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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A REVISED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND REVISED DRAFT HABITAT LOSS PERMIT

March 12, 2009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of San Diego is recirculating for public review a revised draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and a revised draft Habitat Loss Permit (HLP) in accordance with Division 6 of Title 8 of the San Diego County Code and the Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Process Guidelines for the following project. The revised draft EIR and HLP can be reviewed on the World Wide Web at http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/ceqa_public_review.html, at the Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU), Project Processing Counter, 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B, San Diego, California 92123 and at the public libraries listed below. Comments on this revised draft EIR and HLP must be sent to the DPLU address or to maggie.loy@sdcounty.ca.gov and must reference the project name.

GPA 04-06, SP 04-006, R04-013, VTM 5381, S04-035, S04-036, S04-037, S04-038, LOG NO. 04-08-028, SCH NO. 2004091166; MERRIAM MOUNTAINS SPECIFIC PLAN. The project is the development of a master-planned community of residential, commercial, recreational, and open space land uses. An amendment to the Circulation Element of the General Plan is proposed to reclassify Deer Springs Road from a four-lane Major Road to a six-lane Prime Arterial, delete the planned Circulation Element roadway segment of Buena Creek Road, and eliminate the planned bicycle path along the segment of Buena Creek Road. The project will allow a maximum of 2,700 dwelling units (du) with an overall density of 1.16 du per acre within the 2,327-acre area. All development is proposed within five neighborhoods in the southerly portion of the Specific Plan Area (SPA) and one small area in the northernmost portion of the SPA. Residential density within the various neighborhoods ranges from 0.2 du per acre to 22.0 du per acre. Approximately 1,192 acres is retained as part of an open space preserve in the north central portion of the SPA. Another 537 acres is proposed for common open space including 4 natural parks and common landscaped areas. Other

uses include a 10.1-acre neighborhood commercial area, 33 improved parks (29 acres) including a 7.7-acre public park, a 2-acre equestrian staging area, and 18.3 miles of trails, and associated community facilities and infrastructure. Deer Springs Road from Interstate 15 (I-15) to Buena Creek Road would be improved to four lanes, with eastbound and westbound auxiliary lanes provided along Deer Springs Road from Merriam Mountains Parkway to the I-15 ramps. The I-15 interchange and various intersections in the vicinity will also be improved. Improvements to Twin Oaks Valley Road south of Buena Creek Road may also be completed in the city of San Marcos. The project would be developed in four phases over about 10 years. Approximately 12,200,000 cubic yards of earthwork, including rock crushing, would be required. No import or export of grading materials is planned. The project is located in an area of northern San Diego County known as the Merriam Mountains. The development area is bounded by I-15 on the east, Deer Springs Road (S12) on the south, North Twin Oaks Valley Road on the west, and Lawrence Welk Drive on the northwest. The project is within the North County Metro and Bonsall Community Planning areas within the unincorporated area of San Diego County. The revised draft EIR identified significant environmental impacts to Air Quality, Transportation/Traffic, Mineral Resources, Noise, Cultural Resources, Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Hazards/Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Land Use/Planning, and Geology/Soils. Comments on this revised draft EIR must be received no later than Monday April 27, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. (a 45-day public review period). This revised draft EIR and HLP Findings (Appendix A to the Resource Protection Study) can also be reviewed at the San Marcos Branch Library located at #2 Civic Center Drive in San Marcos, 92069; the Vista Branch Library located at 700 Eucalyptus Avenue in Vista, 92084; and the Escondido Library located at 239 South Kalmia Street in Escondido, 92025. For additional information, please contact Maggie Loy at 858.694.3736 or by e-mail at maggie.loy@sdcounty.ca.gov.