



For immediate release:

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EnviroJustice Supports Stronger Pittsburg Hillside Development Standards

MARTINEZ, CA – Gregory Hile, president and founder of EnviroJustice, testified this evening before the Pittsburg, California Planning Commission in support of stronger hillside development standards in the city, especially in the light of the planning process for the adjacent Concord Naval Weapons Station development on the other side of the hills in Concord.

Here is the text of Rev. Hile's remarks:

"Madame Chair and members of the Planning Commission:

My name is Gregory Hile. I am president of EnviroJustice, an organization based in Contra Costa County that promotes environmental justice from a faith-based perspective. There are more than fifty congregations, synagogues, temples and other faith communities located in the city of Pittsburg, and many more committed residents of the city who worship in nearby communities. We come from a variety of theological perspectives but our Contra Costa Justice campaign for safe, sustainable and just communities seeks to embrace a common message: that enjoyment of the earth is among the most valuable gifts that human beings possess and that wise stewardship of that earth is among our highest responsibilities.

To that end, we are here tonight to join in and to support the efforts of Save Our Hills, the Greenbelt Alliance, the Concord Naval Weapons Station Neighborhood Alliance and other organizations and individuals in urging careful consideration and adoption of Hillside Development Standards and Design Guidelines that meet the test of safe, sustainable and just communities. I won't repeat their presentations here this evening but as a minister I know that this city *must* do a better job of preserving and protecting its precious resources, and as an individual having more than twenty-five years experience in environmental law and land use planning throughout the state of California I know that this city *can* do a better job of preservation and protection while at the same time promoting sustainable economic growth.

As stewards of the public trust that extends not only to the landowners and developers in the city of Pittsburg but also to the residents of the city and surrounding communities, we urge you to exercise that stewardship in a manner that preserves open space, the natural features of your hills, its ridgelines, peaks, and slopes, your watershed and water quality, wildlife habitat, and that it be conducted in cooperation and in consideration of your neighbors.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you this evening."

EnviroJustice promotes fundamental systemic change and environmental justice through education, activism, and mobilization from a progressive, faith-based perspective.

For more information on EnviroJustice:

<http://www.envirojustice.org>

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