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## **Waste Management Statement on Demurrers Filed Today**

### ***TWO PAGE STATEMENT***

*The following comments are attributable to Mike Smith, Director of Operations for Waste Management - Ventura County:*

We continue to believe what we've always believed since the beginning of this project: that all Ventura County groups, residents and business people, and especially all Simi Valley residents, should expect us to be open and transparent about the project. And we have lived up to that.

We have taken more than 4,000 residents on tours of the landfill since 2008. We have sent out information on the project via email to Simi residents, Ventura County residents and interested parties - more than 120,000 emails in all. And we have sent out more than 368,000 informational flyers on the project via billing statements since 2008.

Since 2007, we have conducted 18 community presentations, including the Simi Valley Planning Commission and Neighborhood Councils. Since 2009, WM staff and management have attended at least two dozen Simi Valley Neighborhood Council meetings. We have also held four community information meetings - voluntarily and at our expense.

We have also held an Open House Event (in 2008 and 2009), an Earth Day Event (2010), and two Simi Free Dump Day community information events (in 2009 and 2010); these events were attended by more than 2,000 people, the vast majority of them being local Simi Valley residents

Our outreach has been - and will continue to be - significant; our efforts have gone far above any outreach done by the Task Force or that which is required by the California Environmental Quality Act.

WM agrees with the assertion the County makes in its demurrer that the Task Force, like all groups and citizens in Ventura County, will have multiple opportunities to provide input on the landfill project. We also agree with the County's assertion in the demurrer that it is within the County's discretion to make the decision whether a permit or a modification to a permit complies with land use requirements.

WM also agrees with the County (as stated in the County's demurrer) that the "political purpose of the Task Force's Petition is apparent."

The actions of Councilmember Williamson and her Task Force are confusing. We have been meeting with Councilmember Williamson and her Task Force since 2007 under the assumption that they were interested in making this a good project that would work for Simi Valley. Then, they file a lawsuit against the County and WM.

Then, they ask us to debate them while the lawsuit is awaiting a decision by the courts. Now, Councilmember Williamson tells the media that the Task Force isn't suing us, even though they obviously are.

*The following comments are attributable to John Newell, Waste Management's Corporate Counsel.*

WM, in our filing, is asking that the Court dismiss the lawsuit completely. This request is based on the undisputed facts that the proposed project is subject to a reimbursement agreement between the County and WM (i.e., the County is not spending taxpayer dollars) and that an independent body, CalRecycle has already determined that the project is properly described within the County Siting Element.

Simply put, the Task Force's lawsuit fails on the facts and the law.