

I-274 Randy McKinney

Comment Letter I-274

From: randy mckinney [mailto:randygmckinney@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 06, 2017 4:01 PM
To: Smith, Ashley
Cc: randygmckinney@aol.com
Subject: Concerns about the Impact of the Newland Sierra Project on Hidden Valley Zen Center
Importance: High

August 6, 2017

Planning and Development Services
Attn: Ashley Smith, Environmental Planner
County of San Diego
5510 Overland Avenue
Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123
Ashley.Smith2@sdcountry.ca.gov

RE: NEWLAND SIERRA DRAFT EIR

Dear Ms. Smith:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Newland Sierra Development. After discussing the document with other members of the Hidden Valley Zen Center [HVZC], I, we, have some concerns about the Newland Sierra Development project and how it would greatly affect us at HVZC.

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1. I and other members of HVZC do not understand why the Newland Sierra project may be given a green light for development while the county of San Diego spent 10 years developing a general plan which found that the Merriam mountains was not an appropriate place for urban development. As best we can tell, Newland Sierra has the basically the same proposal that was rejected twice by San Diego county. We wonder why the Newland Sierra project gotten as far as it has already.
2. The Vallecitos water district projects a water deficit for the area for the next 20 years and the district's water supply assessment requires a 36% water supply cut to existing customers in order to serve the Newland Sierra development project.
3. Most important, HVZC is a contemplative community. Our traditional religious practices include indoor silent meditation, outdoor silent work-meditation, indoor and outdoor silent walking meditation, outdoor silent exercise, outdoor silent meditation, and late night silent outdoor meditation under the stars amidst the sounds of nature. These practices would be greatly affected by the vastly increased traffic and various noises due to the new project. As far as we know, no noise impact study has been done near HVZC. The new development is projected to generate an additional 28,000 car trips per day on our local roads!

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Please consider these concerns before allowing the Newland Sierra project to proceed.

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Thank you for your time,

Randy McKinney

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