

Tom Last
Planning Director
City of Grass Valley
125 East Main Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Subject: Idaho-Maryland Draft Environmental Impact Report

January 20, 2009

Dear Mr. Last,

My name is Joseph Cochran. I was the Manager of Technology Development for Golden Bear Ceramics (GBC). I am also one of the co-founders of Mobius Technologies and one of the original first employees of MBA Polymers. What do all of these companies have in common? They are all successful recycling companies that I helped start.

As the Manager at GBC, I was in charge of all day to day operations and employees for inventing and developing the Ceramext Process. This is the commercialized process that will be used for the IMMC / GBC Grass Valley Operations. This process took many local people, working very hard to accomplish something no one else has been able to do;

Commercialize a process to economically and efficiently recycle mine tailings into beautiful high quality ceramic tiles

The local staff (of Grass Valley residents) at GBC were laid off because the City of Grass Valley was taking too long reviewing this permit application. This GBC Team accomplished its goal of commercializing the process in 2006, but delays in the permit approval forced my and my staff to be laid off. We were ready to start ordering equipment and make final designs for the commercial operations, but with delays in the permitting process we were laid off.

As I mentioned above, I have made a successful career from inventing and commercializing sustainable recycling companies;

MBA Polymerms
www.mbapolymers.com

Mobius Technologies
www.mobiustechnologies.com

and soon to be another feather in my cap...

Golden Bear Ceramics
www.goldenbearceramics.com

GBC has far and away the biggest potential to “Save Mother Earth”. What I mean is that my inventions at the other two recycling companies keep millions of pounds of waste out of land fills every year, but GBC can do this EVERY MONTH and more!! The other companies had many technical challenges to overcome and GBC has already all done this and is just waiting for the approval of Grass Valley.

The bottom line my team and I were ready to start the commercial design of the GBC Tile Factory in 2006. But delays in the permitting process have forced me take a job in Lincoln. I commute there every day at about 80 miles round trip (about two hours round trip). This commute is costing me money and time away from my family. Time that I could be LIVING in Grass Valley, not just sleeping here. Please hurry up and be done with this review process. The City of Grass Valley has taken more than enough time to review this project. At some point the staff and council of Grass Valley needs to “man up” and make the decision to “Approve” this project. The EIR shows the exhaustive work the city staff have done and the text speaks for itself; “The project should be approved and fast tracked.”

The EIR has more than analyzed all the potential problems and has shown that all concerns are either unsubstantiated or can be mitigated/controlled/prevented. The city has spent millions of Emgold’s money studying this to death. The EIR is very thorough and does not need to be changed. Do not re-write or restudy this very thorough document. City of Grass Valley staff has done a GREAT JOB!

GBC tiles have a huge benefit for the community. Not only would the tile factory create jobs but also tax revenue and PRIDE in Grass Valley. All tile produced from this factory could very easily be sold right here in Grass Valley (FOB and not actually to the citizens) and not to distributors. Anyone who says that the tax revenue would not be a point of sale from Grass Valley is WRONG! I can state this because most GBC tile may not be sent to Home Depot or Lowes or ... GBC tile would be DEMANDED by all the large commercial and institutional projects because of the “green recycled” content. This point of sale would be FOB Grass Valley. A 1200 TPD tile factory can easily generate 100 million SF of tile. At a conservative FOB Grass Valley sale price of \$3.50 per SF, that equates to estimated tax revenue for Grass Valley of \$1.5 million dollars per year. This could be a very real reality and should not be ignored. Just think what the City of Grass Valley could do if an additional \$1.5 million each year????!!!!

LEED credits are all the talk in these large architectural projects and supplying a floor, wall, counter top, roof (and the list goes on) RECYCLED GREEN TILE to these projects is vital. Without enough LEED points there large architectural projects will not get approved. GBC Tile can help these projects meet their goals of being LEED certified. The market for GBC Tile is HUGE and GBC has already been contacted by hotel, casino, government, commercial architects asking “When can we place an order??!!”.

Once again, for the record, in my professional engineering recycling patent holding opinion, the EIR is comprehensive, adequate, it should be approved immediately, and the project should be allowed to proceed as quickly as possible.

Respectfully,

Joseph Cochran
11997 Hanley Drive

Grass Valley, CA 95949

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