



SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

SONOMA GROUP

P.O.Box 466, Santa Rosa CA 95402
(707) 544-7651 Fax: (707) 544-9861

July 19, 2010

Pam Stafford, Mayor
City of Rohnert Park
130 Avram Avenue
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Re: Proposed Superstore in Rohnert Park --Opposition

Dear Mayor Stafford:

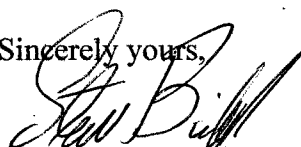
The Sierra Club is concerned that the superstore suggested for Rohnert Park would result in loss of a grocery store that serves 8 thousand local residents. The Pacific Market is an anchor for shops that people can get to easily by a short drive or even on foot and we think it is important environmentally to guard against the risk of closure. We are pleased that the Planning Commission unanimously found the Final Environmental Impact Report for this project to be inadequate. This is not a time to make citizens dependent on foods produced and trucked from far away to benefit a firm that sends its profits elsewhere.

The damages that would be caused by the superstore are well-described in a study by Professor Robert Eyler and include increased vehicle miles traveled, excess consumption of energy and unhealthy tailpipe emissions. Eyler confirms that approval of the project would quite likely cause closure of the nearby Pacific Market. Without a local market people would need to drive an extra 1.4 million miles every year. The study states that by retaining the locally-owned market and nearby shops, Rohnert Park can save 73,840 gallons of fuel, save your residents \$222,000 per year, and keep 656 tons of greenhouse gas out of the air.

The Eyler study emphasizes that Pacific Market serves a neighborhood shopping center that has been part of the community since 1985. It carries products from over 50 local Sonoma County producers, whereas the superstore would bring nearly all of its products from large national manufacturers and factory farms. Local products carried by the existing market are typically more environmentally friendly, and trucking mileage is greatly reduced. An action to close Pacific Market would violate the General Plan Policies of Rohnert Park by significantly increasing grocery shopping travel time for residents near the store, contrary to its Objectives to keep the city's small town feel; encourage local jobs; and increase pedestrian and bike access.

The Sierra Club urges you to act on the above facts and confirm that the Final EIR is indeed inadequate. This is a good time to keep our food sources reasonably local.

Sincerely yours,



Steve Birdlebough, Chair