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Natividad Plant
Lhoist North America
P.O. Box 1938
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February 2, 2018

Nadia Amador, Associate Planner
County of Monterey
Resource Management Agency- Planning
1441 Schilling Place, Southwing 2nd Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

RE: Filter Press - An Environment Friendly Initiative

Dear Ms. Amador,

We are pleased to submit our application for the filter press project to the Monterey County Resource Management Agency and appreciate all of the hard work, input and guidance the agency has given Lhoist - Natividad Plant.

Natividad Plant is respectfully requesting an exception to title 21 zoning ordinance utilizing chapter 21.62 Height and setback exceptions 21.62.030 (C):

C. Any structure in any Commercial or Industrial District may be erected to a greater height than the limit established for the district in which the structure is to be located, provided that the cubical contents of the structure shall not be greater than that possible for a structure erected within the height limit and provided the design, exterior lighting, siting and landscaping plan for the project is approved by the Planning Commission.

This exception requires the approval of the planning commission and we would like to take this opportunity to convey the environmental and community benefits below:

Natividad Plant mines dolomite and manufactures many different products that are an integral part of the construction, agriculture and steel industry. We help build stronger homes, subdivisions, stable long lasting roads and bridges. We also help the animal feed industry by providing magnesium-calcium supplements. Our products are loved by the agriculture industry because of their inherent property to adjust pH and providing natural nutrients to crops that is essential for their growth.

We have always mined very responsibly at the Natividad location ever since the plant started in 1940s. We pride in being a major employer in the community who operates very responsibly in all respects including environmental and safety. This project is part of

our effort to improve our commitment to have a favorable impact on the environment and community.

Five favorable impacts from the project are listed below-

1. **Air Quality Improvement Due to Less Emissions** –Installation of the Filter Press will reduce overall emissions due to reduced material handling, and reduction in mobile equipment run time. The filter press will squeeze the water out of the dirt and create compact cakes. Hence the volume of material transported to reclamation will be significantly reduced.
2. **Less Water Usage** - California has been experiencing drought conditions for the last four years. While water restrictions have not been imposed on industrial facilities yet, water conservation projects are strongly encouraged by the state. The ability of the filter press system to recover additional water from the dirt will reduce the water demand for the site.
3. **Favorable Impact on Land Use/Reclamation Due to Less Volume** – Dirt excavated from the ponds is hauled to designated areas for final disposal. The filter press reduces the volume of material by elimination of excess water and sorbent dust, thus the footprint required to store this material throughout the life of operations is reduced
4. **Filter Cakes for the Dairy Industry** – The compressed cakes from the filter press can be used by the dairy industry for cow bedding application. The local farmers will enjoy highly subsidized prices if they choose to use the filter cake for their barns.
5. **Reduction in number of ponds** – Installation of the filter press will reduce the need the number of active settling ponds. This will reduce water evaporation and improve aesthetics of the site.

Sincerely,

Ameet Bodhankar
Plant Manager