



**CITY OF LODI  
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

**AGENDA TITLE:** Approve Letter to City of Stockton Regarding its Consideration of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Stockton's Proposed Sphere of Influence Amendment

**MEETING DATE:** August 24, 2004 Special Meeting

**PREPARED BY:** City Attorney

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** That the City Council approve Letter to City of Stockton Regarding its Consideration of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Stockton's Proposed Sphere of Influence Amendment. (Letter to be provided on blue sheet prior to the meeting).

  
D. Stephen Schwabauer  
City Attorney

**FUNDING:** N/A

DSS/pn

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**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Keeter, Interim City Manager

CITY COUNCIL

LARRY D. HANSEN, Mayor  
 JOHN BECKMAN,  
 Mayor Pro Tempore  
 SUSAN HITCHCOCK  
 EMILY HOWARD  
 KEITH LAND

## CITY OF LODI

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 Interim City  
 Manager

SUSAN J. BLACKSTON  
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D. STEPHEN SCHWABAUER  
 City Attorney

August 24, 2004

Honorable Mayor Podesto  
 & City Council Members  
 City of Stockton  
 425 N. El Dorado Street  
 Stockton, CA 95202-1997

Re: Stockton Sphere of Influence Amendments

Dear Mayor Podesto & Council Members:

This letter is not intended to lay out Lodi's legal challenges to Stockton's Sphere of Influence amendments. The letters prepared by our counsel lay them out clearly. Instead, I would like to speak on behalf of the ratepayers who fund the operation of Lodi's wastewater system.

As you know, they have been hit very hard. First by the threat of significant liability in our groundwater contamination litigation. More recently they were hit by an order from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board requiring them to spend over \$30 million dollars in the next 18 months to upgrade the plant. If our Manteca neighbors experience is any guide, we expect to get hit again with an upgrade requirement to go to reverse osmosis treatment; an expense that will drive Manteca's sewer bill alone to over \$150 per month per customer.

Anticipating this hit, Lodi's Water/Wastewater Master Plan in 2001 proposed to go to dedicated land applications of its treated wastewater. The hope of course was to save this crushing blow to our ratepayers. A plan was prepared by our engineers, West Yost, the same team that services Stockton's Master Plan Infrastructure update.

Unfortunately Lodi's plans to protect its ratepayers are now severely threatened by Stockton's development plans. Stockton not only proposes to develop homes and retail power centers all the way up to Lodi's 60 year old treatment facility, it also proposes to place its drinking water intake for its new water treatment plant downstream of Lodi's existing wastewater outfall.

We are all familiar with the pressure placed on existing uses by encroaching development. Airports, dairies and farming operations all suffer as homes are built around them. Recently Stockton acted to protect these interests passing a right-to-farm ordinance. Clearly this Council understands the challenge your development plans pose

to our ratepayers.

As Lodi sees it, your approval for this development will not only threaten to deny us our historical land discharge; it will prevent us from expanding it, and leave us with nowhere to discharge at all. In all events, the loser will be the Lodi ratepayer.

I am sure Stockton has seen the face of its own ratepayers. These are often people on fixed incomes: our grandparents; our disabled and our low-income families. The Lodi City Council cannot and will not ignore them. We implore you to consider them as well.

Sincerely,

LARRY D. HANSEN  
Mayor

LDH/pn