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Colonel Steven Arquette  
Department of the Air Force  
60<sup>th</sup> CES/CESP  
191 W Street  
Travis AFB, CA 94535

January 14, 2008

Dear Colonel Arquette:

A number of residents of Suisun City contacted us with serious concerns they have regarding proposed construction near the jet fuel pipeline that serves Travis Air Force Base. After reviewing the available information from Suisun City regarding the proposed construction of a Wal-Mart Supercenter at the corner of Walters Road and State Route 12, along with all applicable pipeline safety regulations, we share their concerns and hope you can provide information to allay those concerns.

Reviewing the documents available from Suisun City it is obvious that significant construction will be occurring near the jet fuel pipeline that you operate along Petersen Road. It is unclear from these documents whether any of this construction, including a proposed 8-foot high masonry wall, will be constructed on your right-of-way. There also will be upgrades to Petersen Road along your right-of-way, and two entrances to the new development built across your right-of-way and over your pipeline. One of these entrances, over your pipeline, is meant for ongoing heavy semi-trucks that will continually serve this new Wal-Mart.

One of the things we found most troubling about the City's Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was that there was no information included about your pipeline, and ways to protect it from construction damage and loading forces. We were equally concerned that in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) there were no comments from Travis Air Force Base pointing out this deficiency in the DEIR, and providing information necessary to protect your pipeline and avoid illegal encroachment on your right-of-way. In fact in the FEIS the City provides email correspondence with Travis Air Force Base indicating that the base has "no comments."

We understand that the military is exempt from the minimum federal pipeline safety regulations that apply to all similar pipelines as detailed in Title 49 CFR Part 195, but the military still has a duty to protect people and the environment near its pipelines. Many other military bases have agreed to voluntarily comply with these minimum regulations, and have worked with the experts within the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to ensure their pipelines are in compliance and safe for the public. Unfortunately in neither the DEIR or the FEIR for this project, or anywhere else that

we can find, is there any hint that Travis Air Force Base is complying with these regulations, or for that matter paying any attention to their pipeline at all.

We have reviewed many other development proposals across the country that are near transmission pipelines, and it is the norm for the private sector that operates the majority of these pipelines to ensure that local government and developers understand exactly where their pipelines are, and what is and is not allowed on their right-of-ways. We hope that Travis Air Force Base also takes pipeline safety seriously and is doing many of the things we have mentioned in this letter. Unfortunately the public record regarding this proposed development does not include any information that would give the public living and traveling near this pipeline any reason to believe that is true. This can be easily remedied, and the public's fears put to rest, if you direct your staff to provide Suisun City staff with clear information about your pipeline and a plan to ensure that it is protected from possible significant impacts from this proposed development along Petersen Road. Information would need to be provided at or before the final public hearing that is now scheduled for Tuesday January 22 at 5PM in the Suisun City Council Chambers.

The U.S. Congress has taken note of the problems associated with the lack of understanding by local government of the possible dangers created by development near pipelines. The U.S. Department of Transportation has responded to this concern with a new effort entitled the Pipeline and Informed Planning Alliance. The Pipeline Safety Trust is on the steering committee for this effort that will make recommendations for ways to correct the breakdown in communications between pipeline operators, such as you, and local government planners that often put people at risk. If it turns out to be true, as the record for this current development proposal suggests, that Travis Air Force Base needs some consultation with the experts in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Pipeline Safety to get your operating procedures in line with the federal minimum standards I suggest you contact Jeff Wiese ([jeff.wiese@dot.gov](mailto:jeff.wiese@dot.gov)) the Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

I hope our reading of the record of this proposed development does not portray an accurate view of Travis Air Force Base's commitment to pipeline safety, and hope you will correct that record at the public hearing on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. If we can be of any assistance or answer any questions please let me know.

Sincerely,



Carl Weimer, Executive Director

cc: Sara Underwood, Travis Air Force Base Community Planner  
Jeff Wiese, Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety, U.S. Dept. of Trans.  
The Honorable Ellen Tauscher, U.S. Representative  
The Honorable Barbara Boxer, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Suisun City Council Members