



September 10, 2012

Secretary Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for Environmental Protection, Cal/EPA
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Cal/EPA California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool

Dear Secretary Rodriguez,

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) recently released a draft of their California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool, which will be used to score levels of "environmental vulnerability" throughout the state and will redline communities that are identified as particularly vulnerable. As a Council Member in the City of Lake Elsinore, I am concerned that we as community leaders were not made aware of the development of this tool or adequately consulted on its development, despite its potentially adverse impact on our local regions.

Local mayors, council members, and county supervisors must be included on any state-level discussion of how our local land use authority and local business permitting process will be affected if subjected to a scoring system created by Cal/EPA.

Citizens elect us to give them a voice in precisely this kind of issue. Any policy that may delay permitting, affect land use authority, or otherwise impact local communities must include the proactive involvement of local elected officials and other community leaders. If businesses and other community investors see our city as "environmentally burdened," our area will become less desirable, potentially driving down property values and pushing business out of our region during a time when economic growth is imperative.

BRIAN TISDALE
MAYOR

DARYL HICKMAN
MAYOR PRO TEM

ROBERT E. MAGEE
COUNCILMEMBER

MELISSA A. MELENDEZ
COUNCILMEMBER

PETER G. WEBER
COUNCILMEMBER

THOMAS P. EVANS
INTERIM CITY MANAGER

951.674.3124

130 S. MAIN STREET

LAKE ELSINORE, CA 92530

WWW.LAKE-ELSINORE.ORG

September 10, 2012

I support targeted investment to improve communities throughout the state. To be sure we are promoting investment in our local communities; I want to have a voice in the development of this tool and future uses of it.

As a local elected official, I urge the Cal/EPA to:

Grant additional time for comment on the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool until cities and local governments have the opportunity to participate and the full screening tool is made available for evaluation. We are elected to protect our communities, and we must be given the chance to do so.

Hold specific stakeholder meetings with local elected representatives in regions throughout the state where the Cal/EPA has identified that discussions should take place. Cal/EPA must bring local elected voices to this extremely important discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Melendez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa Melendez
Council Member
City of Lake Elsinore