

I-285 Richard E. Montague

Comment Letter I-285

August 9, 2017

Ashley Smith  
Project Manager  
Planning & Development Services (PDS)  
Project Processing Counter  
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 110  
San Diego, California 92123

Re: NEWLAND SIERRA, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-15-08-001; SCH NO. 2015021036. PROJECT NUMBERS:  
PDS2015-GPA-15-001, PDS2015-SP-15-001, PDS2015-REZ-15-001, PDS2015-TM- 5597, PDSXXXX-HLP-XXX

Dear Miss Smith:

We live in a region that is susceptible to wild fires. This situation is further exacerbated during drought years. I write this letter based upon the fact I have been a southern California fire chief and wildland fire consultant for the past 50 years. But this does not mean that we stop building new homes as an answer to address our ongoing housing crisis. Burying our heads in the sand does not make the problems go away. Not building new homes will only make things worse.

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I am supportive of the proposed Newland Sierra project. I support it because of their proposed safety protocols in case of a wildfire. Incorporating fire-resistant building materials is a must for this project, as well as all future developments in the County. We learned after the 2003 and 2007 wild fires south of us that fire resistant roofing and fire ignition resistant building materials are also a must. I am glad to see that Newland will be incorporating vegetation reducing measures to create a 250-foot defensible buffer surrounding the developed areas.

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We live in a region that is susceptible to these types of natural disasters. Avoiding the construction of homes will not alleviate the dangers. Constructing projects in a responsible manner and being prepared for these types of emergencies are the responsible solutions. Thank you for accepting my comments.

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Sincerely,

*Richard E. Montague*

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