

182 C Shasta Avenue
Mount Shasta CA 96067
February 24, 2017

Ryan Sawyer, AICP
Analytical Environmental Services
1801 Seventh Street
Sacramento CA 95811

Re: Crystal Geysers DEIR

Dear Mr. Sawyer:

As I have heard extensive, detailed comments that are being sent to you by others, I will limit my comments to reinforcing the importance, in my view, that the cited inadequacies be addressed with more effective mitigations. Or, alternatively, that there be NO PROJECT.

I acknowledge that my preference is the No Project option, because: (1) Like many other homeowners, I live close (only one-third of a mile as the crow flies) to the plant, so all the air pollution, noise and light pollution strongly impact me and my neighbors. (2) I have chosen to make Mount Shasta my retirement home because I treasure the purity of our air and water, the natural environment, and the peaceful spirit of this community. Given these values, which are those of most Mount Shasta residents, the placement of a factory amid surrounding homes flies in the face of all that we value here.

I also owned the property adjacent, on the east, to the Crystal Geysers property; I bought it in 1993 and lived there until 2013. So I was there when Dannon came in and so I experienced the considerable disturbances of noise, intense vibration, dust, excess light and aggravation. I was fortunate in that my well did not run dry, but this did happen to some neighbors. Appeals to the company about these issues were not heeded. The plant was an unpleasant, uncooperative, and unesthetic neighbor. We experienced their deceptiveness: they had presented a design for an inconspicuous building, with earth-toned exterior, set well back from the street. Then they disappeared for some time—only to suddenly reappear as bulldozers, putting in a building three times the planned square footage, near the street, out of keeping with the surroundings and decidedly a “dominant visual feature.”

Crystal Geysers has not ingratiated itself to our community either; they were unresponsive for a long period of time to insistent requests for information about their plans, especially the amount of water they intended to take. Meanwhile they proceeded to bring in and install equipment, not bothering to get permits. They pushed it as long as they could before finally conceding that they needed an EIR, as we had been telling them. Then they invested reportedly \$30,000 into defeating a local proposed ordinance by publishing bold-faced lies about it. As a result of all the above, most of the community holds little trust in and appetite for further dealings with Crystal Geysers. We've had enough of huge, deceitful international corporations wanting to come in, ride rough-shod over us, and take over our resources.

Beyond venting my dislike, the above is basis for insisting that if the project goes forward, there be stringent mitigations to prevent further such harmful behaviors on their part. In particular, the amount of water to be drawn needs to be clearly specified, and provisions made in case of change in water availability. And there must be no further expansion unless this is specified and approved in the EIR. The agreement must be transparent so that we know what we are getting—no secrets, no games. If they are not willing to be honest with us, they can go elsewhere.

Further specifics:

Protection of groundwater:

There must be continuous monitoring to be sure of continued supply and to record amount taken.

Wastewater must be dealt with in a way that does not infiltrate into our aquifers—no leach fields.

Limit amount of effluent going to our wastewater disposal system.

Industrial chemicals our system is not designed for must be removed before discharge.

If any existing residential wells go dry, CG must pay for deeper wells.

Protection of air quality:

Residents and visitors come here for our exceptionally clean air. Any degrading is unacceptable.

All fumes from combustion of propane and diesel generators must be cleaned from the air.

Fumes from forming of plastic bottles must also be removed.

No volatile organic compounds or greenhouse gases are to be allowed to escape into the environment.

If sweetened drinks are to be produced, odors from these must not escape into the environment.

Truck traffic: Require biodiesel-burning trucks only. Idling time limited.

Noise abatement:

Any noise from production needs to be muffled.

Noisy equipment on roof should be shielded.

Truck traffic must be limited to fixed hours, such as 7 am to 7 pm.

Light pollution:

Exterior lighting must be shielded so as to fall on the plant grounds only.

Traffic issues:

Trucks must use CG driveway only, and not go into town or onto residential streets. Violators would be fined.

Signage, speed reduction, and additional lanes for turning are needed to avoid congestion and to lessen danger of injury where vehicles exit freeway onto a blind curve and suddenly encounter the entrance to our City Park. Such improvements are to be paid for by CG.

Maintenance of road surfaces leading to the City must be, at least in a specified part, the responsibility of CG, due to the degrading of roadways by heavy trucks.

Adequate provisions need to be made for trucks traveling on snowy or icy surfaces near the plant.

The City of Mount Shasta is to be compensated for any use of city emergency services.

Monitoring and enforcing:

There must be provisions for all regulations contained in the EIR to be enforced, and consequences defined for any violation.

Relations with the Mount Shasta community:

We demand that CG be willing to discuss any concerns with us, and be open and honest in its dealings with us. Meeting with the Gateway Neighborhood Association is a first step in this.

Honesty and clarity regarding the number, type, and pay level of jobs for local people is required.

Ours is an unusual community. Our quality of life, property values and business survival depend on the excellence of our air, water, beauty, respect for nature, and peacefulness. Therefore degradation of any of these, which might be acceptable elsewhere, is not acceptable here. If these requirements are more than CG is willing to agree to, then they need to locate elsewhere. And we owe them nothing for the costs they have incurred bringing in equipment; doing so without permits and clear agreements, which we repeatedly asked for, was their choice.

Sincerely,

Marilyn C. Taylor
530-926-1317