

I-215 Ginger & Joel Johnson

I-215-1 The commenters state that they live on Centre City Parkway, near the intersection of Mountain Meadows and Deer Springs. The comment states that every afternoon there is traffic going north on I-15 that is almost stopped. The comment states that every morning on I-15 south is the same scenario.

The County acknowledges the comment letter, and notes it expresses general opposition for the project, but does not raise any issue concerning the adequacy of the Draft EIR. For that reason, the County provides no further response to this comment.

I-215-2 The comment states that there is gridlock now and what could happen during an evacuation with the Project would be horrific. The comment states that the Project would condemn properties on Deer Springs and Twin Oaks Valley Road. The comment states that with 2,135 homes, and 2-3 cars per household, not counting the existing vehicles, the Project would gridlock Deer Springs, Twin Oaks Valley Road and I-15 Northbound and Southbound. The comment states this is why the Project has failed in the past and will fail again.

With respect to the Merriam Mountains project, the County notes that this previous project has no bearing on the proposed Project or its environmental analysis. The County acknowledges the comment as expressing the opinion of the commenter. **Please see Response to Comment O-1-377.**

The County acknowledges the comment and notes it expresses the opinions of the commenter, and does not raise an issue related to the adequacy of any specific section or analysis of the Draft EIR.

Nonetheless, the Commenter is referred to **Topical Response HAZ-1**. Further, the Newland Sierra Wildland Fire Evacuation Plan (Appendix N-2 to the Draft EIR) anticipates the potential for bottlenecks, accidents, and other issues on roadways. On page 20, the plan indicates that the estimated evacuation times may be up to 2 hours, double that (4 hours), or more, if the wildfire scenario did not “enable pre-planned traffic management measures”. Should this situation be realized, the Wildland Fire Evacuation Plan offers descriptions of contingency options that would enable evacuations to cease or be partially implemented, while residents are directed to remain in their ignition resistant, defensible homes for the short duration that wildfire would burn in the fuels at the outer edges of the Project’s code exceeding, wide fuel modification zones.

As indicated in Sections 1.0, 2.0, and 6.0, of the Newland Sierra Wildland Fire Evacuation Plan, wildfires are fluid events that require situational awareness, scenario pre-planning, and contingencies. It is anticipated that the worst-case Newland Sierra evacuation would occur in a similar manner to many other San Diego County

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planning areas. In the event of a wildland fire in the area, evacuation and contingency plans are an early part of a wildfire's tactical planning process by an Incident Command team. A contingency plan is one of the immediate priorities for development by Incident Command when a wildfire event occurs in a wildland-urban interface area. Community evacuation plans, like the Newland Sierra plan, will be integrated into the contingency planning process to assist and coordinate evacuation planning for all residents requiring evacuation. It must be recognized that wildfire and other emergencies are often fluid events and that the need for evacuations are typically determined by on-scene first responders or by a collaboration between first responders and designated emergency response teams, including Office of Emergency Services and the Incident Command established for larger emergency events. As such, and consistent with all emergency evacuation plans, this Emergency Evacuation plan is to be considered a tool that supports existing pre-plans and provides for citizens who are familiar with the evacuation protocol, but is subservient to emergency event-specific directives provided by agencies managing the event.

Please refer to Appendix N-1, Newland Sierra Fire Protection Plan (Dudek 2017) for details on the Proposed Project's redundant, layered fire protection system, that is consistent with designated shelter in place communities.