

I-294 Don and Laurel Nicholson

- I-294-1** The commenter explains that they moved to Hidden Meadows because it was a rural area, protected by the General Plan.

The County acknowledges the comment as an introduction to comments that follow. This comment is included in 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.

- I-294-2** The comment states that the Project would destroy the rural community.

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. 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.

- I-294-3** The comment states that there would be an increase in noise and air pollution and backroads and streets will be jammed.

The comment addresses traffic, noise, and air quality issues, which received extensive analysis in the Draft EIR, specifically in Sections 2.13 Transportation and Traffic, 2.10 Noise, and 2.3 Air Quality, respectively. 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.

- I-294-4** The comment states that the Project would result in slower, more dangerous evacuations in a fire emergency.

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

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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-294-5 The comment states that anybody who represents this rural area would understand why people moved to the area and that the Project would devastate the peace and quiet. The commenter urges the County to not move forward with the Project.

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. 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.