

COMMENTS

RESPONSES

Ehsan, Beth

From: Shellie Marshburn <ladybugs1810@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 12:40 PM
To: Ehsan, Beth
Subject: VALIANO PDS2013-SP-13-001

VALIANO PDS2013-SP-13-001

Dear Ms. Ehsan:

BK-1 As a 31-year resident of Harmony Grove/Eden Valley, three of my top concerns related to the Valiano Project are: Water Shortage, the On-Site Water Treatment and Water Reclamation Facility (WTWRF), and the Fire Danger.

BK-2 WATER SHORTAGE:
As I walked through Harmony Grove Village this morning, I observed many acres of newly-planted landscaping, all of which will require extensive, daily irrigation. In the current state of drought, this is a serious concern. In addition to the large water demands of each new household (many of whom are unaware/unwilling to install native landscapes), there will be numerous backyard pools, grass lawns, and many more acres of landscaped greenways. All of this will only add to the demands on our vastly limited water supply in San Diego County. I find it unconscionable that this expansion of population is even being considered while at the very same time the current residents are required to rigorously cut back water usage to accommodate the severe drought. Again, the very legislative bodies entrusted to guide the populace through the challenges of an inescapable drought are considering a proposal that is so obviously ill-advised and counterintuitive, given the state of the limited supply of water to San Diego County.

BK-3 ON-SITE WATER TREATMENT AND WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY:
The proposed onsite Water Treatment and Water Reclamation Facility (WTWRF) is unacceptable. To think that in addition to permanently altering our rural lifestyle, those of us nearest the proposed WTWRF will have the luxury of being a neighbor to the processing of sewage from the new residents. To quote from the Valiano Specific Plan, Page 6-11, "Specific design measures will be required as conditions of the Wastewater Treatment and Water Reclamation Facility (WTWRF) Major Use Permit approval to ensure that park users will not be affected by odors caused by WTWRF operations." (emphasis mine) How thoughtful of the Valiano Project to voice concern over the potential park users' possible offense by the odors of the WTWRF, but no mention is made as to the adverse effects to the residents who will be exposed to the foul odors on a daily basis! As an up-wind neighbor of the WTWRF facility I cannot help but be concerned that my outdoors activities will be affected by the malodorous effects of the treatment of other people's sewage!! This is a most unpleasant and intolerable prospect. I would ask each of you if this would be an acceptable proposal for your own residence? I think not. As an avid gardener, I shudder to think what my outdoor activities would be like as I smell the wafting orders of processing sewage. I implore you to eliminate the possibility of the WTWRF and consider one of the other options.

BK-1 Introductory comment noted. See specific responses below.

BK-2 See Responses C-2, C-8, C-10 and K-99 for a comparison of proposed water usage to the historical baseline. Droughts are cyclical in nature, and, given the semi-arid nature of southern California, another drought is likely to occur. Therefore, the Project has been developed for both drought and non-drought conditions. For example, the Project's WTWRF would provide a sizable amount of recycled water to irrigate the Project site. Landscaping would consist of drought-tolerant vegetation where appropriate. In addition, as discussed under Response C-10, the existing agricultural use of the Project site used as much or more water than forecasted by the Proposed Project.

BK-3 The proposed WTWRF will be designed in accordance with County and industry standards to meet all applicable regulations related to odor. Process components are enclosed and will have similar odor control features as the Harmony Grove WTWRF currently under construction. The potential impact is adequately analyzed in Subsection 2.2.2.2 of the EIR. No changes to the EIR resulted from the comment.

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FIRE DANGER:

BK-4

Wild fires in San Diego County are a constant threat and the Harmony Grove/Eden Valley area has been particularly hard hit over the years. Three major wild fires have occurred in this area in addition to numerous less serious fires. The October 1996 fire that burned 8,600 acres and destroyed 120 homes began in the Harmony Grove/Eden Valley vicinity. In the 2007 Witch Creek Fire one of the many fronts of the wildfire came through the Lake Hodges area into the southern portion of Harmony Grove/Eden Valley, resulting in a mandatory evacuation of the residents. Most recently, the Cocos Fire of May 2014 also led to an even more extensive evacuation of our Valley. Mandatory fire evacuations are terrifying and chaotic. In this valley, there are two methods of ingress and egress and there are **NO PLANS** to expand or improve this situation even with the huge increase to the population. It is inconceivable to me to imagine the impossible situation a fire would pose with the number of homes proposed by the Valiano project. The homes would be built on the western portion of the valley which is the furthest from the major tributaries in and out of the valley, which will greatly exacerbate any evacuation effort. In a mandatory evacuation scenario, the resulting panic and chaos creates a real possibility of further danger and even loss of life. The sheer number of emergency vehicles, news vehicles, helicopters, water bombers, all coming into an area as compact as Harmony Grove/Eden Valley creates real obstructions to the evacuating residents; and in this case, many large vehicles with trailers evacuating horses and other livestock. **I've endured two mandatory evacuations** and the terror is real. San Diegans know the reality of loss of life from wildfires. It is incumbent upon our legislators to **ensure to every citizen of this County that safety is a top priority.**

BK-5

In the 31 years I have been a resident of Harmony Grove/Eden Valley, I have witnessed the destruction of nearby native habitat through large development; i.e., Olivenhain, San Elijo Hills, and the current Harmony Grove Village. Once this native habitat is destroyed it cannot be replicated. The razed land is populated with private residences. UN-native habitats replace the chaparral and the wildlife is destroyed and lost forever. The once natural vistas are lost to urban sprawl. The proposed "gated community" is anathema to the low density, rural agricultural character of the valley. A "gated community" cannot be integrated into the current environment without totally disrupting the current atmosphere and rural texture. Please consider abiding by the current General Plan. Protect San Diego County's unique rural character.

BK-6

Sincerely,

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BK-4

See Topical Response: Fire/Evacuations regarding fire evacuation.

BK-5

Comment noted. Your appreciation of native habitat and concern for its loss is understood. Habitat mitigation would be provided for Project impacts to biological resources pursuant to County and Resource Agencies requirements and the CEQA Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP).

BK-6

The Project is not proposed to be a gated community. See Response U-2a regarding the semi-rural nature of the Project. Your position regarding the negative effects of the Project is hereby included as part of the record and made available to the decision makers prior to the final decision on the Project.