

Late Letter (LL)-6
Endangered Habitats League
January 3, 2018
(Paradise Fire)

1. Introduction

The comment letter submitted by EHL, dated January 3, 2019, is a late letter that does not require a written response from the County.

Under CEQA Guidelines Section 15105, the County was legally required to provide a 45-day public review period on the Draft EIR. The public comment period for the Draft EIR began on March 1, 2018 and ended on April 16, 2018. All comment letters received after expiration of the public review and comment period ending on April 16, 2018, are considered late comments.

A lead agency is required to consider comments on the Draft EIR and to prepare written responses if a comment is received within the public comment period. (Pub. Resources Code, §21091(d); CEQA Guidelines, §15088.) When a comment letter is received after the close of the public comment period, however, a lead agency does not have an obligation to respond. (Pub. Resources Code, §21091(d)(1); Pub. Resources Code, §21092.5(c).) Accordingly, the County is not required to provide a written response to late comment letters, including the January 3, 2019, letter from EHL. (See, CEQA Guidelines, §15088(a)).

Nonetheless, for information purposes, the County has elected to respond to this late letter, but without waiving its position that written responses to late comment letters are not required by law.

2. The letter does not address the analysis contained in the Final EIR.

The comment is a copy of a Los Angeles Times article regard the 2018 Paradise Fire and does not address the analysis contained in the Final EIR. The County notes that Paradise, CA and Proctor Valley have disparate vegetation and climactic conditions. Please refer to **Thematic Response – Wildfire Protection and Evacuation**. Please also refer to **Response to Comment Letters O-6.4 (Reax Engineering)** and **O-6.5 (Griffin Cove Transportation, PLLC)** as well as **Responses to Comments O-4-14, O-5-62, O-5-66, O-5-83, O-5-84, and Responses to Comments O-6-194 through O-6-262**.

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