These comments explain the commenter’s experience with evacuation during the 2014 Cocos fire. Your experience during the Cocos fire is noted. Although it is unknown how Harmony Grove Village (HGV) improvements may have affected Cocos evacuation given your location north of HGV and the future nature of planned improvements, it is noted that the Cocos evacuation process occurred prior to roadway improvements being completed by Harmony Grove Village. Those improvements (include improving segments of Country Club Drive, providing a new road to the east (Harmony Grove Village Parkway) and building a bridge over Escondido Creek, providing an improved route east and out of the valley. Regardless, it is noted that every fire event and evacuation effort is different. The Project would not “build in exactly the same place where nothing was left.” The HGV South Project site did not burn in the Cocos fire. It is noted, however, that development of communities requiring more recent fire codes compliance, as well as increased irrigated and low-flammability vegetation next to wildfire areas, may lower risk. Please see the Global Responses to Fire Hazards Impact Analysis and Adequacy of Emergency Evacuation and Access for information related to Project analyses on these topics.

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**Response to Comment PCI6-1**

These comments explain the commenter’s experience with evacuation during the 2014 Cocos fire. Your experience during the Cocos fire is noted. Although it is unknown how Harmony Grove Village (HGV) improvements may have affected Cocos evacuation given your location north of HGV and the future nature of planned improvements, it is noted that the Cocos evacuation process occurred prior to roadway improvements being completed by Harmony Grove Village. Those improvements (include improving segments of Country Club Drive, providing a new road to the east (Harmony Grove Village Parkway) and building a bridge over Escondido Creek, providing an improved route east and out of the valley. Regardless, it is noted that every fire event and evacuation effort is different. The Project would not “build in exactly the same place where nothing was left.” The HGV South Project site did not burn in the Cocos fire. It is noted, however, that development of communities requiring more recent fire codes compliance, as well as increased irrigated and low-flammability vegetation next to wildfire areas, may lower risk. Please see the Global Responses to Fire Hazards Impact Analysis and Adequacy of Emergency Evacuation and Access for information related to Project analyses on these topics.

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Comment Letter No. PCI6

**From:** Smith, Ashley

**Sent:** Thursday, May 17, 2018 2:15 PM

**To:** "Kira Lakin"


Kira,

I have forwarded your comments to the Planning Commission secretary. They will be provided to the Planning Commission in advance of the May 24th Planning Commission hearing.

Thank you,

Ashley

Ashley Smith | Planning Manager | Project Planning
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO | Planning & Development Services
T: 858.495.5375

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From: Kira Lakin [mailto:kiralakin@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 12:08 PM

To: Smith, Ashley <aslie.smith2@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Aghassi, Sarah

<Sarah.Aghassi@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Horn, Bill <bill.horn@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Ron Roberts <Ron.Roberts@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Jacob, Dianne <Dianne.Jacobs@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Cox, Greg <Greg.Cox@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Gaspers, Kristin <Kristin.Gaspers@sdcounty.ca.gov>;

Mane Castile <realcapital@realcapital.com>

Cc: JP Theiberga <ajthibe@msa.com>


Hello,

Thank you for receiving and responding to my previous correspondence regarding this project.

I understand that some of the points may have been too general, but I’m not sure you’ve completely taken into account just how dangerous and ill-advised this project will be, let alone how absolutely opposed to it we are. During the Cocos Fire evacuation, I was actually in my backyard watching the smoke blow toward the west and we felt relatively safe; within the space of minutes, the wind turned around 180 degrees (I was later told that a wildfire the size of the Cocos Fire essentially generates its own weather patterns) and it was raining ash, with the sun invisible behind smoke and haze. We had minutes, if that, to evacuate-- to decide what possessions in our home were worthy of squeezing into our one car, after getting our two young...
**Response to Comment PCI6-2**

Opposition to the Project is noted, is part of the administrative record, and will be before decision makers during consideration of the Project.

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children in. Heartbreakingly, we left behind our chickens, locking them into the garage in an attempt to shield them from the choking air, and even our beloved cat, as his carrier and a litterbox and his food would never have fit.

There was only one way out for our entire neighborhood, as the back way toward Kaena Lom was blocked. Trying to get out onto Country Club Drive was an incredible challenge, as not only was one entire lane completely occupied by fire trucks parking, but the other lane was already bumper-to-bumper with cars trying to get out and away from the fire, and our street was backed up the hill with cars trying to squeeze into the corral. We could see the flames racing down the hill, and yet we were sitting in traffic -- it seemed so ridiculous at the time, and still does.

But we were lucky and able to get out, while some did not, and our house was safe while dozens burned. To build in exactly the same place where nothing was left after the fire of the structures in its path but piles of ash is an unreasonable, indefensible, and nearly comical plan that shows just who holds the reins in the so-called planning of this area -- and how little they care for anything longer-term than the closing on a property and the money in their pocket.

I hope my points are a little more clear this time. I appreciate your time, and hope that yet another voice in this process helps demonstrate just how opposed we are to the development in this area as planned.

Thank you,
Kira Lakin

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**On Fri, Apr 6, 2018 at 6:00 AM, Smith, Ashley <Ashley.Smith2@sdecounty.ca.gov> wrote:**

Thank you Kira. The County is in receipt of your comments.

Ashley

**From:** Kira Lakin (mailto:kiralakin@gmail.com)
**Sent:** Thursday, April 05, 2018 7:51 PM
**To:** Smith, Ashley <Ashley.Smith2@sdecounty.ca.gov>
**Cc:** J.Arnold (<J.Arnold@gmail.com>); P.Theberge (<P.Theberge@mac.com>)
**Subject:** Comments to the Revised DEIR


To whom it may concern:

I am writing as a resident of the Hidden Hills community, immediately adjacent to Eden Valley, Harmony Grove and Elfin Forest and accessible primarily via...
### COMMENTS

**Comment Letter No. PCI6**

Country Club Drive.

My husband, two young children and I moved into our home in 2012. We fell in love with the rural feel — we had been searching high and low for a place where we could have a decent parcel of land to raise our children, and QUIET -- and believed we were buying in an area that would remain hidden and tucked away, true to its name. We were told that Harmony Grove Village was already in process and likely to be built, but that it was the only project in the works since there was a General Plan in place that would prohibit further development.

Imagine our shock when we learned that, in this area, a General Plan apparently doesn’t mean anything. Taxpayers shouldered the massive cost of hammering out a plan and getting all parties to agree on every detail -- a multi-year undertaking -- and yet developers mysteriously descended upon our hidden valley and began drawing up plans for hundreds or thousands of homes to be squeezed into our little valley, a process which would fundamentally destroy the nature of our neighborhood.

I will not presume to speak on behalf of all residents, but I will speak on behalf of my family: we are singularly and completely opposed to further development of this area. I am still traumatized by the Cocos Fire, when our one way out of our neighborhood was barely passable as we literally heard the flames roaring down the hillsides; it is unthinkable to add hundreds more cars to this one-lane country road. As coyotes are driven farther and farther into our neighborhoods by the destruction of their habitat, more neighbors are losing their pets; does this even register on anyone’s radar? It is shameful to me that we should be beholden to a group of people who apparently think nothing of green-lighting projects that are expressly forbidden by a document that all agreed to, as long as there is some benefit in it for them... are there not words for that, none of them flattering?

If you ever drive down Country Club Drive, you will occasionally see an equestrian trotting alongside the road: open rolling hillsides with native growth and wildlife; homes on large lots with pens for various livestock. They may be getting bombed in by the existing development of HGV, but that culture is still here for now, and so you will also be looking at a community united in its determination to defend this lifestyle. We will not be fooled, placated, or ignored. This is our home, which developers — and our own so-called representatives — would do well to remember as they look for the next profitable venture with no thought to any other considerations.

Best regards,

Kira Lee Lakin
952 Chardonnay Way
Escondido, CA 92025
858-692-8876

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### RESPONSES

**Response to Comment PCI6-3**

The comments provided on April 5, 2018 and resubmitted (as Comment PCI6-3 of this current letter) were responded to as part of the Revised DEIR responses. The comment does not raise any new issues that would require additional response. No new information has been provided that require further discussion. Please refer to Revised DEIR Responses to Comments RI14-1, 2, and 3 for responses to the April 5 comments.