



Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy

CAUSE

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August 15, 2013

City of Oxnard
305 W 3rd St
Oxnard, CA 93030

Dear Oxnard Mayor Flynn and City Council,

The Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) is writing you with recommendations for developing the Business Plan for the Del Norte Recycling Center. CAUSE is a non-profit regional social justice organization. Its mission is to build grassroots power to realize social, economic and environmental justice for the people of the Central Coast region through policy research, leadership development, organizing and advocacy. CAUSE has offices in South Oxnard, Midtown and West Ventura, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria.

CAUSE believes that the public sector is important to providing high quality jobs that are also instrumental in effectively providing services that the community needs. The increasing privatization of services that were once public has often resulted in less public accountability, less public transparency and reliability concerns for communities. CAUSE is excited to work with the City of Oxnard Mayor, Council and staff, to increase the community benefits and ensure the public is best served from the city operating the Del Norte Recycling Center.

CAUSE believes community residents and the City Council have a rare opportunity to address the following four (4) essential components to move the City of Oxnard forward as an environmentally sustainable city that also creates economic development opportunities for local businesses and Oxnard residents:

1. Ensure that jobs at the Del Norte Recycling Center and that are associated with it are high quality jobs with wages that provide for a family, rather than impoverishing families, and that include health care benefits, and have safe working conditions.
 - Ensure workers at the center and jobs connected with the center fall under the City's Living Wage Ordinance.
 - Adopt a Local Hire Policy so that qualified and diverse residents from local communities will have a priority to be hired for new jobs available at the center.
 - Send waste to the Ventura Regional Sanitation District (Toland Road Landfill) that not only successfully operates with quality union-trained workers but will also result in lower transportation costs and fewer emissions.

2. Set clear community environmental goals, including zero waste, with timeline based measures.
 - Set recycling rate goals, measures and timeline.
 - Set goals, measures and timeline to add recycling of food scraps for residential and commercial services.
 - Set goals, measures and timeline for 100% participation for commercial recycling.
 - Set policies, goal, measures and timeline for construction and demolition waste recycling.
 - Research and implement innovative technologies to lower the impact of trash in landfills (such as anaerobic digester).
 - Set policies to regulate self-haul trash and recycling.
 - Incorporate publicly transparent processes throughout and conduct public education so that in time there will be 100% participation by residents and businesses to reduce the impact of trash.
3. Support, develop and incubate local businesses to use recycled products from the Del Norte Recycling Center
 - Use the 10 acres that the city owns adjacent to the Del Norte Center to locate complimentary businesses for the center.
 - Work with the agricultural community to meet local agricultural needs for compost and other recycled materials.
 - Develop tax incentives, procurement policies, and infrastructure development that promote the expansion of the recycling-reliant manufacturing industry.
4. Develop a plan for the use of revenues generated from the Del Norte Recycling Center to ensure that Oxnard community residents benefit from the Center.
 - Ensure the Center has the quality equipment necessary for the City of Oxnard to meet its waste reduction and recycling goals.
 - Market the City of Oxnard as an environmentally sustainable city with innovative resources that promote sustainable communities including the GREAT Project, Del Norte Recycling Center, and the Ormond Beach Wetlands/Gateway Park.
 - Collaborate with the public to ensure that together we are meeting waste and recycling goals and for the public to remain informed about how the Center, with their support, is benefitting the entire City of Oxnard and the County of Ventura.

CAUSE requests meeting with City of Oxnard staff, Mayor and City Council Members to support this important opportunity to make the Del Norte Recycling Center a continuing success. Please let me know when you are available to meet by calling me at 805-658-0810 Ext. 202 or by email, cyeec@causenow.org. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Cameron Yee
Organizing and Research Director