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Sonoma Group
Redwood Chapter
P.O. Box 466
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

February 1, 2009

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
575 Administration Drive, Room 102A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-2887

RE: DUTRA ASPHALT PLANT (File #PLP04-0046)--OPPOSITION

Dear Supervisors:

The Sierra Club Sonoma Group respectfully urges disapproval of the proposed Dutra Group Asphalt Plant near the restored Shollenberger Park wetlands at Petaluma. While we recognize that a diverse and sustainable economy in Sonoma County will include heavy industry, approving a massive asphalt plant at the proposed location would be a mistake.

According to the Project EIR, the plant would result in "significant unavoidable project-specific impacts related to aesthetics (scenic vistas, visual character) air quality (operational emissions and inconsistency with the Clean Air Plan), land use (conflict with applicable plans, land use incompatibility) . . . and noise . . ." (page VI-1) A plant of this size should be sited in an industrial area at much greater distance from the restored wetland and recreational area. Citizens of Petaluma have expressed outrage over locating this activity so close to a recreational area at the city's gateway. Please consider the generations of visitors and residents that would be deterred by this development from walking, watching birds, and kayaking in and around Shollenberger Park.

The Project EIR also describes unauthorized grading and equipment storage on the Dutra property, as well as destruction of historic buildings and barns. In this connection, it is important to consider the difficulties that Marin County, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have had in obtaining Dutra's compliance with permits and reclamation plans. In recent years the Dutra Group has been the subject of a grand jury investigation, litigation resulting in over \$700 thousand in fines, and numerous unresolved complaints. Sonoma County must consider the extent to which the limitations of any use permit for the proposed project will be observed.

We hope that you will join the Petaluma City Council and vote unanimously to reject the Dutra Asphalt Plant proposal.

Sincerely,

Steve Birdleough
Sierra Club

Sonoma Group Executive Committee Chair