

I-66 Cesar T. Calma

Comment Letter I-66

From: Cesar Calma
To: Smith, Ashley
Subject: Re: Newland Sierra Draft EIR
Date: Monday, August 14, 2017 1:56:21 PM

Planning and Development Services
Attn: Ashley Smith, Environmental Planner
County of San Diego
5510 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

RE: NEWLAND SIERRA DRAFT EIR

Dear Ms. Smith:

As a 14 year resident in the general area that will be affected by the Newland Sierra Development project I have questions and concerns on the environmental issues that were raised by Ms Ana Rosvall and other members of the affected communities regarding the DEIR. This issues should be addressed and answered truthfully in detail by Newland Sierra Development before moving forward. My family and other community members are concerned about the unanswered questions and areas that were not addressed in the draft report.

CONCERNS

Finally, after 10 years of meetings between County residents and staff, not to mention the millions of the dollars spent on the development of General Plan, the County Board of Supervisors approved the County's General Plan. When the plan was approved, this Supervisors not only agreed this area to protect this area from over-development, but they agreed to downzone the entire property to 99 units from 200 units. In an effort to support and respect the integrity provisions of the General Plan, I urge you to recommend against the Newland Development and continue to safeguard this sensitive rural corridor. Thank you for your consideration,

Cesar T. Calma
10530 Aspen Glen
Escondido, CA 92026

ISSUE AREAS:

Wildlife Connectivity

The project is proposed in a sensitive area; if developed, critical north/south and east/west wildlife corridors would be severed.

Newland Sierra has sought special treatment, or a "carve out" of the regional biological mitigation plan, before the plan has even been adopted by the County and federal and state wildlife agencies.

Cultural Resources

The project would impact significant cultural resources, particularly by expanding Deer Springs Road - including a site with Native American human remains.

Traffic

Newland Sierra would generate 28,000 new trips per day to our local roads.

Newland Sierra brings I-15 traffic to level "F" since no new freeway lands and no new transit infrastructure is proposed.

Newland Sierra proposes to widen Deer Springs Road to six lanes and build a new I-15 interchange, drawing thousands of cut-through commuters. Yet, Newland plans to start building before CALTRANS finishes its analysis and approval of a re-designed interchange at Deer Springs Road and I-15.

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Water

- The Vallecitos Water District projects a water supply deficit for the next 20 years.

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- The District's Water Supply Assessment requires a 36% water supply cut to existing customers in order to serve the Newland Sierra development.

Fire

- Newland Sierra is proposed in a "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone."

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- Newland Sierra does not provide enough emergency access routes in the event of a fire. Gridlock during an evacuation would compromise the safety of the entire region.

Planning/Smart Growth

- The County Board of Supervisors spent millions of dollars and 10 years developing a General Plan that protected, in fact downzoned, this area. A few years ago the Board of Supervisors voted to approve the plan and protect this area from development.

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GHG

- The County has not completed its Climate Action Plan, therefore the County should not consider Newland Sierra until it's done.

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- The Golden Door and Sierra Club recently won a trial court decision invalidating the County's threshold for measuring greenhouse gas "GHG" impacts.