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Minneapolis City Council
City Hall, Room 307
350 South Fifth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

June 15, 2015

Dear Council Members,

The Sierra Club North Star Chapter believes everyone deserves safe streets, clean air and clean water in their communities regardless of their race or income. We also feel that residents of environmental justice communities should be the leading voice in projecting a vision for their own neighborhoods. Sierra Club supports Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and Bicycle Oriented Development (BOD) to help the City of Minneapolis meet its Climate Action Plan goals and objectives and become a more sustainable city for everyone. The City defines TOD as: “walkable, moderate to high density development served by frequent transit with a mix of housing, retail, and employment choices designed to allow people to live and work with less or no dependence on a personal car.” (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/transit/index.htm>)

We write to urge there be a robust community engagement process around the proposed relocation of the City of Minneapolis Water Distribution Maintenance Facility to the Roof Depot site at 1860 38th St E and 2717 Longfellow Ave S. The Sierra Club recognizes there is a strong level of community concern about the siting of this facility at the proposed location and a local vision that promotes a different land use for the site which is in close proximity to the Lake Street/Midtown Transit Station and the Midtown Greenway. We also note that this site is within a Designated Transit Improvement Area (see attached map), in a Racially Concentrated Area of Poverty (RCAP).

The Sierra Club urges the City of Minneapolis to immediately engage in a thorough public engagement process and assessment of environmental impacts of this project before beginning negotiations with the owners of the Roof Depot property.

Sincerely,

Mathews Hollinshead
Conservation Chair
Sierra Club North Star Chapter

Designated Transit Improvement Areas City Neighborhoods and Communities November 2010

