take a stance of "negative declaration" is to abdicate all responsibility for the orderly control and development of growth in this area of Contra Costa County.

I urge the Commission members to reject this measure in its entirety in favor of the Commission's established and traditional role of providing for municipal services only after approved by municipal or county representative bodies.

Sincerely,

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