

COMMENTS

RESPONSES

Ehsan, Beth

From: amy@cahillmindbody.com <amyaguilbre@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 2:10 PM
To: Sibbet, David
Cc: Ehsan, Beth; Loy, Maggie A; Blackson, Kristin; bruce.bettyliska@gmail.com; Douglas Dill; Horn, Bill; Ron-Roberts; Roberts, Dave; Jacob, Dianne; Cox, Greg; efhgtc
Subject: Valiano Draft EIR: Comments from the Cahill's in the Elfin Forest

Dear Mr. Sibbet,

I hope this email finds you well and enjoying our cooler weather thus far this year. My husband and I wish to thank you and your colleagues at Planning and Development Services for all the work and attention you have put toward the review of the Valiano Project. We greatly value your efforts in helping us continue to live in our beautiful community of San Diego and for keeping as much of this area unique to the county, and safe place to live. Please allow us to introduce ourselves, my name Amy Cahill and my husband is Jim Cahill and we live on Questhaven Rd, off of Elfin Forest Road/Harmony Grove Road, in the Elfin Forest. We have lived here for 3 years and have enjoyed the area for over 20 years. Thus we have seen the development the area has experienced for over a long period of time, even though we have only lived here for the past 3 years.

We moved to this area because we wanted to live in a rural area. We love that this community has a stated vision of "keeping it rural", particularly in this ever-expanding and developing era. This community is unique. We have lived all over San Diego county (Jim was born in Coronado), and all over the world. This is the first place we have lived that focuses on this aspect of living as specifically stated goal, and a community that works together to take care of not only one another, but the natural environment and it's other living beings.

San Elijo Hills and Harmony Grove Village were rather shocking developments to witness come to fruition, as the planning of these communities are so poorly executed in terms of the issues that continue to concern us with the Valiano Project. So to add yet another development to the area, with the same lack of consideration for very specific issues is overwhelming to us. To keep this from becoming a tome :, we will focus on two issues that stand out so blatantly they cannot be ignored and are of grave concern for general safety and well-being, let alone to the issue of "keeping it rural."

Traffic and Fire Safety

After reading the Transportation section of the EIR carefully we found NO reference to the use of the Elfin Forest Road by the Valiano community heading West. All of the references to traffic flow point to roads and freeways to the East. This is a major oversight. The road WILL be used. The 6% that is stated as used in the DEIR is simply wrong. We witness this every day. Not only do individuals use this road A LOT, and particularly on weekends when heading to the beaches, this road is used by many bicyclists and motorcycles and car enthusiasts (all of whom use this road like a racetrack). The dangers of this road are apparent daily, with people driving way over the speed limit, constant passing into the other lane over the double yellow lines, and bottlenecks at any intersections with lights. This is well known to every CHP office we have spoken with. The noise is also substantial, particularly when speeding vehicles overtake one another. Not only will this traffic impact our lives with time constraints, noise, and a likely increase in accidents (as it is only two lanes, very dark at night, and very windy), it will become a death trap if there is another fire in the area.

This is FIRE country. It is a risk we all recognize when we choose to live here. The fires that come to San Diego county come from the East, which means that everyone will be evacuating West. It is appalling that this is not addressed in this report. We have lived through many fire evacuations both in San Diego county and in

AE-1 Thank you for your introductory comments. Please see responses to specific comments, below.

AE-2 Regarding traffic heading west on Elfin Forest Road, see Response K-165. In addition, County of San Diego Report Format & Content Requirements for Transportation and Traffic, only locations receiving 25 directional peak hour trips or more are to be included in the traffic analysis. Since the Project adds fewer than 25 trips to Harmony Grove Road/Elfin Forest Road west of Country Club Drive, the analysis further to the west was not warranted. As discussed in Sections 2.8.2.7 and 2.8.2.8, the Project would not be expected to create significant hazards on nearby roadways including Harmony Grove Road. The addition of fewer than 25 peak hour tips on a roadway that would have approximately 837 peak hour trips (assuming 10 percent of the daily volume as shown in Table A) would not significantly impact the roadway as described in the comment. Regarding fire evacuations, see Topical Response: Fire/Evacuations.

Noise impacts to off-site receptors were analyzed in accordance with County noise standards in Subchapter 2.6. No significant noise impacts would occur to off-site receptors per County standards.

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cont.

our time living in Western Australia. We are fortunate in the United States to not have had people burn to death in their cars on roads, but Australia has had to bear this many times. We are nearing the level of fire threat that Australia has lived with for some time. Our fires in California are at this level, they will burn hotter and faster, and this is reported upon almost daily now with our massive drought. During the Coco's fire in May of 2014 we evacuated early, yet there were still bottlenecks that were difficult to avoid. The fact that the largest mass migration from a city came in the massive fire in 2007 (over one million people evacuated from San Diego county) should set off alarm bells immediately in all those thinking about building new developments. But apparently this was ignored in the EIR for the Valiano Development. Please consider this life threatening issue when you review this development proposal. Again, we choose to live here and we understand the risks, but unknowing individuals thinking they can evacuate East, or even quickly, are in for surprise of their life, or with great possibility, the end of their lives. Jim worked as a lifeguard for many years and I have worked as a Red Cross evacuation center manager in earthquake areas and we have witnessed the panic and the helplessness of average people having to deal with emergencies. These are practical realities that we know well.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly at the phone numbers listed below if you would like to hear further comments or information on how this development will impact our lives.

Thank you again for your time and attention to our concerns and our concerns for all our fellow citizens, both human and non-human, in San Diego county.

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Finally, this is an island of rural life left in Coastal Southern California. Our children and future generations will rightly judge us based on our efforts and decisions made today. Let us choose truth, honor, wisdom, and kindness over mindless development and the blindness of greed as we move forward. May it be so.

Respectfully yours,

Amy and Jim Cahill
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Escondido, CA 92029
Amy: 760-840-0406
Jim: 760-840-0432

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The comment raises fire safety issues with evacuation. The possibility of an evacuation to the west is shown on FPP Figure 12. As discussed in the FPP and Topical Response: Fire/Evacuations, all routes identified for evacuation and alternate traffic control are subject to actual live conditions during a wildfire in the area and are subject to override and on-the-ground assessments of the conditions and safety measures at the time of an emergency. Delays are inherent in the state of emergency and the safety personnel have taken such delays into account when the evacuation notices are delivered to specific areas and residents within each area.

The Sheriff's Department is responsible for evacuation and part of Incident Command when a fire incident in the area occurs. In recent years, especially after the 2003 and 2007 fires, emergency communication and implementation of evacuations has greatly improved and become more efficient in providing evacuation information and notifications for evacuations (e.g., the reverse 911 system and the information and assistance provided by the AlertSanDiego and ReadySanDiego programs). The home owners within the Project would be signed up to participate in the County's Emergency Response website where people can download applications directly to their cell phones for reverse 911 calls to allow for earlier, safer and more orderly evacuation of the area. Earlier notification of fire dangers will be critical in creating a safer, more orderly evacuation situation in the area. See also Response K-209 regarding adherence to the READY! SET! GO! Program, and see Topical Response: Fire/Evacuations.

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The commenter provides an opinion related to the morality of developing land in rural areas. However, the information does not raise a specific issue related to the adequacy of the EIR. Therefore, no response is provided.