

By Electronic Mail and Golden State Overnight

September 30, 2016

Mr. Richard Mitchell  
Planning Director  
City of Richmond  
450 Civic Center Plaza  
Richmond, CA 94804

**Re: Temporary Storage of Clean Commercial Fill at 505 Canal Boulevard**

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Further to our telephone conversation this morning, I am writing to confirm that we are aggressively pursuing the options available to have the clean commercial fill that has been temporarily stored on our land at 505 Canal Boulevard removed next week. I will contact you on Monday to confirm exactly which day that removal will occur.

We sincerely regret, and are greatly sensitive to, the confusion this storage has caused to our neighbors in Point Richmond, elected officials and city staff. We apologize for not verifying in advance that a city permit was required for this temporary storage.

Unfortunately allegations have been made that this soil was “dumped” and I hope that our conversations yesterday and today have made it very clear that this is not the case and that this is only temporary storage.

As demonstrated by the documentation and sampling results that we provided yesterday, the temporary storage at 505 Canal Boulevard was approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board as part of their oversight of a parking garage project that is currently being constructed on one of our properties in Emeryville. The material tested well below actionable levels and was always intended to be returned for re-use at our Emeryville garage project site.

The stockpiles at 505 Canal Boulevard were placed and constructed under the supervision of an environmental consultant to rigorous standards including laying plastic sheeting below the stockpiles, completely covering the stockpiles and the addition of appropriate measures required under the approved Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

The stockpiles are located in the center of our private property and are surrounded by a secured fence with mandated signage. The wording of that signage is extremely precautionary. We quite understand, however, how that signage wording could be misinterpreted.

Wareham Development is a long standing member of the Richmond business community, having been active in the city since 1979. We stand on our track record of cleaning up more used real estate than any development firm in the East Shore. We would never dispose of contaminated soil other than in a location approved by the appropriate regulatory agencies and certainly not on our own property.

Our company prides itself on its 40 year track record of being willing to invest in faded real estate assets, adapting them to contemporary use and thereby helping to attract jobs to Richmond, Berkeley and Emeryville, as well as the other Bay Area cities in which we are active, and we look forward to continuing to do so in the future.

I would be very grateful if you would share this letter with appropriate elected officials and City staff.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Barlow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "B".

Chris Barlow  
Wareham Development