

183946

DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH SILTRONIC CORP.

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
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Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Please consider the following points in regards to the pending Portland/Wacker Siltronics deal:

LACK of Transparency

I am an active participant in environmental concerns along the North Reach of the Willamette River in Portland. Yet neither I nor any of the numerous agencies and groups with whom my colleagues and I are partnered knew anything of the Siltronics deal in advance of that late night City Council MOU hearing. We stumbled across the deal by happenstance as we were leaving a different, earlier hearing.

LACK of Partnering

As I testified at the time, Portland failed to avail itself of the crucial information necessary in making a decision of this import. As you know, there are ongoing investigations and analysis of the condition of the Willamette River Superfund site that includes the Siltronic property and the land and water adjacent to that property.

We just spent nearly eight years and about \$76 million dollars testing and studying our Superfund site yet you did not come to us or others concerned with this ongoing project. I know that because I asked the principals involved. Our Superfund sites are of National concern. It is not strictly up to the city to make these decisions. To a large extent, it is actually outside the city's purview.

IF you had sought information you would have found that the Doanes Creek area is a "hot spot" on the Superfund site. A hot spot in this particular Superfund site is not to be taken lightly. We have some of the worst contaminants in the world along our river and adjacent uplands. Daylighting Doanes Creek is the exact opposite of what should be recommended for that highly contaminated area. In fact, we must fill in a small "lake" adjacent to the area in question in order to protect birds and wildlife. It will be filled in with concrete in order to save the creatures from the pollutants leached into the water from the soil, runoff, and groundwater there. Protecting the wildlife from the area is the opposite of a viable wildlife habitat area.

Furthermore, those of us who have been intensely and actively engaged in the process of restoring the health of the biota and of the economy in this Superfund site have realized the value in *creating a multi-level network of partnerships and interlocking support systems*. We realize that if we are to succeed in this effort we must all pull together toward a common goal. We have consistently and actively sought to involve Portland in our efforts. And we continue to do so. We are just coming to the Feasibility phase of the Superfund project, of which Daones Creek is a part, wherein we will discuss and decide how best to deal with these sites. You are getting too far ahead of the process to be

making the correct decision. You need to acquaint yourselves with the process and to move forward in concert with all the interested parties.

You absolutely must educate yourselves in the complex considerations that have to be addressed prior to making these decisions. In order to do so, you must partner. If you do that, the first thing you will come to respect is the need for taking caution on a Superfund site. Otherwise you are going to repeat the mistake of making bad matters much worse as has happened on other sites. And honestly, we do not have time for this trouble.

There is much more to be said on this subject but I will conclude by reminding you that you have not been forthcoming in describing exactly what it is that Siltronics will be building. Isn't it another tank for more liquid hydrogen? If that's the case, have you done your research on the dangers involved in siting yet another HAZMAT tank in this extraordinary vulnerable location?

Remember, we have a magnitude 9 earthquake pending as well as volcanic activity in this triple earthquake zone. It is already a serious problem that we have volatile, explosive hazardous materials along and on top of this triple earthquake zone in a flood plain, in a slide area, in a triple fire zone, next to high-tension wires and substations in what will become an inaccessible area in the event of the pending fiery catastrophe. Remember that, because at this point you are forewarned and therefore doubly responsible. Do you know how deep and broad of a crater you are supporting here already? Do you know the range of the hazardous chemicals in that area once they are compromised? Consider that aspect. This has to be reality-based, not more pretend or magical or wishful thinking. Realize that you can be well intentioned and still be wrong if your methods are wrong.

Lack of the Correct Orientation

Understand something, this is not your decision. Ultimately, this is the decision of the members of the local and larger community who are working toward creating a city that respects the rights of all the people; a city that is moving away from its historic practice of creating environmental justice issues and a city, and indeed, a nation that abhors sacrifice zones. Once you have the transparency that is supposed to accompany these decisions, you will see that.

You must join in the broader dialogue when making these decisions. We are all of us anxious to talk about this.

Therefore, please take this opportunity to engage with all the concerned entities. It will be advantageous to you and therefore to all of us since we have tasked you with the duty of determining the will of the people and working collaboratively with us to realize our goals. Consider this: we actually know what we are doing; and you do need us as much as we need you. Also, if you will engage with us it will save both time and energy. We are all extremely busy and do not have the extra time required to be constantly expending our energy undoing these mistakes you are making. Think of the progress we can make when, together, we get our priorities straight and work synergistically, along the correct time

line and in the correct timeframe – time being the operative concept here since we are running out of it if we are to actually save the environment.

You need to lay this decision aside pending more research and broader engagement.

Sincerely,


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