

I-285 Richard E. Montague

I-285-1 The comment states that the area is susceptible to wildfires, which is exacerbated by drought. The commenter explains that they have been a fire chief and wildland fire consultant for the past 50 years. The comment states that although there are wildfire risks, there is an ongoing housing crisis; therefore, not building new homes is not a solution.

The County acknowledges the comments and notes that it addresses general subject areas, wildland fire evacuation, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR. The comment does not raise any specific issue regarding that analysis and, therefore, no more specific response can be provided or is required. The County will include the comment as part of the Final EIR for review and consideration by the decision-makers prior to a final decision on the project.

Nonetheless, please refer to **Topical Response HAZ-1** which notes that, the Draft EIR notes that while prior evacuations within the project vicinity have experienced traffic congestion, the project includes improvements to Deer Springs Road, which would increase capacity of the main evacuation route compared to the existing condition. Further, when compared to the existing condition, improvements to North Twin Oaks Valley Road and Buena Creek Road would expand the traffic network capacity to assist evacuation efforts for the surrounding community.

The Evacuation Plan also provides that “fire and law enforcement official will identify evacuation points before evacuation routes are announced to the public. Evacuation routes are determined based on the location and extent of the incident and include as many pre-designated transportation routes as possible.” Accordingly, the Draft EIR, Appendix N-2 “defers to Law Enforcement and Office of Emergency Services” because, “among the most important factors for successful evacuations in urban settings is control of intersections downstream of the evacuation area.”

I-285-2 The commenter explains that they are supportive of the Project, because of the proposed safety protocols. The commenter explains that fire-resistant building materials is a must for this Project and all projects in the County. The commenter explains that they are glad to see that the Project incorporates vegetation reducing measures to create a 250-foot defensible buffer surrounding the developed areas.

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 or within the meaning of CEQA. The County will include the comment as part of the Final EIR for review and consideration by the decision-

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makers prior to a final decision on the project. No further response is required or necessary.

- I-285-3** The commenter explains that the County is susceptible to wildfire, but avoiding construction of new homes will not alleviate these dangers, but constructing projects in a responsible manner and being prepared for the emergencies is the responsible solution.

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 or within the meaning of CEQA. The County will include the comment as part of the Final EIR for review and consideration by the decision-makers prior to a final decision on the project. No further response is required or necessary.