

May 28, 2008

Mr. Devon Muto
Department of Planning and Land Use
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
San Diego, CA 92123

Subject: Comments on Notice of Preparation of a Draft EIR
Project Name: County of San Diego General Plan Update
Project Number: 02-ZA-001

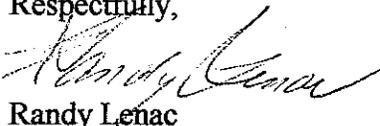
SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Dear Mr. Muto:

I represent H.O.P.E. of the Mountain Empire, a grassroots political organization in east San Diego County that is concerned about the future of our rural mountain communities. According to SANDAG, our communities are already plagued by the highest unemployment and lowest per capital incomes in the County. We believe that the stated objective of the proposed project to "reduce the potential for growth in the eastern areas" of the County is fatally flawed in this respect. Let me be clear that we do not advocate that the general plan encourage massive development in the eastern areas, but we do believe it is critical to the survival of our small communities that the proposed project afford some reasonable and responsible growth to occur. We find the density downsizing, circulation element, community character statement and village boundary designations to be individually and collectively flawed for our communities and the back country in general. In light of the period of time that has elapsed since any serious discussion has occurred about the proposed project and the dramatic decline in economic climate of our communities, we believe that the project needs to be revisited in order to prevent a socio-economic catastrophe for our mountain communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the above comments. We look forward to a frank and fair discussion of the issues so that this proposed project can be a positive influence within our County and back country communities.

Respectfully,



Randy Lenac
President
H.O.P.E. of the Mountain Empire
P.O. Box 188
Campo, CA 91906
(619) 478-5403

RECEIVED
MAY 29 2008
DPLU - PPCC