

Crystal Geyser Bottling Plant Project Comment on the EIR Draft

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I have been one of the few people to have been born, raised and able to stay in Mount Shasta and make a living and raise my family. I was in the retail business from 1973 until 2000 when my son took over the business. Through the years I have seen this town go from the smallest town in the south county to the largest. I have seen the town prosper and also struggle to survive. I am now sorry to say that I believe we are now struggling to survive. Part of the problem is we have no year-round industry base to help our economy and now only rely on the tourist to help our economy. Four years ago, we had no snow and the local ski area did not open and three years ago, it operated on a very limited basis. Because of this, we have seen the closing of businesses and many just hanging on. Crystal Geyser is not going to be the life saver to save our economy but it is a start. 60 full time Jobs in this area will not only help the economy of the City of Mount Shasta but the whole county.

Some people talk about the truck traffic in the Crystal Geyser area and the problems it might cause. They didn't make note of the fact that there is a Main C.G. entrance for trucks off North Mount Shasta Blvd to service CG. Also, there is a trucking and a heavy equipment company just across the street from C.G. on West Ski Village Dr. One has been there for over 30 years and has operated with as many as 30 trucks from that location. The other has been there for over 15 years. Might these two businesses contribute to some of the truck noise? Are these two businesses going to be effected by any new rule changes? As you must know, most new trucks do not cause the noise that they use too. Many are almost as quiet as most diesel pick-up trucks and some cars. Also in that area, is a small saw mill that operates and must create noise and air pollution. In addition, there is a railroad track in this area and the train comes through 4 to 6 times a day and night. These trains make an awful lot of noise and they have to blow their whistle at every crossroad they cross. Doesn't this bother people? Is this going to be corrected? Why is this not a problem?

Most people around here are not aware that fifty to sixty years ago, Mt. Shasta depended a lot on the logging industry and that Mount Shasta Blvd. was the main highway before I-5 was put in. 100's of trucks and logging trucks traveled Mount Shasta Blvd every day and they would go right through the middle of town. Even after I-5 was put in, this was still the main way to get to the mills both on the North and South ends of town. Many of these logging trucks had to travel past the two entrances to Nixon Rd and travel on the curved road next to Springhill and up the hill on West Ski Village Dr. to deliver their logs to Coopers Mill. During that time, there were no major problems. Also, in this area along North Mount Shasta Blvd, Nixon Rd, West Ski Village Dr. and the City Park, there has not been a new house build in over 50 years. So, all the owners back then and now should have been well aware of the noise, traffic, industrial and commercial use of that area. So why

should CG be responsible to solve all these so called problems that have been there for years?

Another issue is the water and that wells East and North of CG might run dry when CG starts bottling or they might deplete the City water supply. 30 years ago, there were very few houses in that area, now their saying there are over 75 homes around that area. Most of these homes have drilled wells in very permeable lava soil. The wells are round 150 feet deep. Most likely, they have all drilled into the same aquifer or ground water source. Don't you think that having 75 wells drawing water from the same source during dry years, could be causing some of the wells to run low at times? And, there is no proof that this water source is the same as the one that CG will be using, that has been drilled to a depth over 400 ft. This water source was used by a lumber mill for 30 years and a water bottling plant for over 10 years and they never ran out of water. Also, the residents all have septic tanks that leach into very permeable lava soil that more than likely are leaching into the neighbor's wells and causing some pollution. Not good for the environment.

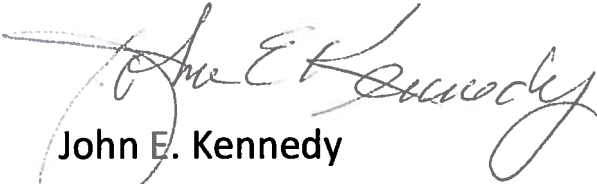
Another issue is the use of plastic bottles and how toxic they are and how they pollute the environment. If I am not mistaken, the plastic that CG is going to be using are labeled a number 1 type bottle, which I have read, is deemed safe. In fact, in my readings it sounds like they could be more safe then the tap water we drink. The tap water is subject too toxic from the PVC piping, Lead in the solder in the copper, lead and metal from the rust in the galvanized pipes. We are exposed to plastic in almost everything we buy at the grocery stores. Milk cartons, Ice cream container and steel cans lined with plastic coating, plastic trays, tooth paste tubes, pill bottles, plastic wraps for your meats and doughnuts also, the goods you put in the freezer. Left overs that are stored and covered with plastic. Most all of these are considered toxic. Why are CG's plastic bottles so dangerous? Do they

have to be the first bottling company to not use plastic bottles? Glass bottles would be no better.

One last thing, and that has to do with the use of the land as a water bottling plant. For 10 years, it was used as one and they pumped water from the same aquifer and during those years we had drought conditions and the springs never ran dry or ran low of water. For 30 years before that it was use as a lumber mill site, where water from the same well, was used to keep their logs wet. They watered 24/7. Using millions of gallons of water that just ran on the ground and the spring didn't run out of water. Also, they didn't seem to have a pollution problem from the run off from watering the logs. CG will be taking care of their wastewater through an improved leach field or having it treated by the City of Mount Shasta. So why is this water plant so unsafe to the environment?

I believe that Crystal Geyser Bottling Plant will be a great neighbor for the City of Mount Shasta and Siskiyou County and that we could not find a cleaner more compatible, environmental friendly business to come into this area.

Thanks.



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Received
2/21/17

