



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

February 2, 2009

Carl Holm
RMA-Planning Salinas Permit Center
168 W. Alisal St. 2nd Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Mr. Holm,

Monterey County
Planning and Building
Inspection Administration

FEB 02 2009

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Rec'd as CEQA
Comments 2/2/09

11:57am

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2007 General Plan Update and the 2007 General Plan Draft EIR. The Planning Department has reviewed both documents. We wish to express our concerns regarding significant and unavoidable impacts to the Pajaro groundwater basin identified in the EIR, particularly as this may impact future development within Santa Cruz County.

As noted in Section 1.4 of the EIR, development consistent with the Monterey County 2007 General Plan would result in "significant and unavoidable impacts" to groundwater resources in the Pajaro basin, exacerbating existing groundwater overdraft and saltwater intrusion (Section 1, page 39 of EIR). Overdraft of the aquifer is anticipated, even with recycling and conservation measures.

To address significant and unavoidable impacts to the Pajaro groundwater basin, mitigation measure WR-1 would implement a regional group to identify and support a variety of new water projects, water management programs, and multiple agency agreements to provide additional domestic water supplies for Monterey Peninsula and Seaside basin, while continuing to protect the Salinas and Pajaro River groundwater basins from saltwater intrusion. However, even with the proposed mitigation measure, impacts to the Pajaro groundwater basin are anticipated to be "significant and unavoidable" (page 1-39).

We believe that mitigation measure WR-1 is inadequate to address the significant impacts to the Pajaro Groundwater Basin. The Santa Cruz County Planning Department is particularly concerned that the Pajaro area is proposed as one of five community areas, with development planned at an urban level. Such intensive development is likely to further exacerbate groundwater overdraft and saltwater intrusion within the Pajaro groundwater basin. Such impacts are likely to restrict future development in those portions of the Pajaro community within Santa Cruz County.

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Calderon, Vanessa A. x5186

From: Annie Murphy [PLN400@co.santa-cruz.ca.us]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2009 11:57 AM
To: ceqacommments
Subject: Comments from County of Santa Cruz Planning Department on the 2007 General Plan Update and Draft EIR



Letter to Monterey
County.doc ...

Hello Carl,

Hope you and everyone in the Department are doing well!

Attached are the comments from the Santa Cruz County Planning Department regarding the Monterey County 2007 General Plan Update and Draft EIR.

Sincerely,

Annie Murphy
Planner, Policy Section
Santa Cruz County Planning Dept.
Phone: (831) 454-3111
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Email: pln400@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

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