

FRIENDS OF THE NORTHERN SAN JACINTO VALLEY
P.O. Box 9097
Moreno Valley, CA 92552-9097

20 November 2007

Via FAX and e-mail

Mr. Mark Gross
City of Moreno Valley
Community Development Department
14177 Frederick Street
P.O. Box 88005
Moreno Valley, CA 92552-0805

Dear Mr. Gross:

Re: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) - Highland Fairview Logistics Building

Since 1991, the Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley have worked to preserve and protect the northern San Jacinto Valley, the San Jacinto Wildlife Area (SJWA) and Mystic Lake. SJWA is a cornerstone reserve in the Western Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), a system of reserves which, in theory, are supposed to conserve endangered plants and animals within the County and City of Moreno Valley. The Friends have a long history of exhorting County and City elected representatives to provide/assure compatible land uses on the lands adjacent to the SJWA boundary.

We are concerned the Highland Fairview Logistics Building project will cumulatively degrade the ability of the SJWA to function as a viable MSHCP conservation area. The Cumulative impacts this project will visit upon the SJWA and its ability to function as a plant and animal conservation reserve are numerous. These include the loss of surrounding agricultural lands, the loss of vital raptor foraging habitat, and cumulative increases of air and water pollution impacting SJWA. We are particularly concerned about the loss of night-sky this project will precipitate. Additional light pollution in the City's east end will ultimately degrade wildlife habitat values on one of our most important remaining wildlife conservation reserves. This project will cumulatively contribute to global warming which will further hinder the conservation of plants and animals on the SJWA.

We would also like to caution the City that mere adherence/reliance on the provisions of the MSHCP will not excuse full compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of this project on Biological Resources need to be identified and subject to careful analysis. Alternatives to avoid impacts to Biological Resources need to be fully considered and disclosed in the CEQA Draft EIR.

Please notify us of all meetings, documents, decisions regarding this project. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this project. We look forward to reviewing the Draft EIR.

Sincerely,

Ann L. Turner-McKibben, President
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