

LETTER

RESPONSE

8975-201 Lawrence Welk Drive
Escondido, CA 92026

Letter I79

July 21, 2014

Mr. Mark Slovick, Project Manager
County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, Ca. 92123

RE: Lilac Hills Ranch Project

Dear Mr. Slovick:

I am a resident of Champaign Village, which lies just south of the proposed Lilac Hills Ranch Project. I echo many of the negative comments and points others have made in regard to the development of the Project. However, to me one point has not been emphasized enough, and that is the lack of sufficient fire escape routes in this area. I speak from my personal experience.

My wife and I received the reverse 911 call to evacuate our home early in the morning in October, 2007, as the result of the Witch Creek Fire heading west from Valley Center towards I-15. It took us an hour to get out of Champaign Village driveway and up to Deer Springs Road! I am not exaggerating, and I am still emotionally charged over that experience! It was an experience I wish you and the Lilac Hills Ranch developers could have experienced - - - unable to move on old Highway 395, road clogged with vehicles, including hundreds of horse trailers, inching your way along with thousands of others, hopping to make it to the freeway and escape the danger, only to reach Deer Springs Road and find residents from the Deer Springs area also trying to escape via their only route, and all of us reaching the same single lane I-15 overpass with traffic lights still operating with computer controls ignoring the plight of us thousands trying to flee! It was a nightmare, and one I trust I will not have to face again.

The issue is there are woefully few exits out of this area given the topography, population density, and non-existing alternative routes. Adding a large number of new residents will only exacerbate this situation, and create the absolute potential for a human tragedy. And this situation will not be "mitigated" with additional signal lights, left or right turn protected lanes, and the like. In fact, adding traffic lights only makes the log jams worse with us honest citizens waiting for the appropriate green light to proceed, with fires licking at our heels!

Seriously Mark, I cannot believe anyone who experienced the Witch Creek Fire evacuation would approve that Evacuation Plan that is attached as the Project's Exhibit K. It indicates all those people will attempt to escape via two minor roads which were clogged to a standstill during a previous emergency. I know this sounds emotional, but honestly, the developers and approving authority individuals like you will be responsible for the loss of lives that will come if the Project is approved as proposed, and another wild fire occurs like we have had and will no doubt experience again.

Sincerely,


Robert L. Suttie

I79-1

I79-2

I79-3

I79-1 With respect to the adequacy of fire and emergency response service, see Global Response: Fire and Medical Services.. The project's Evacuation Plan includes multiple components intended to create an orderly and safe evacuation of the project site in time of emergency. As discussed in subchapter 2.7 of the FEIR, the Evacuation Plan details evacuation routes, evacuation points, and implementation of a resident awareness and education program to keep future residents and employees informed and safe if wildfire occurs.

The Evacuation Plan is designed to allow adjustments to the plan throughout each phase of construction. The plan provides that as each phase of construction is completed, fire and law enforcement officials would be given the opportunity to review the plan to assure its adequacy and with each phase, the evacuation routes may be subject to changes, as deemed necessary by fire and/or law enforcement officials.

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.

I79-2 As discussed in subchapter 2.7, the primary evacuation routes are through a series of internal roadways with the development, which in turn permits direct emergency evacuations to the north, south, east, and west to accommodate pending wildfire conditions. As shown on Figure 2.7-3, evacuation routes include Main Street, Street "Z," Lilac Hills Ranch Road, Covey Lane and Mountain Ridge Road. The project site would also be served by secondary emergency evacuation routes using Street "F" and Birdsong Drive on the north and Rodriguez Road in the southern Senior Neighborhood (refer to subchapter 2.7 Figure 2.7-3). There is also potential to coordinate with the DSFPD and the San Diego County Water Authority to utilize Nelson Way, to the west, in the event of an emergency situation. The comment expresses the opinions of the commentator. The comment will be included as part of the record and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed project.

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	<p>179-3 This comment is noted. The comment will be included as part of the record and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed project.</p>
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