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May 15, 2017

Christian Punsal
Integrated Waste Coordinator
City of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Subject: SEC Letter of Support for City of Elk Grove and Toby Johnson Middle School
Recycling and Education Program

Dear Mr. Punsal:

The Sacramento Environmental Commission ("SEC") is a joint County/City appointed commission chartered to advise the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Elk Grove and Sacramento on environmental issues facing our communities. Recently, the SEC awarded citizens, businesses or organizations based in Sacramento County whose actions this past year demonstrated outstanding efforts to improve and steward the environment. Among the recipients of this award was the City of Elk Grove Integrated Waste Department, and Toby Johnson Middle School for their effort to go above and beyond in organizing an on-campus school recycling and education program at the Middle School.

The school recycling program was a joint effort between the school teachers and the City of Elk Grove that encouraged voluntary participation and increased public awareness of the benefits of recycling. Elk Grove staff members worked to train and educate a core group of students and teachers about the logistics of recycling and correct sorting, using signage and colorful, printed materials that clearly showed which waste streams get sorted into the various bins provided by the City of Elk Grove. The on-campus recycling program also addresses the new requirements for organics recycling and the City provided food waste bins and educational signage. Each week students collect and audit recyclables in classrooms to give to the custodians.

The SEC believes that the efforts of the students and teachers of Toby Johnson Middle School, and the City of Elk Grove Integrated Waste Department are worthy of recognition. The students and teachers who participated in the program gained valuable, first-hand experience on how to organize a grass-root effort whose impact could benefit the entire community. Furthermore, this on-campus recycling program may serve as a model for other schools in the Elk Grove School District that would like to incorporate similar recycling programs at their own campus. The work of these students and the program's organizers may someday be the foundation of other successful recycling programs throughout the region. It is because of this that the SEC would encourage other environmental organizations to consider the City of Elk Grove Integrated Waste Department, and Toby Johnson Middle School for an award.

If you have any questions, please contact Jill Koehn, SEC Secretary at (916) 875-8584 or koehnjill@saccounty.net.

Sincerely,



Richard Hunn, SEC Chair
Sacramento Environmental Commission



Eric Rivero-Montes
Sacramento Environmental Commission