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City of Santa Maria Planning Commission  
c/o Cody Graybehl, Senior Planner  
Planning Division, Community Development Department  
110 South Pine Street, Suite 101  
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Subject: Support for Stowell Road Package Delivery Warehouse Project

Dear Mr. Graybehl and Members of the Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Stowell Road Package Delivery Warehouse Project and to emphasize the critical importance of job creation within the City of Santa Maria particularly for our young residents.

As a high school teacher in Santa Maria, I work directly with students who are preparing to transition into adulthood. Each year, I see firsthand the wide range of paths my students take after graduation. While some pursue college, many do not, and even fewer ultimately complete a degree. At any given time, our city graduates over 2,200 seniors annually, yet only about 20 percent will go on to finish college. This leaves a large number of young people who need immediate, accessible employment opportunities close to home.

These students are capable, motivated, and ready to work—but they need opportunities within our community. Without local job options, many are forced to commute long distances or struggle to find stable employment, which can limit their growth and independence.

Projects such as the proposed package delivery warehouse directly address this need. According to the project's Environmental Impact Report, the development is expected to generate hundreds of direct operational jobs as well as additional indirect employment opportunities. These types of jobs are essential for providing young people with a starting point—whether they are entering the workforce for the first time, supporting themselves or their families, or gaining experience that leads to long-term career pathways.

Equally important is the location of these opportunities. Jobs that are available within Santa Maria reduce the need for long commutes and allow young workers to remain connected to their families and community. The project also supports broader economic development goals by helping maintain a balance between jobs and housing in our region.

Without developments like this, we risk leaving a significant portion of our youth without viable local employment options. From my experience in the classroom, I can confidently say that access to stable, local jobs can make a meaningful difference in a young person's life trajectory. It provides structure, purpose, and a pathway toward independence.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to consider the long-term benefits this project offers to Santa Maria's young population and to our community as a whole. Supporting responsible development that creates accessible employment opportunities is an investment in our students and in the future of our city.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Patty Costantinidis