



**MOUNT SHASTA BIOREGIONAL ECOLOGY CENTER**  
Honoring and Protecting our Mountain Environment Since 1988

PO Box 1143  
Mt. Shasta, CA 96094  
July 30, 2018

Ron Stock, City Manager  
City of Weed  
550 Main St.  
Weed, CA 96094

Re: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Report  
For the Love's Travel Stop Project  
State Clearinghouse #2017092076

Dear Mr. Stock:

The Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center is a grassroots organization dedicated to preserve, protect and restore our pristine mountain environment. We would like to comment on this project.

As you know, many local citizens have voiced strong objections to the project. In the interest of avoiding redundancy, we fully endorse the detailed comments you will receive from local resident Erich Ziller, planning consultant Dale LaForest and others regarding the inadequacy of the draft EIR, as well as how inappropriate this project is for the site, and indeed for the city of Weed.

The project is sited on the west side of Interstate 5 near residential areas and a long-planned nature preserve. Home owners have good reason to be concerned, and have additionally provided comments, in particular regarding:

- Aesthetics – with a jarring color scheme, large numbers of idling trucks, and light pollution from tall signage (of undefined height), our simple comment is: this project is ugly. On that basis alone, the project should be rejected.
- Air quality – the city is unable to enforce existing requirements that limit the amount of times trucks may idle; with an increase in truck traffic, substantial amounts of additional pollutants will spew into nearby residences and businesses.
- Hazards – in addition to increased risk of toxic wastes, the project will significantly increase fire danger. Should it go forward, we feel the city must construct and staff a new fire station nearby. The increased risk and costs of crime that will surely occur is a reason to reject this project.
- Other areas of concern include soil and water quality impacts from diesel runoffs, tree removal, and wastewater impacts.

This project is significantly different than the approved use for this site. We highly support Alternative 1 – No Project, No Development. Should development occur, it should be on the east side of the freeway (Alternative 3). We oppose Alternative 2, in which the previously approved plans would nevertheless result in significant impacts.

We are also concerned that the review of this matter has not adequately incorporated the concerns of citizens, both within the Weed City Limits and in the city's sphere of influence. Even

before plans had been submitted, planning maps included Love's corporate logo. All citizens require an impartial review of development plans, not advocacy on behalf of corporate interests.

On a policy level, approval of this development clearly works at cross purposes with the recommendations of consultants hired to review Weed's downtown revitalization. If the first thing travelers on the freeway see when approaching from the south is a garish sign, and just trucks and more trucks spewing fumes, investment in the downtown area will be even less likely. Resources spent accommodating outside corporations are resources that cannot be spent downtown.

And sadly, in a few years the project will be obsolete. There will be self-driving trucks, serviced robotically. The promise of even low paying jobs from this project is ultimately a false one. The entire town suffers when, as was mentioned at the revitalization meeting, people have to ask "how'd you end up in Weed"?

The choice is clear – does the city want to attract and be subservient to ugly, tacky, polluting outside developers for a few years, or invest in truly cleaning up and revitalizing the town?

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We hope decision makers will soundly reject this unwise and inappropriate project.

Sincerely,

Andy Fusso, Board Member  
For the Board of Directors  
Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center

Cc: Weed City Council & Planning Commission