



COUNTY OF SAN BENITO PLANNING & BUILDING INSPECTION SERVICES

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October 6, 2006

Carl Holm, Planning Manager
Monterey County Planning Department
168 W. Alisal Street, 2nd Floor
Salinas, CA 93901-2438

Dear Mr. Holm:

As a neighboring jurisdiction, San Benito County has an interest in Monterey County's General Plan Update and would like to provide some comments on the proposed plan and the related Draft Program EIR. The Board of Supervisor's will also be reviewing this item on October 10. We will let you know if the Board has any additional comments.

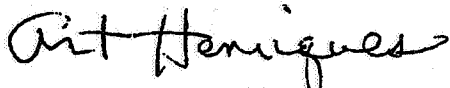
This County is primarily concerned with Monterey County addressing issues the two counties share such as cooperative land use and transportation planning, population and housing growth, air quality, lighting and protection of ridgeline areas. We applaud Monterey County's efforts to focus more intensive growth in urban areas and community centers. We appreciate your interest in improving your open space and agriculture programs.

We respectfully request the final General Plan and EIR address the following in a little more detail:

- We encourage Monterey County to work with San Benito County in improving areas located along our shared border, such as Aromas and Prunedale. | 7-1
- We encourage Monterey County to proactively address traffic impacts resulting from General Plan implementation that may affect San Benito County. | 7-2
- Regarding potential Environmental Impacts AES-4 and AES-8, the former a significant unavoidable impact, we recommend that the General Plan and Agricultural Winery Corridor Plan require that controls on nighttime lighting shield specific locations from light pollution. These locations include Fremont Peak (on which an astronomical observatory is located) and Pinnacles National Monument, which are currently given protection by San Benito County Ordinance. We would be happy to provide you a copy of that Ordinance. | 7-3
- We also would like to cooperate with you in protection of the ridgeline areas that we share. | 7-4

San Benito County appreciates the opportunity to comment on the General Plan and Draft Program EIR. We will let you know if our Board has any additional comments when they review this item at their meeting of October 10.

Sincerely,



ART HENRIQUES, Director
Planning & Building Inspection Services

cc: San Benito County Board of Supervisors
Susan Thompson, CAO
