

Chair, Higher Education Committee
Co-Chair, Joint Oversight Committee
on Higher Education Governance,
Excellence, and Transparency
Legislative Budget Board



Judith Zaffirini
State Senator, District 21
President Pro Tempore, 1997

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Redistricting

July 23, 2012

Zac Covar, Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

REVIEWED

PM JUL 24 2012
By B

2012 JUL 24 AM 10:25
CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE
TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Dear Mr. Covar:

MSW
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Thank you for your leadership in addressing issues related to ensuring clean air and an adequate water supply for Texans. This is to request that Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) staff hold a public meeting regarding the application by Rancho Viejo Waste Management, LLC, for a Type I municipal solid waste landfill.

As I wrote in my January 19 letter to former Executive Director Mark Vickery, a copy of which is enclosed, many of my constituents who live and work near the proposed facility have expressed serious concerns regarding the appropriateness of creating a landfill in this location and the effect it would have on the surrounding community. A public meeting would provide persons who would be affected by the approval of this permit with an excellent opportunity to submit comments or ask questions about the application.

Feel free to contact me or my staff regarding this request or whenever we may be of assistance. May God bless you.

Very truly yours,

Judith Zaffirini

Judith Zaffirini

JZ/sg

XC: Bridget Bohac, Chief Clerk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Enc: Letter to Executive Director Mark Vickery, January 19, 2012

MC

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January 19, 2012

Mark R. Vickery, P.G.
Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dear Mr. Vickery:

Thank you for the letter from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regarding the application of Rancho Viejo Waste Management, LLC, for a municipal solid waste facility in Webb County. This is to inform you that some of my constituents have expressed their concerns that granting this application could have a detrimental effect on the proposed site and on the location's neighbors.

During the last legislative session I met with C. Y. Benavides III. and was briefed about the proposed landfill. Since then I have heard several concerns, including from his family members and neighboring landowners who oppose the application. They said the proposed site lies within a floodplain and also would abut a large cattle ranching operation. What's more, they were concerned that residents of the nearby Ranchitos Las Lomas colonia could be ill-informed about the landfill proposal and could be harmed significantly by the pollution and odor of such a large municipal waste site.

I trust that TCEQ will reflect the utmost diligence in reviewing this application and ensure that residents' concerns about threats to the environment and the persons living in the surrounding community are considered during the decision-making process. Feel free to contact me or my staff for more information or whenever we can be of assistance.

May God bless you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith Zaffirini".

Judith Zaffirini

JZ/sg



Judith Zaffrini
State Senator, District 21
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

TEXAS
COMMISSION
ON ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY

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JUL 24 2012

TCEQ MAIL CENTER
AR
CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE

Bridget Bohac, Chief Clerk
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

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Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., *Chairman*
Carlos Rubinstein, *Commissioner*
Toby Baker, *Commissioner*
Zak Covar, *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

August 3, 2012

The Honorable Judith Zaffirini
Texas Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Senator Zaffirini:

Thank you for your July 23, 2012 letter requesting a public meeting regarding the pending application by Rancho Viejo Waste Management, LLC for a Type 1 municipal solid waste landfill permit number 2374 in Webb County.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will be scheduling a public meeting regarding this application; however, on July 23, 2012, the TCEQ received a letter from the applicant requesting a 90-day delay for the publication of notice and application processing. The TCEQ will schedule the public meeting to coincide with the 90-day delay for notice publication.

Once the 90-day delay has concluded, our staff will contact you when a public meeting has been scheduled. The meeting will be scheduled at a time and location convenient for you and your constituents.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (512) 239-3914 or Ms. Bridget C. Bohac, Chief Clerk, at (512) 239-3300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zak Covar", written over the typed name.

Zak Covar
Executive Director

Handwritten initials or mark

