

PALOMAR OBSERVATORY
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
P.O. BOX 200
PALOMAR MOUNTAIN, CA 92060

Telephone (760)742-2111, Fax (760)742-1728, Email: wsk@astro.caltech.edu

May 24, 2008

Devon Muto
Department of Planning and Land Use
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Mr. Muto,

I am writing on behalf of the Palomar Observatory concerning the County's 2020 General Plan update. The observatory has great concerns about land development and its associated impact on our scientific operations as the Forrest Conservation Initiative (FCI) expires.

The observatory employs five telescopes that are used nightly for astronomical observations. Research conducted at Palomar has had a profound impact in our understanding of the cosmos and the observatory continues to be a world-class leader in astronomical research and associated technologies.

The site for the Observatory was chosen in 1934 primarily for its clear weather, stable atmosphere and dark skies. The tremendous population growth in San Diego County and the surrounding areas has had a tremendous negative impact on the observatory in the form of light pollution. The cooperation of San Diego County and other governments, by enacting the light pollution ordinances, has helped to preserve the Observatory.

The sunset of FCI, even with light pollution ordinances, threatens the Palomar Observatory if the County allows increased growth in the County's undeveloped lands. Every new development brings new sources of light and light pollution to the area. The

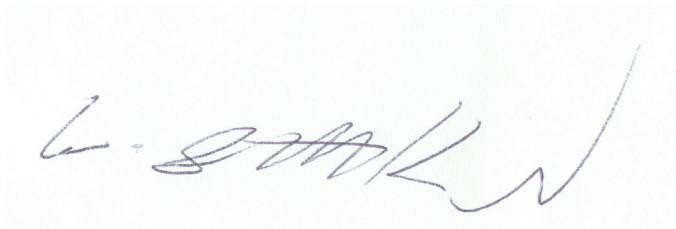
best way to protect the County's two world-class observatories, Palomar and Mt. Laguna, is to combat urbanization in these undeveloped lands.

This is especially true in the North Mountain subregion where Palomar is located. Any new developments in this area pose a great risk to the observatory, however all new developments in the County will also contribute to light pollution, affecting the observatory.

Further, a recent survey of Palomar Mountain residents, conducted by the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization, reveals that most of the residents in the immediate area want to keep Palomar as it is.

It is with this in mind that Palomar Observatory recommends that the County's General Plan 2020 keep the 40-acre minimum parcel size and a density of one dwelling unit per 40 acres on all affected parcels as is currently in place under FCI. Major and minor use permits in the North Mountain area should be substantially restricted or prohibited in the area. Any that are granted should be required to mitigate all impacts on the Observatory.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Scott Kardel", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

W. Scott Kardel
Palomar Observatory