



ROMIC

CHEMICAL CORPORATION

March 16, 1991

Dear East Palo Alto Resident:

You have probably heard about the petition to recall the Mayor and Vice Mayor of East Palo Alto. The main reason given for the recall is that Warnell Coats and Pat Johnson voted to "expand" Romic Chemical, a company that recycles solvents, water, oil and antifreeze.

It is entirely up to you voters if you want to recall your elected officials. But we think it is only fair to you that you know the true story about the City Council's vote regarding Romic before you make your decision.

The vote was NOT for an expansion and did not increase our capacity at all. You don't have to take our word for it, contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Health Services, the San Mateo County Department of Environmental Health, the Menlo Park Fire Protection District or the City of East Palo Alto. They will all tell you the same thing.

Romic's capacity has remained about the same for several years, and we have no plans to expand in the near future. If we ever do want to increase capacity, an environmental study would have to be done, public hearings would be held, and the agencies mentioned earlier would have to issue us several permits. Also, we would hold community meetings as part of our ongoing efforts to keep the public informed about our operations.

The vote the City Council took last year regarding Romic was to let us make improvements so that we would meet new fire safety codes. It specifically stated that Romic could not increase capacity.

The recall petitioners also say Romic was allowed to expand without doing a study (Environmental Impact Report), which is against the law. They're right. *If* we had expanded, a study would have to be done first. But we did not expand, and the law specifically states that safety improvements such as we made are **exempt** from an EIR. That was the decision of the state and federal agencies that regulate us. It was also the advice of two City Attorneys. When the City Council voted to approve the safety improvements, they were merely following their attorneys' advice and voting for the best interests of the community.

Finally, the recall literature states that citizens (the same citizens behind the recall) have sued to get this study done. What they do not tell you is that the suit was dismissed by the San Mateo County Superior Court.

If you have further questions or would like to take a tour of Romic, please contact Rhonda Rigenhagen at 324-1638 ext. 620.

Sincerely,

H.M. Schneider