

I-44 Ellen Blakeborough

- I-44-1** The comment states that the area has its own Cleveland Salvia Deer Springs and asks if the County knows that some native bees and butterflies require the local native plants to survive. The County notes the comment provides factual background information and does not raise an issue related to the adequacy of any specific section or analysis of the Draft EIR. Please see **Topical Responses BIO-1 and BIO-2**. 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-44-2** The comment urges the County to stick with the General Plan and states that there are a plenty of other sites available that don't have to be blasted and don't have as many trees and native habitat to destroy. 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. Please see **Topical Responses LU-1, LU-2, AQ-1, and AQ-2**. 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-44-3** The comment states that the drive for Riverside County residents is brutal because the commenter recalls many morning days with traffic backed up to Deer Springs Road. Please see **Topical Responses TR-1 and TR-2**. The County notes the comment provides background information and does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA, nor does it 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.
- I-44-4** The comment states that it is nice to have trees to see while driving because it helps PTSD and stresses of life, including cleaning the air spoiled by exhaust. The County notes the comment provides factual background information and does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA, nor does it 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 because the comment does not raise an environmental issue.
- I-44-5** The comment states that native plants clean the air and provide habitat, and also helps restore the PH balance of our Pacific Coast, which is currently becoming dangerously more acidic. The County notes the comment provides factual background information and does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA, nor does it 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

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consideration by the decision-makers prior to a final decision on the project. No further response is required because the comment does not raise an environmental issue.

- I-44-6** The comment asks if the County remembers the Dust Bowl that occurred due to the removal of native plants, no rain, choking dust, and poverty. The County notes the comment provides factual background information and does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA, nor does it 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 because the comment does not raise an environmental issue.
- I-44-7** The comment states that the commenter saw two raccoons run across Mountain Meadow Road, that there might be a possible stream there, that they are worried about ocean pollution, and that they saw a cougar a few years ago. The County notes the comment provides factual background information and does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA, nor does it raise an issue related to the adequacy of any specific section or analysis of the Draft EIR. For issues pertaining to biological impacts and mitigation, please see **Topical Responses BIO-1 and BIO-2**. 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 because the comment does not raise an environmental issue.
- I-44-8** The comment states that a coyote by a seasonal creek was spotted and that there are a number of other species and native plants in the area. The comment lists a number of plant and animal species that can be found in the area. Potential impacts to plant and animal species have been adequately analyzed in Section 2.4, Biological Resources. The County notes the comment provides factual background information and does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA, nor does it raise an issue related to the adequacy of any specific section or analysis of the Draft EIR. For issues pertaining to biological impacts and mitigation, please see **Topical Responses BIO-1 and BIO-2**. 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 because the comment does not raise an environmental issue.
- I-44-9** The comment states that California has been losing Oak trees by the millions and it would make more sense to areas already native and build in other areas that are accessible and ready for building. 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. For issues pertaining to biological impacts and mitigation, please see **Topical Responses BIO-1 and BIO-2**.

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- I-44-10** The comment states that the project site would be a great park and that we need rain and groundwater for the wonderful California flora and fauna. The comment states that there are other places in San Marcos or Escondido for this development, even though there would be stricter requirements and closer supervision than the unincorporated County 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. For issues pertaining to biological impacts and mitigation, please see **Topical Responses BIO-1 and BIO-2**. 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-44-11** The comment states that the Deer Springs Fire Protection District is woefully underfunded and unable to enforce County fire safety recommendations. Potential impacts to the Deer Springs Fire Protection District and fire suppression services in general have been analyzed in Section 3.5 Public Services. In addition, potential impacts associated with wildfires have been adequately analyzed in Section 2.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials and in Appendix N, Newland Sierra Fire Protection Plan. The project also proposes a Fire Fee Payment Agreement with Deer Springs Fire Protection District that would require the project to pay approximately \$4.5 million in fees to the District, approximately \$2 million more than the County's required fees. The comment addresses general subject areas, 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.
- I-44-12** The comment states that a project was built on a seasonal creek and that it disturbed Indian areas. The comment also states that the seasonal creek was 21 oaks long and is now dead with non-native Mustard and cheatweed under them. The County notes the comment provides background information and does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA, nor does it raise an issue related to the adequacy of any specific section or analysis of the Draft EIR. For issues pertaining to biological impacts and mitigation, please see **Topical Responses BIO-1 and BIO-2**. 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 because the comment does not raise an environmental issue.

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