January 8, 2023

To whom may Concern

The Honorable

Mayor Donald Williams, and City Manager Laura Snideman, of Calistoga, CA.

Mayor Paul Dohring and City Manager Anil Comelo of Saint Helena, CA.

Mayor Margie Mohler and City Manager Steven Rogers Town of Yountville, CA.

My name is Jose Garibay, Jr., I am a former employee of Upper Valley Disposal, Compost and Recycling Services (UVDS) which also included working at The Clover Flat Resource Recovery Park Landfill.  I have been experiencing a series of events and problems with not only myself but including my former workplace and coworkers, which I felt it was important for me to come forward.  I have filed a comment with the Water Board during the comment period regarding the proposed recent settlement with Clover Flat Landfill Located at 4350 Silverado Trail N, Calistoga, CA.  I also submitted my concerns during my experience and have evidence that I have shared with the Local, State and Federal Agencies.

Your cities are contracting with these companies, therefore you should be aware of the many Fires and Water Contamination. Also the employees of these businesses are not being protected appropriately and are being asked to work and handle unthinkable tasks with little to no training, equipment, or protection.  I have come forward **NOT** for any compensation but out of concern for my friends and former co-workers, many of whom are in no position to speak up or come forward for fear of retaliation and loss of their job.

I started working for the company July 15, 2019 as a Commercial Class A Driver and was then promoted to Management. A while after my hire date, April 5, 2021 I was promoted once more in January 01, 2022 due to my potential as a lead and my logistics experience. During the pandemic I took time off from January 07, 2020 to February 17, 2020, during my time off another employee was managing over my duties. Meanwhile I was looking for an affordable place to live, the company offered me to live on site at (UVDS) Upper Valley Disposal Services at 1285 Whitehall Lane Saint Helena, CA. from February 18, 2020 to April 29, 2022. As I was brought onsite to live I had tougher expectations and therefor more responsibilities even regarding emergencies for example when I was called to put out fires at the Whitehall Lane location. Also when I was need for the Leachate runoff events at Clover Flat Landfill.

The companies needed a lot of help to clean up the mess that existed and I did my best to correct many of the problems to my expertise while I worked to put in place protocols and safety mechanisms **to protect the employees, environment, and all the residents and tourists of upper Napa Valley.**

There were constant fires and UVDS in the composting facility and the lack of treatment and process for contaminated leachate water was disturbing.  The problems are extensive and have damaged the environment and continue to threaten and harm the environment around these facilities.

I worked for the company for three years as I worked hard to correct things and clean up these sites but I received backlash from upper management that led to my eventual severance on April 29, 2022.  Although I signed an agreement it did not exclude me from discussing **unlawful illegal activity** and this is what I have shared with the authorities.  I have been in contact with OSHA, the Water Board, the state EPA, the federal EPA, the Mexican Consulate, and I am reaching out to the Napa District Attorney as well as other agencies.

I no longer reside in the area but I am unclear how cities are partnering with these companies.  I felt happy for my former co-workers when reading about a new company taking over but I learned that the management was to stay in place and I realized that the Pestoni and Serini families were just cashing out and walking away from all the damage they have done to the beautiful environment of Napa Valley.  I felt I could no longer stay silent and thought the right thing was to come forward about this situation.  I am hoping the complaints that I have submitted have been shared with you by UVDS and Steve Lederer of the Upper Valley Waste Management Agency.  I have read much information coming from the company and the JPA. **There is a lot of misleading and FALSE Information being provided to the public.** I hope you will take the time to reconsider the people you contract within this company and how the workers, the environment, and all the residents and tourists of Napa County are impacted by these facilities.

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