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January 29, 2010

Mr. John Paul Bruno
Senior Vice President/General Manager
DMB Redwood City Saltworks
1700 Seaport Boulevard, Suite 200
Redwood City, CA 94063

Dear John,

We are all aware of the serious jobs/housing imbalance in San Mateo County. Every day, tens of thousands of people who work in Redwood City and nearby communities on the Peninsula must commute from homes as far away as the Central Valley. The result is an increase in vehicle miles traveled for commuters leading to increased carbon dioxide and green house gas emissions, major deterioration in air quality, and increased stress on our roadway systems. In addition, the housing/job imbalance on the Peninsula continues to deteriorate our local communities as our critical civic support employees (teachers, police/fire, healthcare, etc.) are forced to live outside the communities they work in and commute several hours each day.

No organization is more aware of this pressing need than the San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA). *On January 19th, the SAMCEDA Board of Directors voted to formally endorse the Saltworks 50/50 Balanced Plan because of the vital importance of your project to Redwood City's and the County's future.*

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) regional growth projection forecasts the addition of 165,000 new jobs to the County by 2025. Conversely, recent real estate surveys by S&P and Metrostudy suggest that housing inventory is near exhaustion. With a growing job base and static or receding housing supply, demand will quickly outpace supply. We strongly believe that communities like Redwood City must find ways to create significant new housing that will permit workers to live near their jobs – before those jobs migrate closer to the employees.

The difficulty is in finding a site that can support a significant number of homes, along with an environmentally and socially-responsible plan for the development of that site. Redwood City has before it just such an opportunity: The 50/50 Balanced Plan for the Saltworks site which the city is now considering.

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The 50/50 Balanced Plan would create a transit and walker-friendly community of 12,000 new homes for local workers, not only in the high-tech industry, but also the teachers, nurses and public safety employees upon whom we depend. This would eliminate thousands of daily commutes and significantly decrease environmental and air-quality impacts from tailpipe emissions.

In addition to homes, the community would have retail shops, restaurants and entertainment, as well as a generous array of public amenities such as a new levee system, public parks, schools, and new wetlands habitat.

SAMCEDA is aware of the tremendous, and much-needed, economic boom this project would create for not only Redwood City and its downtown, but for surrounding communities in San Mateo County – providing for the creation of thousands of jobs and tens of millions of dollars in economic stimulus.

Our organization stands ready to support efforts to ensure the timely processing of this project, for the long-term economic and environmental interests of Redwood City and its residents.

Sincerely,



Elaine Breeze
Chair, SAMCEDA