

LETTER

RESPONSE

Letter I63

From: Claire Murray [<mailto:ckmurray8@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, July 27, 2014 11:12 PM
To: Slovick, Mark
Subject: Concerning: Lilac Hills Ranch Development DEIR

Mark Slovick,

My home, which my husband and I purchased and have lived in for almost three decades, is located on W. Lilac Rd., directly across the street from the first phase of the proposed the 1700 home, Lilac Hills Ranch. I am a strong supporter of appropriately planned growth in our county, as well as the GP2020. I have a deep concern about this proposed development.

My concern is for the safety of all who live in the area of my residence, who have only one possible route for evacuating our area in the event of a wildfire spreading from the north or east, toward our community. That route consists of driving toward the bridge that spans I-15 on W. Lilac Rd., crossing that narrow bridge to the intersection of W. Lilac Rd. and Old Highway 395, and hopefully reaching a safe route to I-15. There have been many ideas suggested for making that drive possible, but none of them have addressed the problem of what people will encounter once, and if, they have arrived at the narrow bridge. I have personally evacuated three times in recent years, once under orders to do so by a deputy sheriff at my door. Trust me, I will never again wait for an order to leave, because when I arrived at the bridge, the bridge was filled with vehicles. Please tell me how additional traffic, created by an immense housing development, between my home and that bridge to safety, will not add further danger, possibly costing lives, as people must choose to either abandon their vehicles to escape the fire, or sit in their cars to burn to death? Even the first phase of Lilac Hills Ranch's project (300+homes, if approved) would add too many vehicles to this dangerous situation.

My deepest hope is that the officials of San Diego County will protect me as they have promised. Also, are county officials willing to accept responsibility, should someone lose their life due to approval of the Lilac Hills Ranch project?

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I63-1

I63-2

I63-1 The comment is introductory in nature and will be included as part of the record and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed project.

I63-2 With respect to the adequacy of fire and emergency response service, see Global Response: Fire and Medical Services. The project's Evacuation Plan (Appendix K) of the FEIR, includes multiple components intended to create an orderly and safe evacuation of the project site in time of emergency such details of evacuation routes, evacuation points, and specific measures to keep future residents and employees informed and safe if wildfire occurs. The Evacuation Plan includes a resident awareness and education program in coordination with the Deer Springs Safety Council. The Plan also requires the implementation of a program known as "Ready, Set, Go." The focus of the program is on the public's awareness and preparedness especially for those living in the wildland-urban interface areas. The program is designed to incorporate the local fire protection agency as part of the training and education process in order to ensure that the information is disseminated to those subject to the impact from a wildfire. Also see response to comment I26-1 for details related to the Fire Protection Plan and Evacuation Plan.

Regarding the West Lilac Road bridge that crosses I-15, the FEIR evaluates the ability of this roadway to accommodate project traffic. Refer to subchapter 2.3 and Appendix E of the FEIR for details of the traffic and transportation impacts and associated mitigation measures. The project will be required to improve West Lilac Road between Old Highway 395 and Main Street to meet the General Plan Mobility Element classification of 2.2C, subject to exceptions as approved by the County (M-TR-4). Proposed improvements at the bridge do not include the additional lanes; however, improvements would be made to accommodate projected traffic including paving, restriping, and installation of a traffic signal at Old Highway 395 and West Lilac Road and would include construction of a left-turn lane at the westbound West Lilac Road approach to Old Highway 395 and West Lilac Road. These improvements, combined with implementation of the Evacuation Plan, would ensure evacuation to the west toward I-15 could be accomplished safely and efficiently.