

I-6 BARBARA SWANSON

Comment Letter I-6-1

From: Barbara Swanson <baswanson100@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:48 PM
To: Mattson, Gregory
Subject: Comment on Village 14 DEIR

Dear Mr. Mattson,

I would like to comment on the DEIR for the Village 14 project in the Proctor Valley area in San Diego county. This area is ecologically important to the county, as so much open space and wilderness has been lost over the last few decades to development.

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I am especially concerned about the potential loss of Golden Eagle habitat. These majestic birds which nest in the area, including a pair that had their nest site destroyed in the 2007 fire, need on average 36 square miles of foraging territory in San Diego. They are very sensitive to human disturbances and may abandon their nests if humans encroach within a mile from their nest site. They also need a territory that supports enough prey such as rabbits and squirrels to feed themselves and a growing family.

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If the Village 14 project proceeds as planned, it is very likely that this Golden Eagle habitat, used by at least 10 eagles with tracking devices, will no longer support the eagles. Where are they supposed to go? While they can fly long distances, habitat is being lost all over the country. Most likely some of the birds will not thrive or raise young, and the population will slowly decline. Many other birds and wildlife will also lose their home when over 800 acres are developed for this project. Where will they go? Most likely many of them will die or be unable to raise young. It has been estimated that nation-wide the overall population of birds is declining 4% a year; if this development project is approved, then the county will be directly responsible for contributing to this decline.

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Please consider the wildlife that already calls the Village 14 area their home and reduce or relocate the project to a less ecologically sensitive area.

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Regards,

Barbara Swanson, Ph.D.

"To me, the top three threats to birds overall are habitat loss, habitat loss, and habitat loss," says Ken Rosenberg of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "We're losing the battle acre by acre."

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