

ATTENTION: Jacqueline Onciano

Jacqueline R Onciano  
Monterey County Resource Management Agency  
Planning Department  
168 W. Alisal St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

February 27, 2008

Dear Ms. Onciano,

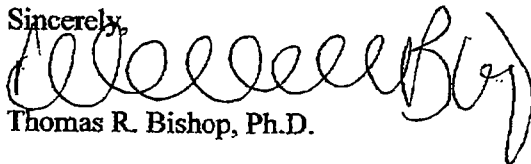
I am writing as a concerned citizen of Monterey County and involved parent of two children who have attended Carmel Middle School to voice my objections to the proposed Rancho Canada Village development in the unincorporated area of Carmel Valley. While this project presents an opportunity to promote smart development that would ultimately contribute positively to the local economy and potentially reduce development impacts on the Valley, under the current proposal, the development fails to respond adequately to the inherent biological and qualitative changes it will bring to the river and its associated flora & fauna. Moreover, the current proposal drastically encroaches on the neighboring school site, and, in particular, unnecessarily compromises the parcel of land currently in use as an award-winning environmental education center, the Hilton Bialek Habitat. The Habitat positively affects the lives of over 2,000 Monterey County schoolchildren annually and is home to over 175 species of birds, many small mammals, countless reptiles and insects, and amphibians, including the red-legged frog.

Both of my daughters have benefited greatly from the habitat and its free proximity to the Carmel River. Some of the experiences gained by my older daughter have contributed to making her a success at UC Berkeley and my younger daughter in Carmel High has carried forth her experiences in the sciences. Please use the viable alternatives available.

Among the alternatives considered, *Alternate 2 "East Golf Course" would remedy most of the afore mentioned problems.* By locating the development farther east, above the flood plain and at a considerable distance from the school, the impacts on wildlife, hydrology, and environmental health and quality will be mitigated, and the long-term outcome will benefit a greater number of people who live and work in the area. I strongly urge the county and the developers of this project to consider this alternative.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas R. Bishop, Ph.D.