



April 22, 2009

Woody Thompson, District 4 Commissioner  
Cobb County Board of Commissioners  
100 Cherokee Street  
Marietta, GA 30090

Re: Application of S & S Investment  
Company for a Special Land Use Permit for  
a Waste Transfer Station off Riverview  
Road (SLUP-6)

Dear Commissioner Thompson:

On behalf of the Board and Officers of the Mableton Improvement Coalition (MIC), I am writing to express our opposition to this Special Land Use Permit for a Waste Transfer Station. This location is not appropriate for such an intensive industrial use, especially in light of the County's own ongoing River Line Master Plan effort.

The applicant proposes to build a waste transfer station that will receive approximately 600 tons of solid waste per day, generating over 100 truck trips on Riverview Road. This traffic will create a significant negative impact on the residential neighborhoods and Pace Academy athletic fields that lie between the proposed transfer station and I-285.

Looking to the future, the proposed transfer station is even less suitable. The county's consultant is wrapping up the River Line Master Plan study that includes this parcel, and based upon the most recent public presentation, we have every reason to believe that a recommendation to remove industrial uses from this area will be forthcoming. The planners have reflected the views of the hundreds of citizens who have turned out for the public meetings, and drafted concepts that show the area as a redeveloped mix of residential, light commercial and recreational uses.

Such a future is especially appropriate for a site located within the Metropolitan River Protection Act (MRPA) boundary. The location of a transfer station within this 2,000 foot river boundary is simply not a good idea for our water supply or the economic redevelopment of our area. MRPA exists to protect the Chattahoochee from nearby heavy development. This proposal calls for grading and paving of the entire property outside of the stream buffer, which feeds directly into the Chattahoochee.

The applicant compares SLUP-6 to another Special Land Use Permit issued last year for a nearby parcel, and concludes that because that case was approved, this one should be too. This is a faulty comparison. SLUP-19 (2008) involved a piece of property much further from the River, outside the MRPA boundary. The waste processing on the SLUP-19 (2008) site involved only wood and wood products, most of which is generated by the adjacent wood products company. Very little truck traffic has resulted. Although S&S Industries has led with recycling in naming their facility, less than 20% of the materials handled will be recycled. The remainder is ordinary solid waste, collected from locations around the metro area, to be brought to this parcel along the Chattahoochee River, re-packaged and shipped out again.

The application is currently under review by the Atlanta Regional Commission. In their preliminary report, ARC indicates that additional information is needed from Cobb County about the River Line Master Plan. Please direct staff to respond to this request, so that ARC's review will be based upon the best information.

The Mableton Improvement Coalition urges you to deny this application. It is not an appropriate use for this property, now or in the future.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 678-361-3542.

Yours Very Truly,

Ben Clopper, President

cc: Lori Presnell, Deputy County Clerk  
Karen King, Deputy County Clerk  
Rob Hosack, Director, Cobb County Community Development  
Murray Homan, Chairman, Cobb County Planning Commission  
MIC Board of Directors