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20223 Elfin Forest Rd., Elfin Forest, CA 92029

Devon Muto, Interim Chief, DPLU
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
San Diego, CA 92123
MS O-650

May 5, 2008

Dear Devon,

The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council (EF/HGTC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the environmental information which should be contained in the Environmental Impact Report for the San Diego General Plan Update. With this letter we are requesting that DPLU review the status of the area in Elfin Forest known as Bridges Unit 7 (APNs 264-104-05, 264-104-12, 264-104-13, 264-104-14, 264-104-16, 264-104-17).

Our community has identified this area, which is high value gnatcatcher breeding habitat, as an area that should be evaluated closely in the Environmental Impact Report in order to appropriately ascertain what level of development, if any, is appropriate for this highly environmentally sensitive area. In addition we also believe that this area should be included in the Environmentally Sensitive Draft Map. It would be inappropriate to designate a building density of 1 du/2 Acres as the current maps contemplate on such a critical core habitat area.

In 2006 during the Environmental Review process for this property, evidence was presented by independent biologists to County staff as to the high value of the habitat contained in Unit 7. That information led County Land Use staff to change their recommendation from approval to denial of a proposed project on this site. The August 25, 2006 Staff report concluded: "Based on the findings of the ISA, the applicant's responses and additional information received from the noted environmental professional, the Department believes that development of either Alternative for Unit 7 may lead to extinction of the CG Core Area population. "

This area is also in the very core of the MSCP North, and preserving it as open space will greatly enhance the viability of that effort. The Elfin Forest Harmony Grove community is named for the habitat community, and between private and public entities large areas of contiguous high value habitat are being preserved already. However none of them have the unique characteristics which make the particular site such an important Gnatcatcher breeding site.

We are available to discuss with your staff any of the background information that we have and might be needed in the EIR and in order to decide whether or not to include this parcel as RL-20, or at least SR-4, in the Environmentally Sensitive Draft Map.

Respectfully,

Melanie Fallon,

Chair, EFHGTC Board

Cc: Supervisors Horn, Slater-Price, Jacob, Cox, and Roberts