



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of PLANNING AND RESEARCH



STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

CYNTHIA BRYANT
DIRECTOR

February 5, 2009

Monterey County
Planning and Building
Inspection Administration

FEB 10 2009

RECEIVED

Carl Holm
Monterey County
168 W. Alisal Street, 2nd Floor
Salinas, CA 93901-2680

Subject: 2007 Monterey County General Plan
SCH#: 2007121001

Dear Carl Holm:

The enclosed comment (s) on your Draft EIR was (were) received by the State Clearinghouse after the end of the state review period, which closed on February 2, 2009. We are forwarding these comments to you because they provide information or raise issues that should be addressed in your final environmental document.

The California Environmental Quality Act does not require Lead Agencies to respond to late comments. However, we encourage you to incorporate these additional comments into your final environmental document and to consider them prior to taking final action on the proposed project.

Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions concerning the environmental review process. If you have a question regarding the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number (2007121001) when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts
Senior Planner, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures

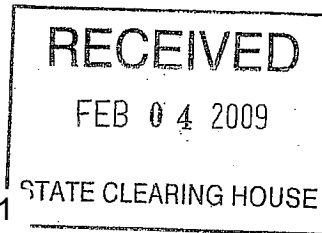
cc: Resources Agency

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CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT OFFICE
725 FRONT STREET, SUITE 300
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
PHONE: (831) 427-4863
FAX: (831) 427-4877

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2007121001

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

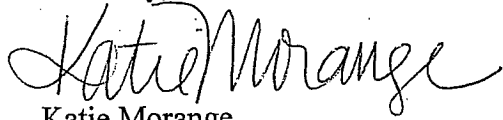
Dear Mr. Holm:

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.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katie Morange".

Katie Morange
Coastal Planner

cc: OPR Clearinghouse
AMBAG Clearinghouse