



March 11, 2024

To: Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice Supports Immediate Closure of Covanta's Incinerator, and Support for Strong Zero Waste Programs in Stanislaus County

Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice respectfully requests that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors vote to immediately close the Covanta garbage incinerator in Crow's Landing due to the negative impact on air quality, the threat to public health from incinerator emissions, and its disincentive to strong recycling and zero waste programs.

We urge you to take this action on behalf of our members and constituents who are Stanislaus County residents and whose well-being is negatively impacted by the incinerator's operations.

The incinerator emits harmful toxic and criteria pollutants into the air. Many years ago, during a tour of the facility, the plant manager showed us a video that proclaimed that the incinerator emissions were like the air we breathe – which was true as the incinerator emits hazardous and criteria pollutants that end up in the air residents breathe.

The government contracts with Covanta guaranteeing large amounts of solid waste have undermined City and County recycling efforts, favoring a polluter over public health and the environment.

We therefore support the proposed Mutually Agreed Cessation of Operations at the incinerator, which should take place immediately. We also support the other recommendations of the Valley Improvement Projects, a grassroots organization of Stanislaus County residents, specifically calling on the City of Modesto and Stanislaus County to adopt resolutions for ambitious waste diversion goals of 60% diversion by 2027, 75% by 2035, and 90% by 2040. We support VIP's recommendation for convening a working group comprised of representatives from community-based organizations, businesses, municipalities, and Stanislaus County.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Angel, Executive Director