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MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Home of the Last Chance Mercantile

October 5, 2006

VIA FACSIMILE (831-757-9516) AND REGULAR MAIL

Mr. Carl Holm
Monterey County Planning Department
168 West Alisal Street
Salinas, CA 93901

RE: Draft Monterey County General Plan and EIR

Dear Mr. Holm:

This letter is in response to a property owner request to change the land use in GPU4 (#13 - Jefferson F/40 & PG/40-D-S to LDR/2.5). The Monterey County Land Use Plan, Greater Monterey Peninsula, Figure #8, identifies two sites totaling approximately 500+ acres (within Marina's General Plan area) as "Residential - Low Density 5-1 Acres/Unit." The Marina General Plan designation for the 500+ acre site is Habitat Reserves and Other Open Space and Agriculture.

Please be advised that the Monterey Regional Waste Management District (District) is fully in support of a landfill buffer zone ordinance that prohibits issuance of building permits or other land use entitlements for any residential development or structure in the vicinity of an active landfill. An active landfill operation is not compatible with a residential development because of issues such as heavy truck traffic congestion and safety, noise, odor, dust, litter, birds, landfill gas migration, and visual aesthetics. It is therefore prudent land use planning practice to provide an adequate buffer zone between an active landfill operation and any residential land use. Monterey County has, in the past, supported the establishment of a 2,500 foot buffer zone between an active landfill and any residential land use.

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The active landfill pertaining to this proposed residential development is the Monterey Peninsula Landfill, owned and operated by the District, located at 14201 Del Monte Blvd, 2 miles north of Marina. The landfill buffer zone is measured from the property line of the active landfill site. The proposed residential development site is within a 1,000 - 2,500 foot buffer zone, and therefore the District must go on record as opposing this designated land use change.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft General Plan. If you have any questions or require additional information, please call me at (831) 384-5313.

Sincerely,



William M. Merry, P.E. DEE
General Manager

cc: Allen Stroh, Monterey County Health Department