

I-174 Martha and Stephan Hacker

Comment Letter I-174

August 9, 2017

To: San Diego County Board
From: Martha and Stephan Hacker, 8975 Lawrence Welk Dr., San Diego
Re: Proposed Newland Sierra Project

The proposed Newland Sierra Project demonstrates to me the same kind of naiveté as exhibited by those who continue to rebuild in flood plains. We live in a semi desert region and depend upon another state and a vast geographic area to collect enough water just to meet our basic needs. To continue to build out the entire region in the foolish belief that the dry years are over is wildly irresponsible.

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- The new development is expected to require 200 million gallons of water per year.
- The state of CA expects our area to achieve a 20% reduction in water usage by 2020.
- We are in an ongoing dispute with the Metropolitan Water District from whom we are expecting 30-45% of our future water supply.
- The good faith water conservation measures implemented by the area residents in recent years were not intended to supply additional building projects.
- Despite water wise building, it is a specious and irresponsible argument to pretend that 2000 households whose water use is beyond your control will result in a 35% reduction(!) in water demand.

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In addition, the statistics provided in the road use studies clearly indicate that the area roads and interchanges currently earn a rating of D to F. The Newland Sierra project will generate more than 25,000 additional vehicle trips per day on Deer Springs Road. Obviously the current road configurations cannot support this additional load. And the proposed improvements to turn lanes, etc. are merely bandaids to allow for merging, ignoring the bottlenecks that already exist at the 15 interchange and in San Marcos.

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Ultimately even more important is the issue of fire evacuation. As I am sure you have heard, many residents were trapped in their communities last year when fire closed the southbound lanes of the 15. Frighteningly, there are many scenarios where this could happen again – but especially with the addition of 2000+ homes and potentially up to 4000 additional cars trying to flee. I question whether the county board members want to wonder if they bear responsibility in the future for an unspeakable tragedy.

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Obviously there is money to be made for the Newland Sierra developers. But when the project is complete, they will be gone and the county board as well as all the area service providers and residents will be left to contend with the fallout of this ill advised project. San Diego does not aspire to become like Los Angeles where the simplest car trip becomes a multi hour nightmare.

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**Please vote responsibly for the quality of life that San Diego has become famous for. We are all depending on you.

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