



March 6, 2008

Ms. Jacqueline R. Onciano
 Planning Department
 County of Monterey
 168 West Alisal St., Second Floor
 Salinas, CA 93901-2487

Faxed to: 757-9516
 E-mailed to: oncianoj@co.monterey.ca.us

Subject: Rancho Canada Village, Draft Environmental Impact Report

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Amy Funt
 Howard Given
 Dan Hightower
 Marcy Rustad
 Annette Yee Steck

SUPERINTENDENT

Marvin Biasotti

Dear Ms. Onciano:

As Superintendent of Carmel Unified School District (CUSD), I am concerned about potential health and safety risks associated with the proposed Rancho Canada Village project. Specifically, I am referring to potential health risks to our students and staff as a result of the project's impact on air quality.

The project is proposed for a site adjacent to the Carmel Middle School. Carmel Middle School has a current student population of 492 students in grades 6 through 8, ranging in age from 10 to 14 years old. The Middle School has approximately 62 teachers, staff and administrators on site. Our District Office is also located on the CMS property.

By design, Carmel Middle School students and staff spend a significant amount of time outdoors. Carmel Middle School does not have internal hallways. Students get from one classroom to another in the open air. Their lockers are in the open air. The cafeteria and the gym are all accessed through the open air. Also, one of the showpieces and most popular programs at the Middle School is the Hilton Bialek Biological Sciences Habitat which provides an outdoor learning experience to students from CUSD and from underserved communities throughout Monterey County. The students work outside in the organic garden and work with native plant restoration, among other outdoor onsite activities. Thus, our students, staff, and visitors are especially at risk from environmental factors that affect air quality, temporarily or permanently.

CUSD understands that there are documented concerns about the effects of the project on air quality. We have reviewed a draft health risk assessment that we understand was prepared after the Draft EIR was released. That assessment determined that the health risks of the project, specifically the cancer risks due to acrolein, are significant.

Separately, we received a letter from a pulmonary specialist that identifies concerns over silica and aspergillum as additional health risks to students and staff with breathing conditions such as asthma. We are aware of 22 current students at Carmel Middle School with asthma or other medical concerns related to breathing.

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LOCATION:
 4380 Carmel Valley Road

As a result, CUSD believes that the Draft EIR should describe in detail the specific potential health impacts of the project and identify mitigation measures, where appropriate. We ask that consideration of the Rancho Canada Village project's impact on air quality be given high priority and that we receive assurance that the project does not pose a health risk to the students, staff and general educational community of Carmel Middle School.

We look forward to receiving the County's full investigation of air quality impacts, risks, and assessments and the developer's response to the health concerns that have been raised.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marvin Biasotti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marvin Biasotti
Superintendent