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To: Ashley Gungle, Project Planner and Peter Eichar, Environmental Coordinator for  
San Diego County Planning and Development Services  
Cc: Town Council of Elfin Forest Harmony Grove

**Regarding: Harmony Grove Village South (HGVS) Project Notice of Preparation for the EIR**

I write this letter to provide some insights as a San Marcos resident and Cocos fire survivor. A resolution should be voted down to create the HGVS community and other home development projects in the already congested areas between San Marcos and Escondido. My concerns have to do with the following:

- **Fire Hazard** – which is a real threat based on the Cocos fire and others in the North County area on May 14, 2014. I was one of the residents trying to flee the fire area but was instead stuck in a car on Wild Canyon Road for 75 minutes as the huge black column of smoke turned into a gigantic plume of fire raging just over the hill. If it were not for a sudden wind change that blew the fire toward the East, we could have died there. North County is lacking major evacuation/escape routes. Example: We have only 2 evacuation routes; one of them was in the fire area and the other was jammed with traffic. As the flames shot high over the hill, the feeling of terror escalated as we drivers called 911 to get us out of there.
- **Increasing Drought** – makes current low water supplies dwindle with new homes added for water service, in addition to less water supply for fighting fires.
- **Increased Traffic** – to the already grid-locked roads at rush hour and other times in between such as school dismissal times; evacuation would be impossible.
- **Encroached Wildlife Habitats** – animals have had to migrate further east since their habitats are being taken over. This is evident in the San Elijo Hills area where much of the wildlife has had to move from here.

With all due respect for your positions, individuals who make decisions on housing expansion within the county should be required to physically drive around our communities during various times of day and evening to experience the objections of current North County residents. HGVS and other housing developments should not be located in an area that will have fires in the future, lack essential water supply and sufficient evacuation routes, cause more road grid-lock and take over wildlife habitats.

Why would decision-makers put women, men and children at risk when you know that these areas in drought-like conditions will have fires again and this time the outcome may be disastrous? This safety issue should stop all new home developments in our area until more escape roadways are created and drought conditions reverse.

Sincerely,  
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