

# CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT OFFICE  
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Monterey County  
Planning and Building  
Inspection Administration

FEB 02 2009

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4:38 pm*

February 2, 2009

Carl Holm, Assistant Director  
Monterey County Planning Department  
168 West Alisal Street, 2nd Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

**Subject: Monterey County 2007 General Plan Draft EIR**

Dear Mr. Holm:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Monterey County 2007 General Plan. Please note that we have previously provided comments on the earlier version of the EIR (letter of April 2, 2004), on the Notice of Preparation for the EIR for the 2006 General Plan document (letter of March 14, 2006), on the Draft EIR for the 2006 General Plan document (letter dated October 16, 2006), and on the General Plan drafts themselves, including, most recently our letter of July 25, 2006. Please continue to consider those previous comments as the County moves forward with subsequent General Plan drafts and environmental review. The purpose of this letter is not to reiterate those past comments, but rather is provide some general feedback regarding the relationship of the General Plan to the Local Coastal Program (LCP) and related CEQA documents.

As we have noted previously, we understand it is not the County's intent to use any part of the General Plan document as the basis for an LCP amendment or update. We further understand that any such LCP update amendments pursued by the County will be pursued separately in the future through their own planning processes. As a result, and due to ongoing budget and staffing shortfalls, we have not thoroughly reviewed the current documents, preferring instead to allot our available review time to future coastal zone documents and proposals. However, despite indications in the text that the General Plan and EIR are meant to cover only the inland portions of the County, cursory review of the EIR document indicates that a significant amount of data collection appears to have been included for the coastal zone portion of the County, and is represented in various exhibits, tables, and text throughout the document (e.g., the Biological Resources chapter shows and describes vegetation cover, special-status species, and habitats in the entire County). Although we understand the need to provide overall context in the EIR, given the County's stated position regarding the General Plan's lack of relationship to the coastal zone, we have not reviewed this information in relation to coastal zone resources and potential LCP updates and/or amendments related thereto. Please clarify if our understanding is incorrect, and the EIR/General Plan is intended to form the basis for future LCP planning. If so, we may have more comments for you.

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In any event, we look forward to seeing a revised final EIR that addresses these and previous comments that we have submitted. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss our comments further.

Sincerely,



**Katie Morange  
Coastal Planner**

cc: OPR Clearinghouse  
AMBAG Clearinghouse



**California Coastal Commission**  
Central Coast District Office

# FAX TRANSMITTAL

DATE: 2/2/09	NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVERSHEET): 3
PLEASE DELIVER TO: Carl Holm	FROM: Katie Morange
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**REGARDING:**

General Plan DEIR comments