



April 18, 2012

Edwin "Chip" Poalinelli
Project Manager, RCRA Facilities Management Office
US EPA Region 9
Mail Code WST-4
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Poalinelli

On behalf of the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce, and its Board of Directors, we submit this letter in support of the B-18 permit expansion requested by Waste Management for its Kettleman Hills Facility. We are aware that numerous health and environmental studies that have been conducted by local, state and federal government agencies. Those studies have found the Kettleman Hills Facility to be safe and not posing any health or environmental threats to the nearby Kettleman City community, the employees of the Facility or the residents of Kings County. We urge your agency to start the permitting process that would allow the Kettleman Hills Facility to return to full operational capacity.

The Kettleman Hills Facility has been a member of the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce for over 20 years and is one of the largest employers on the west side of Kings County. When it operated at full capacity, the facility provided a strong economic benefit to the economy through payroll and purchases of goods and services from local businesses. It contributed approximately \$3 million to the Kings County general fund and employed around 90 local residents.

We are concerned that due to the delays of the expansion permits, the Kettleman Hills Facility has been forced to reduce a great number of its work force. The economic impact on Kings County has been significant. These job losses and decreased contributions have had a ripple affect in our local businesses and the many organizations the Kettleman Hills Facility has financially assisted in the past.

We cannot afford any further delay; the Kettleman Hills Facility is running out of capacity. If B-18 is not permitted to expand, the Kettleman Hills Facility employees and the Central Valley economy will have even more drastic economic consequences.

We hope you seriously consider the health and economic wellbeing that will be further jeopardized by delaying or not granting the Waste Management Kettleman Hills Facility its necessary permits.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (559)924-6401.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Azevedo
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Ms. Arlene Kabel, Bob Henry