

Letter A1

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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Mark Slovick
County of San Diego
5510 Overland Avenue, Third Floor
San Diego, CA 92123

July 23, 2014

RE: Lilac Hills Ranch Project; SCH#2012061100

Dear Mr. Slovick:

The California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) would like to issue comment on the scope and contents of the Lilac Hills Ranch Project draft Environmental Impact Report.

After reviewing the provided information in the Notice of Preparation, it is clear the Project Area includes Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VFHSZ) and is in or near State Responsibility Area (SRA). The Board appreciates the plans to manage wildfire risk in the planned development, especially in areas that do not meet the 100-foot setback requirement, but remains concerned about the proximity of dense residential development near VHFHSZ.

Given the overall fire risk to the area, the Board would like to offer itself as a resource for the County of San Diego to ensure the Lilac Hills Ranch Project meets current fire safe development guidelines and to discuss the particular wildfire risks to and planned mitigations in the Project Area. The Board encourages close collaboration with San Diego County Fire Authority and CAL FIRE San Diego Unit during the subdivision map review process to ensure the safety of the Lilac Hills Ranch residents, workers, and visitors.

Thank you for your consideration,

Edith Hannigan
Board Staff
edith.hannigan@fire.ca.gov
(916) 653-2928

CC: Environmental Coordinator, San Diego Unit
San Diego County Fire Authority
Chris Browder, Deputy Chief Environmental Protection
State Clearinghouse

The Board's mission is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands, and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.

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A1-1 The comment is consistent with the information presented in the FEIR. The County concurs that the project is located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) and within a State Responsibility Area (SRA). The SRA is an area in which the primary financing responsibility for preventing and suppressing wildland fires belongs to the State of California (CAL FIRE). The project's Fire Protection Plan (FPP) dated June 6, 2014 and included as Appendix J, acknowledges that a portion of the project is located within an area that includes VHFHSZ and the remainder of the project is located within a moderate FHSZ. The FPP also characterized the project area as a wildland urban intermix (structures are intermixed with wildland fuels). The FPP considered the project location in its evaluation of the proposed community and its survivability in a worst case scenario during a wildland wildfire event in the area. It also documents fuel modification requirements in combination with the ignition-resistant construction materials and methods and other fire protections systems for the protection of life and property within this proposed community. The project would be conditioned to include requirements of the San Diego County Consolidated Fire Code and the California Building Code. Refer also to response to comment letter A3 which responds to the comments provided by the Deer Springs Fire Protection District.

A1-2 The County appreciates this comment which notes the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as a resource to the County. The FPP incorporates input from DSFPD, CAL FIRE, and the San Diego County Fire Authority. The County would continue to work with both agencies to address the various areas of fire risks associated with the project.