

I-365 Lois Sklar (1)

Comment Letter I-365

From: Lois Sklar [mailto:lbsklar2@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 08, 2017 3:31 PM
To: Smith, Ashley
Subject: Newland Sierra Project

I am writing to state my opposition to the proposed Newland Sierra Project. I live off of Buena Creek and travel both this street and Deer Springs often. I love the Twin Oaks Valley area and the rural feel, not to mention the wildlife. This project will funnel 28,862 new trips into our community causing gridlock from Escondido to the Riverside County line. I am terribly concerned about the increased traffic on both the above streets and what kind of access we would have in case of wildfires. We are already in a traffic burdened area which does not provide enough emergency access routes in the event of a fire. I pay additional taxes each year for living in a high fire area, yet no consideration is being given about fires in this proposal.

I-365-1

I am also concerned that I cannot determine several things based on the EIR:

- 1) It does not speak to the impact of on the wildlife in the area
- 2) It does not speak to the impact through noise, construction air emission or blasting. For blasting, in particular, there is no disclosed timing schedule or location. It would also require up to 10 years of on-site rock crushing, grading and haul truck noise and traffic.
- 3) This project sits on one of only two remaining large blocks of natural habitat west of I-15 in a pre-approved mitigation area. This project would sever important regional wildlife corridors. Newland proposed special treatment from the County to have the project carved out of the regional biological mitigation plan before the plan has even been adopted by the County and State wildlife agencies.

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I-365-3

I-365-4

The proposed land use upends the assumptions in the General Plan which the County spent years and several millions of dollars to create.

This project will require condemnation of some existing property owners' land and other private property impacts. In particular, Deer Springs Road expansion will require additional right of way, and other easements. The proposal to expand Deer Spring to four lanes omits analysis of the 6 lane design and any additional property, biological noise or other impacts.

I-365-5

The Vallecitos Water District projects a water supply deficit over the next 20 years and this proposal would require up to 36% cuts to existing customers water supply. No one has explained how those cuts would be implemented.

I-365-6

This project also proposes commercial property but in a rural area; who would want to rent commercial space here? This also currently has enough housing to meet the state requirements. In addition, it does not account for needed low-income housing. Even if it did, the area is much too isolated from places where typically people work with no adequate transportation to get to jobs.

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I hope that you will carefully consider this project and vote NO!

Lois Sklar
Lou Carson
2954 Ora Avo Terrace
Vista 92084

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