



May 4, 2012

The Honorable Alicia Aguirre
Mayor
THE CITY OF REDWOOD CITY
City Hall
1017 Middlefield Road
Redwood City, California 94063

Re: Withdrawal of Pending Saltworks "50/50 Balanced Plan"
Project Proposal, May 2009

Dear Mayor Aguirre,

We are aware the Redwood City City Council intends to review and discuss potential options regarding the Saltworks proposal on Monday, May 7. So as to avoid any unnecessary confusion, we write to clarify the status of the pending application, our intentions procedurally moving forward, and the revisions we intend for the future proposal.

Initially, we commend the City for its consistent and unyielding commitment to conduct an open, transparent, and fact-based environmental investigation of our proposal for the future of the Saltworks site, our "50/50 Balanced Plan," filed with the City in May 2009. As you publicly committed, you have managed a fair, exhaustive, and balanced process fully consistent with and, indeed, exceeding the mandates of state law. We find it saddening and ironic that those efforts have resulted in intense criticism of the City Council and staff, collectively and individually, from outside interests.

Your thorough and inclusive process produced a wealth of input, feedback, criticism, and vision from the community, stakeholders and regulators. As you know, in light of that tremendous response, we have been working for the last five months on a revised proposal for the Saltworks. In our efforts to complete that revised plan, we continue to explore the related process with the federal agencies.

There has been a great deal of speculation about the timing and direction of our revised proposal for the Saltworks. In evaluating a revised vision for the Saltworks, we have focused on the very unique history and character of this site. Activities ranging from agricultural production to disposal of dredge spoils from the initial digging for the Port of Redwood City fashioned the most highly disturbed and engineered nature of the

westerly most part of the site (within the present-day crystallizer beds) as early as the late 1800s. This area is the most heavily manipulated and has not been in any significant way a functioning part of San Francisco Bay for over 100 years. The easterly portion, however, remained largely undisturbed until much later and was constructed pursuant to a 1940 federal permit.

Reflective of this history, our revised plan for the Saltworks will be focused on a much more limited footprint restricted to the area of greatest historic disturbance. Accordingly, we anticipate that the revised proposed development footprint will be approximately half the acreage of that proposed in the May 2009 50/50 Plan submittal. Importantly, this area also is fully contained within the portion of the site currently designated "Urban Reserve" under the City's General Plan which, as you know, is for "land to be preserved for future use to *expand the limits of the urbanized area of the City.*" (Redwood City General Plan, The Built Environment, Urban Form and Land Use, Page BE-41 [adopted October 11, 2010], *emphasis added.*)

The magnitude of change in the focus and footprint of this revised proposal is such a significant departure from the existing 50/50 proposal, and is so foundationally derived from the disturbance history of the site, that it must be considered in light of federal regulatory parameters. Accordingly, we feel any specific proposal back to the City would be premature until we better understand the regulatory implications of our revised vision.

Mayor Aguirre, we could not be more appreciative of the professional and courteous relationship with Redwood City – its citizens, City Staff, and its elected and appointed officials – that has matured over these past few years. The City's staff and officials have shown great commitment to the integrity of the process in evaluating the appropriate future use of this site. Given the critical importance of this site for the future of Redwood City, we also remain committed to being thoughtful and thorough in bringing our revised Saltworks proposal to the City.

To be clear, and to avoid any unnecessary confusion or distraction by the City, we hereby withdraw the May 2009 50/50 Balanced Plan proposal currently on file with the City in its entirety.

The Honorable Alicia Aguirre, Mayor
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Should you or the City staff have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



John Paul Bruno
General Manager and Senior Vice President

cc: City Council
Bob Bell, City Manager
Pamela Thompson, City Attorney
Bill Ekern, Community Development Director
Blake Lyon, Senior Planner
City Clerk