



Thursday, Oct. 01, 2009

Our View: 6-1 vote for Wal-Mart: 'Let's do it!'

Forget about lawsuits; the time has come to start building distribution center.

The perfect is the enemy of the good.

So wrote Gustave Flaubert, the French author and philosopher.

That's our take on the 6-1 Merced City Council vote in favor of the Wal-Mart distribution center.

Bravo, you half-dozen electeds who stood up for economic progress, more jobs and affordable prices for our area's consumers.

It would've been perfect to post a unanimous 7-0 vote. But in these days of angry rhetoric and fiery protests, Councilman John Carlisle's single holdout vote could only have been expected.

That the vote wasn't perfect doesn't mean it wasn't good.

And Carlisle, the most union-friendly guy on the council, took a principled stand on the issue. He's genuinely opposed to the distribution center, and so voted with both head and heart.

In any case, that's history.

Now we need to look and act ahead. The Sun-Star fully endorses the letter sent to the Merced Alliance for Responsible Growth (MARG) and the Merced Stop Wal-Mart Action Team by three separate chambers of commerce, a jobs coalition and a booster outfit.

These business-savvy groups implored the Wal-Mart opponents not to pull the trigger on a lawsuit: "We respectfully request that MARG reject calls from out-of-town, special-interest groups determined to exploit the legal system to deny our community the jobs it so desperately needs."

We concur.

All a lawsuit would do is delay the inevitable. All it would do is postpone the arrival of more jobs in our community. All it would do is line the pockets of contingency fee-based out-of-town attorneys. All it would do is prolong the recession.

Please use common sense and common decency, you anti-Wal-Mart forces, in deciding your next move.

And the possible number of jobs from the project, according to the Greater Merced Chamber, the Hispanic Chamber, the Merced County Chamber, the Merced County Jobs Coalition and the Merced County Boosters, has swelled to 1,200 from an original forecast of 900.

Sun-Star reporter Scott Jason quoted several local contractors and laborers ready and eager to sign up for the huge construction project.

The demand is there. The need is great. The benefits are clear. The downside is tolerable.

In the immortal words of Bluto Blutarisky in "Animal House: "

"Let's do it!"

Editorials are the opinion of the Merced Sun-Star editorial board. Members of the editorial board include Publisher Hank Vander Veen, Executive Editor Mike Tharp, Editorial Page Editor Keith Jones, Copy Desk Chief Jesse Chenault and Online Editor Brandon Bowers.