



**SIERRA  
CLUB**

FOUNDED 1892

**NAPA GROUP**  
P.O. Box 5531  
Napa, CA 94581  
[www.redwood.sierraclub.org/napa](http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org/napa)

February 21, 2017

City of Vallejo Planning Commissioners

Landis Graden  
Marvin Kinney  
Roberto Cortez  
Diosdado JR Matulac  
Jim Scoggin  
Roberto Schussel  
Chris Platzer

The Executive Committee of the Napa Group of the Sierra Club is aware that the proposed VMT/Orcem project is scheduled to come before you on February 27. We would like to express our concerns about impacts on the regional environment. We share concerns about impacts on populations in the neighborhoods in proximity to the proposed development, but we know there are local groups in Vallejo and Solano County that will be focusing on those issues—therefore we will limit our comments to impacts on the regional air quality and the watershed that Napa County shares with Vallejo and Solano County.

Slag mills associated with the production of cement have been associated with the delivery, storage and processing of materials that are toxic to the environment. Open piles of slag and the fine powders that are products of the milling process have been known to find their way into the air and adjacent waterways. Toxins have included hexavalent chromium, a known carcinogen, and calcium sulfide, a Category 1 Chronic Hazard to Aquatic Environments.

The deep-water port associated with this plant and other heavy industry development will require frequent dredging that will have major impacts on wildlife. We note that the location of this proposed development at the head of Mare Island Straight is especially sensitive as it is a passage for migratory fish, including salmon, steelhead, and other threatened species entering the Napa River system.

The Napa River Restoration Project is an ongoing co-operative effort by public and private entities. Phase 1, known as the Rutherford Reach Restoration Project, involved over 25 property owners of 40 parcels; 18 acres of grapes were re-dedicated to river corridors. Streambed fish habitats and living river conditions were restored along a 4.5-mile reach, after 13 years of effort with expenditures of \$21 million dollars funded by Napa County, the State of California, and the U.S. government, as well as various private grants. Phase 2 is ongoing bank restoration project along an additional 2.9-mile reach with an additional \$21 million of funding. Another 9 miles of river between Oakville and Oaknoll are currently being restored, involving the co-operation of 43 landowners and the installation of 38 in-stream habitats. Planning is underway for similar restorations in the reaches between St. Helena and

Calistoga, as well as in critical spawning habitats in the tributaries. The Zinfandel Lane Bridge Fish Passage Improvement Project was also recently completed. That these efforts are paying off can be attested by many sightings of salmon and steelhead this season in the upper reaches of the river. Please do not undo all this work by approving heavy industry right at the head of this critical migratory fish passage.

Cooling breezes from San Pablo Bay play an important role in the uniqueness and diversity of Napa's (and Solano's) agricultural regions and highlight that we share a common air space. Please protect the clean, unpolluted air that is appreciated by our residents and our visitors. Please consider development alternatives that live lightly on the land instead of heavy industry.

Napa Sierra Club Executive Committee

Chis Benz  
Nancy Tamarisk  
Bill Dyer  
Karen Culler  
Diane Shepp  
Annette Krammer  
Bob Dwyer