

I-44 Ellen Blakeborough

Comment Letter I-44

From: ellenblakeborough@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2017 1:32 PM
To: Smith, Ashley
Subject: Newland Sierra Plans for North San Diego County

Dear Board of Supervisors,

This area has its very own Cleveland Salvia Deer Springs! Do you know some native bees & butterflies require the local native plants to survive? I-44-1

I urge you to stick for now with the General Plan. The proposed area has so many trees & native plants & there are plenty of other sites available that don't have to be blasted or have so many trees & native habitat destroyed. I-44-2

The drive for Riverside County residents is brutal- when I was working, so many days the morning traffic to San Diego backed up to Deer Springs exit. I-44-3
How nice to have trees to see while driving- helps PTSD & stresses of life., including cleaning the air spoiled by exhaust. I-44-4

The oak trees and native plants clean the air, provide habitat for California Native butterflies, birds, animals as well as catch the moisture from the morning coastal fog to pull it into the ground. The natives restore the soil health wise & since this is near the beginnings of watersheds going to the ocean, help restore the PH balance of our Pacific Coast. (Imagine dog poop & acid fertilizer going to our beaches since storm drain water isn't treated).The oceans are currently becoming dangerously too acidic. Natives more alkaline. I-44-5

The trees help it rain which San Diego County needs. Remember the "Dust Bowl"? People removed the native plants- no rain, choking dust, poverty, Until FDR instituted massive tree planting-a 100 mile swath of trees native to each area from Canadian Border down to Texas- Then the next year, finally rain! He understood the importance of native forests for clean water & the health of the population and the balance of nature-He brought inner city kids to share natural areas & learn of a better world. I-44-6

A year & a half ago I saw 2 raccoon scurry across Mt Meadow Rd where it meets Center City Parkway. (I think the gas station proposed for there may be on a possible seasonal stream- (We have surfers in the family- I worry about the ocean pollution). There was a cougar seen up here a few years ago. I-44-7

Jun 14 I saw a coyote by our seasonal creek that looked just like the "Lake Hodges's coyote"on the internet. There are flocks of quail here, gopher snakes, king snakes, rabbits, hawks, squirrels, turkey vultures, juncos, bluebirds, titmouse, blue jays, finches, wrens, tarantulas, rattlers etc. For native plants there are pines, Sycamore, Oaks,Ceanothus, Encelia Californica, Artemisia, California Buckwheat(necessary for butterflies), Encelia Farinosa, deerweed(butterflies love it & it restores the soil to health), sand aster, whipple, manzanitas, Laurel sumac, coyote bush, Salvia Apiana(White Sage), Salvia melliflora(Black Sage), monkey flowers, miner's lettuce, and on & on. Why go to the work of restoring another messed up area when this area is already full of California wonders. Oh - I forgot the rare Engelmann Oak- on this side of 15- on West side too? Better check- some are 800 years old. I-44-8

California has been losing Oaks, the backbone of native habitat here, and other trees by the millions since 2000. To me it makes more sense to keep areas already native & build on other areas already accessible & available, already disturbed & practically ready for building. I-44-9

This area should be a great park! We need rain, groundwater, the wonderful California flora & fauna. The native plants will help the ground absorb the rainwater instead of losing it all to the ocean. The trees will make a healthier ocean, air, & psyche for all who pass by- make life worth living & leave a legacy to our grandchildren. We did what we could. There are other places within San Marcos or Escondido city limits perfect for a development- of course they probably I-44-10

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have stricter requirements & closer supervision than the unincorporated county areas. Our own development is in a fire area.

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PS Deer Spring Fire woefully underfunded- unable to enforce County firesafe recommendations for prevention. We are all scared of a coming fire up here No fire Marshall this year.

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I don't know about Indian activity- up here some Indian areas were disturbed, that never should have been built on- while they were being built at top of seasonal creek 21 oaks along that creek died & are still in place after 3 years only now dead non native Mustard & cheatweed under them-What an inferno That will be!

| I-44-12

I appreciate your help.

Ellen Blakeborough
Frequent Deer Springs Rd traveller

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