



RECEIVED

November 6, 2009

NOV 11 2009

CITY MANAGER

11-30-09

Aavati

X Due: 12-14-09

Please draft response for Kris's signature.

X Copy To: kris, Assignment file

Kris Wang  
Cupertino City Hall  
10300 Torre Avenue  
Cupertino, CA 95014

BY TC

Dear Vice Mayor Wang:

We are very concerned about the issue of the Lehigh Cement Company and the renewal of its Title V permit. As long-time Cupertino residents, we would like to see this issue addressed as soon as possible. We understand that from the 2008 State of the City speech that environmental safety is a top priority the city, especially with the start of the Green Cupertino program. The Lehigh Cement Plant is big contributing factor to the pollution in the city, and we believe that it should make adjustments to its practices in order to abide by the Environmental Protection Agency's standards.

Cupertino has one of the nation's worst mercury-emitting cement kilns, and in fact, it is the fifth most mercury polluting industrial plant in the United States. It has been reported by the EPA that the Lehigh Cement Company has dumped 496 pounds on mercury into Cupertino's air in 2006. Aside from mercury, this plant has also contributed to air pollution in the form of limestone dust, one of the major components of mercury. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, mercury is a toxic metal long known "to interfere with the development of the nervous system, impairing the brain in growing children and affecting IQ, behavior and physical growth" (July 24, 2008).

Quality schools in Cupertino are undoubtedly desired. We are worried about the pollution's affect on students, since these students are particularly sensitive to these emissions. If these high levels of mercury pollution persist, there will be devastating effects on the younger generation. Imagine how ironic it would for people to come into Cupertino for its quality schools, while not knowing that their children are in danger of mercury poisoning.

The city of Cupertino is very dear to our hearts, and we would like see it stay as a model of an environmentally responsible community. We hope action will be taken immediately in order to ensure the welfare of our homes, our schools, and our children. We hope that you, as someone who is advocating a green city, will address this issue for the good of our community.

Sincerely,

Angela Gong, Julie Hong, Jessica Hsu  
1342 S. Stelling Rd.  
Cupertino, CA 95014