This comment does not raise an environmental issue for which a response is required. This comment and attached letter will be a part of public record as requested.
Reponses to Comments

K-2 This comment is introductory in nature and does not raise an environmental issue for which a response is required.

K-3 It should be noted that some of the areas in question in Lawson Valley and in the Jamul Dulzura Planning Area currently allow horse stables without the need for a permit. Some of these areas are therefore outside the project area. For areas included in the project area, groundwater use was analyzed in the DEIR in Section 3.1.2.3.2 Groundwater Supplies and Recharge. Additionally, a groundwater study was prepared as part of the General Plan Update in 2010. Equine operations are not anticipated to use substantial amounts of water. Most commercial horse stables use imported feed and do not irrigate pasture. It was determined in the DEIR that the water usage would not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. From a general groundwater use standpoint, maintaining existing Equine Operations would be preferable when compared to new intensive agriculture or new residences, which would use more water.

K-4 This comment does not raise an environmental issue for which a response is required.

K-5 See Response K-3. The proposed horse numbers of 25 horses on five acres in this comment do not meet with project objectives to provide flexibility in permitting...
for equine operators to come into compliance with the code. Staff initially proposed a threshold of 8 horses per acre on up to five acres and the draft ordinance was revised at 10 horses per acre with stakeholder input to meet project objectives. No additional groundwater constraints are included in this project to limit groundwater use. No animal use either agricultural or commercial under zoning has specific limitations to groundwater use, nor does any general agricultural use such as horticulture or crops. The proposed limits for groundwater usage are outside the project objectives and not a part of the regulations being addressed in the ordinance. Groundwater use was analyzed in the DEIR in Section 3.1.2.3.2 Groundwater Supplies and Recharge. A groundwater study was prepared as part of the General Plan Update in 2010. Equine operations are not anticipated to use substantial amounts of water. Most commercial horse stables use imported feed and do not irrigate pasture. It was determined in the DEIR that the water usage would not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. From a general groundwater use standpoint, maintaining existing Equine Operations would be preferable when compared to new intensive agriculture or new residences, which would use more water.
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