

From: "Ronald Mechsner" <RMechsner@rjmtechnology.com>
To: NEWHALLRANCH@dfg.ca.gov; Aaron.O.Allen@usace.army.mil
Date: Tue, Jun 16, 2009 10:45 AM
Subject: Public Comment Newhall Ranch Draft EIS / EIR

Sirs,

I am a resident of Stevenson Ranch, CA and also serve as the President of the West Ranch Town Council, the advisory council for LA County Supervisor Michael Antonovich that represents the communities of Stevenson Ranch, Westridge, Southern Oaks, and Sunset Pointe that are adjacent to the Newhall Ranch development.

1

The developer of the Newhall Ranch Draft EIR / EIS has made numerous presentations to the West Ranch Town Council and the community regarding their project and in particular to the core components of the Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan (RMDP) and the Spineflower Conservation Plan (SCP). I have also had the opportunity to get a tour of the area and ask numerous questions to their representatives on environmental issues and concerns regarding the planned development. Throughout this process, the representatives from Newhall Land and Farm were extremely forthcoming with their answers regarding the RMDP and SCP plans.

2

I support the RMDP and SCP plan as developed and presented as representing not only the identification of environmental impacts in the project area but also defines mitigation efforts and measures. I support the issuance of a federal Clean Water Act section 404 permit to implement the RMDP project component. I also support the CDFG issuing a Master Streambed Alteration Agreement and two Incidental Take Permits as requested by the applicant.

3

I strongly believe that the actions being taken by the applicant and documented within the plan do represent feasible and substantive mitigation measures in order to protect our local environment. For a development of this size and scope to allocate almost 65% of the total acreage as being untouched / natural, with an additional 167 acres being dedicated to spineflower preserves, and the riverbank / water quality steps being defined - I believe that this project represents a superb balance between development and environmental responsibility.

4

Being a neighbor to this project, the need for responsible environmental identification and mitigation efforts is extremely important to me. The western part of the Santa Clarita Valley and the Santa Clara River watershed are a valuable feature of our community. It is a beautiful area and will remain so with this development given the environmental plan and reasonable mitigation efforts envisioned by the applicant to protect the environment. I personally commend the applicant for the focus that they have placed on

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balancing the development with the need to protect the environment and creating a series of plans that strongly support both.

| 5

Sincerely,

Ronald Mechsner
25959 Stafford Canyon Rd. #C
Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381

Ronald Mechsner
President
RJM Technology
PO Box 55778
Valencia, CA 91385-5778
Office / Fax: 661.254.2017
Mobile: 661.753.6182

CC: aherrell@newhall.com; msubbotin@newhall.com; jmusella@newhall.com

107. Letter from Ronald Mechsner, dated June 16, 2009

Response 1

This comment is an introduction to comments that follow and no additional response is provided.

Response 2

The Corps and CDFG acknowledge your input and comment. The comment will be included as part of the record and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed Project.

Response 3

The Corps and CDFG appreciate the comment provided in your letter. Your opinion regarding the proposed Project will be included as part of the record and made available to decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed Project. However, because the comment does not address the content of the Draft EIS/EIR, no additional response is provided.

Response 4

The Corps and CDFG appreciate the comment provided in your letter. Please note that the Draft EIS/EIR evaluated a reasonable range of alternatives, which included spinyflower preserve areas ranging in size from 167.6 acres for the proposed Project to 891.2 acres for Alternative 6. Your opinion regarding the proposed Project will be included as part of the record and made available to decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed Project. However, because the comment does not address the content of the Draft EIS/EIR, no additional response is provided.

Response 5

The Corps and CDFG acknowledge your comment. The comment will be included as part of the record and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the proposed Project.