

## Appendices

### **Appendix A: Notice of Preparation (NOP), NOP Comments, and Scoping Meeting Attendance Sheets**

## Appendices

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## Land Use Services Department Planning Division

Terri Rahhal  
Planning Director

### NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND SCOPING MEETING for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan Environmental Impact Report

**Date:** October 13, 2017

**To:** Reviewing Agencies and Other Interested Parties

**Project Title:** San Bernardino Countywide Plan

**Project Applicant:** County of San Bernardino

**Notice of Preparation Review Period:** October 17 through November 20, 2017 (30 days)

**Scoping Meeting:** October 26, 2017, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of San Bernardino (County) will prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan. The County is the lead agency for the project. The purpose of this notice is (1) to serve as a Notice of Preparation of an EIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15082, (2) to advise and solicit comments and suggestions regarding the scope and content of the EIR to be prepared for the proposed project, and (3) to notice the public scoping meeting.

The County determined that the proposed project would require preparation of a full-scope EIR; thus, an Initial Study was not prepared in conjunction with this Notice of Preparation.

#### 1. Introduction

The County's General Plan was last updated in 2007. In 2010, the County Board of Supervisors set out to establish a vision for the future of the county as a whole and adopted a Countywide Vision in 2011 after two years of input from the community and the county's 24 cities and towns. Following the adoption of the Countywide Vision, which calls for the creation of a "complete county," the Board adopted the County paradigm and job statements in 2012.

In 2015, the County launched an effort to create an unprecedented General Plan—a web-based comprehensive "complete county" plan that complements and informs the Countywide Vision by taking into account all services—not just land-use planning—provided by County government, and the unique values and priorities of each unincorporated community. It will serve as a guide for County decision-making, financial planning, and communications.

The Countywide Plan's web-based format will provide a wealth of easily accessible data on how the County operates and allow the public ongoing access to County data and information for independent use. The target adoption date is 2018.

#### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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## **2. Environmental Setting**

### **Project Location**

At just over 20,000 square miles, San Bernardino County is the largest county in the nation. It is bordered by Los Angeles County, Orange County, and Kern County on the west; Inyo County and the southwest corner of Clark County, Nevada, on the north; the Colorado River and the states of Arizona and Nevada on the east; and Riverside County on the south. Regional connectivity to San Bernardino County is provided by Interstate 15 (I-15), I-40, I-10, U.S. Route 395, and State Route 58.

Over 2.1 million residents live—and over 700,000 people work—in the county's four geographical regions (Valley, Mountain, North Desert, and East Desert) in 24 incorporated cities or towns (of which 20 have unincorporated spheres of influence) and dozens of unincorporated communities. The unincorporated county is the largest municipality in San Bernardino County, with over 300,000 residents and 60,000 jobs.

### **Geographical Planning Regions**

The county is defined primarily by its four geographical regions—the Valley, Mountain, North Desert, and East Desert (see Figure 1, *Draft General Plan Land Use Plan*). Only 4 percent of the land in the County is in incorporated jurisdictions; 96 percent of the land area is unincorporated.

#### *Valley Region*

The Valley region is in the southwesternmost part of the county. Although the smallest region in land area, it is the most populated and the most urbanized—nearly half of the incorporated land is in the Valley region. The region is generally defined as all land that is south and west of the San Bernardino National Forest boundaries. The San Bernardino Mountains and Yucaipa and Crafton Hills form the eastern limits of the Valley region, and the Santa Ana River and Jurupa Mountains form the southern limits.

#### *Mountain Region*

The Mountain region is north of the Valley region and encompasses the San Bernardino Mountains and the eastern end of the San Gabriel Mountains. Most of the Mountain region is public land managed by state and federal agencies, primarily the U.S. Forest Service.

#### *North Desert Region*

The North Desert region is the largest of the four regions and is north of the Mountain region until the northern county limits and east of the East Desert region to the eastern county limits (Nevada and Arizona state lines). A significant portion of the region encompasses the Mojave Desert.

#### *East Desert Region*

The East Desert region is east of the Mountain region and encompasses approximately two million acres. Most of the East Desert land is federally owned.

## **3. Project Description**

The proposed project is a comprehensive plan that is driven by the Countywide Vision (2011) and meets California Code requirements for a general plan. The proposed Countywide Plan is guided by the following project goals:



- » **Character & Heritage.** Recognition, preservation, and celebration of the distinct character, history, culture, and heritage of the county and its communities.
- » **Collaboration.** Greater coordination within the County government alongside expanded partnerships with other public and private entities to create a more complete county.
- » **Community Capacity.** A public equipped with tools to create positive changes in their communities, empowered by civic involvement and a network of relationships.
- » **Fiscally Sustainable Growth.** A pattern of growth and development that facilitates logical, cost-effective, and fiscally sustainable provision of public services and infrastructure.
- » **Health & Wellness.** Active and engaged people and communities with access to infrastructure, programs, and services to support physical, social, and economic health and well-being.
- » **Prosperity.** A county that supports the opportunity for greater economic success for its residents, businesses, and organizations through an educated and trained workforce, expanded employment opportunities, diversified industry clusters, and housing options.
- » **Resiliency.** A county with a system of communities and services that can persevere in the face of emergencies, external forces, or unexpected circumstances, and continue to carry out core missions despite formidable challenges.
- » **Security.** A real and perceived sense of safety that allows and encourages people, businesses, and organizations to thrive, build community, and invest.
- » **Stewardship.** Communities that protect the viability of natural resources and open spaces as valuable environmental, aesthetic, and economic assets.

The Countywide Plan includes four major components:

- » **A County Policy Plan**, an update and expansion of the County's General Plan, including a new approach to county planning that includes social services, healthcare services, public safety, and other regional county services provided in both incorporated and unincorporated areas.
- » **A Community Plans Continuum** to replace existing Community Plans with a greater focus on community self-reliance, grass-roots action, and implementation. Goals, policies, land use, and infrastructure decisions for the Community Plan areas will be addressed in the County Policy Plan.
- » **A County Business Plan**, with governance policies, operational metrics, and implementation strategies that outline the County's approach to providing municipal services in the unincorporated areas and regional services for both incorporated and unincorporated areas.
- » **A Regional Issues Forum**, an online resource for sharing information and resources related to issues confronting the County as a whole, including the work of the Countywide Vision element groups.

The County Policy Plan is the County's long-term guide for developing, servicing, maintaining, protecting, and improving its lands, resources, people, institutions, and organizations. The Policy Plan consists of goals and policies presented in 4 primary elements and over 20 topics.

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» <b>Built Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Land Use</li> <li>▪ Infrastructure &amp; Utilities</li> <li>▪ Transportation &amp; Mobility</li> <li>▪ Military</li> <li>▪ Housing*</li> <li>▪ Community Design</li> </ul> </li> <li>» <b>Resources and Conservation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Natural: Air, Water, Open Space, Biological, Minerals, Agriculture, and Energy*</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» <b>Safety &amp; Security</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Personal &amp; Property Protection</li> <li>▪ Environmental Justice</li> <li>▪ Climate Adaptation &amp; Resiliency</li> </ul> </li> <li>» <b>Economic &amp; Social Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Economic Development</li> <li>▪ Health &amp; Wellness</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|---|---|

- Human: Cultural, Tribal, Historic, and Paleontological
- Leisure Activities & Entertainment
- Community & Civic Involvement

\* The Housing and Renewable Energy & Conservation elements began and were adopted in advance and independently of the Countywide Plan. These elements will be incorporated into the Countywide Plan.

## Project Buildout

The County's buildout consists of projected growth in both incorporated and unincorporated areas between 2016 and 2040. Growth projections for the incorporated jurisdictions are drawn from the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) 2016 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies (RTP/SCS). While incorporated areas are not under the land use authority of the County, incorporated growth projections are included for context and because the Countywide Plan addresses many County services offered to all county residents, regardless of whether they live in a city, town, or unincorporated community.

Population growth projections for the unincorporated areas focus on residential development in two areas: the Bloomington community (Rialto sphere of influence [SOI]) and future master planned communities in the Town of Apple Valley SOI. Employment growth is focused in the unincorporated portions of the Valley region, particularly in the Fontana SOI, East Valley Area Plan, and Bloomington community (Rialto SOI). Little to no growth is projected for other unincorporated areas based on the availability of water and infrastructure systems, presence of natural hazards and topographical constraints, and the desires of residents.

The County's growth projections for the unincorporated areas represent an update to the 2016 RTP/SCS forecast based on recent or pending annexations, recent market analyses, and discussions with the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) and SCAG. The County's growth projections were submitted to SBCTA and SCAG for incorporation into the 2020 RTP/SCS.

Table 1 identifies projected growth between 2016 and 2040 for incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county. The Countywide Plan only addresses changes in land use for unincorporated areas of the county. Unincorporated growth is also shown by region and then further disaggregated into three areas: 1) community plans (CP): unincorporated areas within a CP, 2) SOI: unincorporated areas in an incorporated city/town SOI but not in a CP, and 3) unincorporated areas that are not in a CP or (unincorporated portions of an) incorporated SOI.

Tables 2 through 4 address the distribution of land use throughout the unincorporated county by region. Table 2 presents the distribution of existing land uses according to SBCTA as of 2014 (latest complete dataset available). Table 3 identifies the distribution of planned land use according to the County's current land use districts, including land use changes proposed through public outreach for community plans. The County currently uses a "one-map system" in which the general plan land use designations and zoning categories are the same and combined onto one map using a single set of land use districts. The County is proposing to transition to a two-map system that retains the current land use districts for zoning but introduces a broader set of general plan land use designations to streamline and simplify land use planning and regulation. Table 4 presents the proposed distribution of land use with a new set of general plan land use designations throughout the unincorporated county and by region.

A map of the proposed Draft General Plan Land Use Plan is provided on Figure 1, *Draft General Plan Land Use Plan*. Due to the size of the county (over 20,000 square miles), a web-based map is also provided to enable the public to more easily view the proposed land use plan and potential changes at various scales. This web-based map can be found at [www.countywideplan.com/EIR](http://www.countywideplan.com/EIR).

**Table 1 Projected Growth in San Bernardino County, 2016 to 2040**

Geography		Population	Housing Units	Employment	Building SF <sup>1</sup>
COUNTYWIDE					
San Bernardino County	12,766,951 Ac.	582,158	235,352	274,335	682,609,354
Incorporated only	503,679 Ac.	535,721	220,973	261,789	663,211,453
Unincorporated only	12,263,271 Ac.	46,437	14,379	12,546	19,397,900
UNINCORPORATED <sup>2, 3, 4</sup>					
Valley <sup>5</sup>	42,095 Ac.	21,650	7,001	11,541	18,379,071
Bloomington CP		19,270	6,169	2,727	3,756,069
Mentone CP		323	108	501	271,603
Muscoy CP		449	154	715	384,787
San Antonio Heights CP		49	15	1	793
Chino SOI		141	51	109	300,031
Colton SOI		194	65	-	-
Fontana SOI		482	225	4,397	8,724,613
Loma Linda SOI		548	155	10	6,347
Montclair SOI		58	21	-	-
San Bernardino SOI		137	38	944	813,614
Other Unincorporated Areas		-	-	2,138	4,121,216
Mountain <sup>6</sup>	528,027 Ac.	2,355	702	202	162,356
Bear Valley CP		650	199	62	49,052
Crest Forest CP		342	103	37	28,414
Hilltop CP		343	103	16	18,310
Lake Arrowhead CP		602	180	45	32,840
Lytle Creek CP		87	25	20	16,523
Mount Baldy CP		53	10	-	-
Oak Glen CP		191	56	4	2,451
Wrightwood CP		88	26	18	14,766
North Desert <sup>7</sup>	9,642,978 Ac.	21,073	6,281	725	791,424
Baker CP		83	25	3	1,836
Daggett CP		83	25	9	7,025
El Mirage CP		84	26	3	1,605
Helendale CP		1,397	413	47	34,797
Lucerne Valley CP		531	158	28	20,314
Newberry Springs CP		205	62	29	22,894
Oak Hills CP		693	212	26	15,726
Oro Grande CP		83	26	20	16,100
Phelan/Pinon Hills CP		1,241	364	45	27,103
Yermo CP		88	26	20	16,614
Apple Valley SOI		16,280	4,841	483	613,380
Victorville SOI		107	42	5	1,884
Other Unincorporated Areas		198	60	6	12,146
East Desert <sup>8</sup>	2,050,172 Ac.	1,359	394	78	65,050
Homestead Valley CP		355	105	12	7,220
Joshua Tree CP		827	238	53	39,970
Morongo Valley CP		177	52	14	17,859

Source: County of San Bernardino for unincorporated areas (2017); SCAG 2016 RTP/SCS Growth Forecast for incorporated jurisdictions, adjusted for growth in housing and population from 2012 to 2016 based on Calif. Dept. of Finance 2016 population/housing estimates; and growth in employment from 2012 to 2015 based on the 2015 U.S. Census Bureau, LEHD Employment Statistics.

1. Building SF refers to projected square footage of non-residential structures.

2. For the purposes of this table, the unincorporated geography is divided into three areas: 1) community plans (CP): unincorporated areas in a Community Plan boundary, 2) spheres of influence (SOI): unincorporated areas in an incorporated city/town SOI, but not in a CP, and 3) other unincorporated areas that are not in a CP or incorporated SOI.

3. Overlap of Community Plan and SOI boundaries. *Bear Valley*: The Bear Valley CP includes the entire Big Bear Lake SOI; SOI growth is included in Bear Valley CP. *Bloomington*: Bloomington CP is primarily in Rialto SOI; small portion in Fontana SOI. CP growth not included in either SOI. *Muscoy*: The Muscoy CP is in the San Bernardino SOI. *Oak Hills*: The Oak Hills CP is in the Hesperia SOI. *Oro Grande*: A very small section of the Oro Grande CP is in the Victorville SOI. *San Antonio Heights*: The San Antonio Heights CP occupies the entire unincorporated Upland SOI.

4. Jurisdictions with limited or no unincorporated SOIs: Chino Hills, Grand Terrace, Highlands, Ontario, and Yucca Valley SOIs.

5. No growth is projected (outside of the CP boundaries) in the following Valley region SOIs: Chino Hills, Grand Terrace, Highland, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, Rialto, Yucaipa, and Upland. The East Valley Area Plan is included under "Other Unincorporated Areas (Valley)."

6. No growth is projected in the following Mountain region areas: Angeles Oaks CP, unincorporated areas outside of a CP or incorporated SOI.

7. No growth is projected in the following North Desert region areas: Pioneertown CP, unincorporated areas outside of a Community Plan or Sphere of Influence; No growth is projected outside of the Community Plan boundaries in: Twentynine Palms SOI, Yucca Valley SOI.

8. No growth is projected in the following East Desert region areas: Pioneertown CP, areas outside CP boundaries in the Twentynine Palms SOI, or unincorporated areas outside a CP or SOI.

**Table 2 Existing Land Uses in the Unincorporated County by Region (Acres)**

Existing Land Use	Valley	Mountain	North Desert	East Desert	Total
Agriculture/Ranches	2,639	827	33,054	2,208	38,728
Commercial and Services	780	2,975	1,391	84	5,230
Education	350	265	1,281	56	1,953
Industrial	3,900	1,046	37,693	28,918	71,557
Military Installations	-	-	62,598	4,288	66,885
Mixed Commercial and Industrial	1	-	6	-	7
Mixed Residential	1	-	4	-	5
Mobile Homes and Trailer Parks	197	74	332	79	682
Multi-Family Residential	186	94	532	74	886
Open Space and Recreation	91	3,128	4,596	796	8,611
Public/Quasi-Public Facilities	1,122	651	975	186	2,934
Rural Residential	859	5,311	72,516	39,078	117,763
Single Family Residential	9,918	11,077	18,232	2,032	41,259
Transportation, Communications, and Utilities	5,126	4,149	59,107	3,175	71,557
Under Construction	113	28	14	3	158
Water	10	5,163	450	1	5,624
Right-of-way <sup>1</sup>	63	837	2,665	538	4,103
Undeveloped	16,737	492,402	9,347,533	1,968,657	11,825,329
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42,095</b>	<b>528,027</b>	<b>9,642,978</b>	<b>2,050,172</b>	<b>12,263,271</b>

Source: San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, Existing Land Use, 2014.

<sup>1</sup> Only parcelized rights-of-way are included.

**Table 3 Current Land Use Districts in the Unincorporated County by Region (Acres)**

Current Land Use District	Valley	Mountain	North Desert	East Desert	Total
Resource Conservation (RC)	1,716	480,522	9,109,041	1,849,647	11,440,926
Agriculture (AG)	915	309	35,054	7,202	43,480
Open Space (OS)	1,216	670	5,167	2,309	9,363
Rural Living (RL-10/20/40)	3,264	9,312	38,479	3,966	55,021
Rural Living (RL/RL-5)	3,655	8,748	374,981	174,151	561,535
Single Residential (RS-1)	4,329	2,238	16,970	2,088	25,623
Single Residential (RS-20M)	1,438	700	881	374	3,395
Single Residential (RS-14M)	683	6,884	1,180	1,603	10,350
Single Residential (RS-10M)	646	953	1,419	1,797	4,815
Single Residential (RS)	4,318	5,461	4,261	504	14,544
Multiple Residential (RM)	1,114	627	994	871	3,606
Rural Commercial (CR)	-	4	4,380	254	4,639
Office Commercial (CO)	2	53	10	67	132
Neighborhood Commercial (CN)	161	95	454	77	788
General Commercial (CG)	283	385	1,144	409	2,221
Service Commercial (CS)	58	96	165	117	437
Highway Commercial (CH)	-	-	1,563	-	1,563
Community Industrial (IC)	1,038	88	3,684	398	5,207
Regional Industrial (IR)	2,004	-	14,051	171	16,226
Floodway (FW)	3,593	5,620	14,536	950	24,699
Institutional (IN)	780	648	6,508	1,510	9,446
Special Development (SD)	6,153	4,613	6,430	1,705	18,902
Specific Plan (SP)	4,677	-	1,558	-	6,235
<b>TOTAL<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>42,095</b>	<b>528,027</b>	<b>9,642,978</b>	<b>2,050,172</b>	<b>12,263,271</b>

Source: County of San Bernardino, 2017.

The total acreage figures are subject to rounding and negligible inconsistencies between parcel geometry and land use district boundaries.

**Table 4 Proposed General Plan Designations in the Unincorporated County by Region (Acres)**

Proposed General Plan Designation	Valley	Mountain	North Desert	East Desert	Total
Resource and Land Management (R/LM)	2,595	481,283	9,144,032	1,856,849	11,484,759
Open Space (OS)	1,315	670	5,167	2,309	9,462
Rural Living (RL)	6,895	17,784	409,153	178,117	611,949
Low Density Residential (LDR)	11,018	16,065	26,707	6,366	60,157
Medium Density Residential (MDR)	1,296	608	940	871	3,714
Commercial (C)	504	677	7,972	924	10,078
Community Industrial (IC)	1,093	88	3,766	398	5,345
Regional Industrial (IR)	2,008	0	14,051	171	16,229
Public Facilities (PF)	4,597	6,327	21,377	2,460	34,762
Special Development (SD)	10,723	4,523	9,744	1,705	26,696
<b>TOTAL<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>42,095</b>	<b>528,027</b>	<b>9,642,978</b>	<b>2,050,172</b>	<b>12,263,271</b>

Source: County of San Bernardino, 2017.

Special Development (SD) areas are currently under evaluation for conversion to an equivalent General Plan Designation. These changes are intended to clarify the land use intent and would allow the same or lesser amount of development. Some SD areas were also evaluated through the Community Plans outreach.

The total acreage figures are subject to rounding and negligible inconsistencies between parcel geometry and current Land Use District boundaries.

#### 4. Probable Environmental Effects

The County has determined that a Program EIR will be prepared for the proposed Countywide Plan. Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines states that a Program EIR may be prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and are related either: 1) geographically; 2) as logical parts in the chain of contemplated actions; 3) in connection with issuance of rules, regulations, plans, or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program; or 4) as individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority and having generally similar environmental effects that can be mitigated in similar ways. The Program EIR will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of CEQA Statute and Guidelines, as amended. Pursuant to Section 15146 of the CEQA Guidelines, the degree of specificity in the Program EIR will correspond to the degree of specificity involved in the proposed Countywide Plan. The EIR will focus on the primary effects that can be expected to follow from adoption of the proposed project and will not be as detailed as an EIR on the specific development or construction projects that may follow. Based on the County's preliminary analysis of the project, all environmental impact categories and their associated impact thresholds will be examined in the Program EIR:

Aesthetics	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Population/Housing
Agricultural/Forest Resources	Hazards/Hazardous Materials	Public Services
Air Quality	Hydrology/Water Quality	Recreation
Biological Resources	Land Use/Planning	Transportation/Traffic
Cultural Resources	Mineral Resources	Tribal Cultural Resources
Energy	Noise	Utilities/Service Systems
Geology and Soils		

The Draft EIR will address the short- and long-term effects of the Countywide Plan on the environment. Mitigation measures will be proposed for impacts that are determined to be significant. A mitigation monitoring program will also be developed as required by Section 15150 of the CEQA Guidelines.

#### 5. Public Review Period

This NOP will be available for a 30-day public review period from **October 17, 2017**, to **November 20, 2017**, on the Countywide Plan website at [www.countywideplan.com/EIR](http://www.countywideplan.com/EIR).

Hard copies will also be available at the County's Land Use Services Department main office and two desert government centers (Jerry Lewis High Desert Government Center and Bob Burke Joshua Tree Government Center), listed here: <http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/About/ContactUs.aspx>.

The Department is seeking input from both agencies and members of the public on the scope and content of the environmental information and analysis in the EIR. Due to the time limits mandated by state law, written comments must be sent via mail, e-mail, or fax no later than 5:00 PM on **Monday, November 20, 2017**. Please send your comments at the earliest possible date to:

Jerry L. Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator  
County of San Bernardino  
Land Use Services Department  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415  
Email: CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov  
Fax: (909) 387-3223

## **6. Public Scoping Meeting**

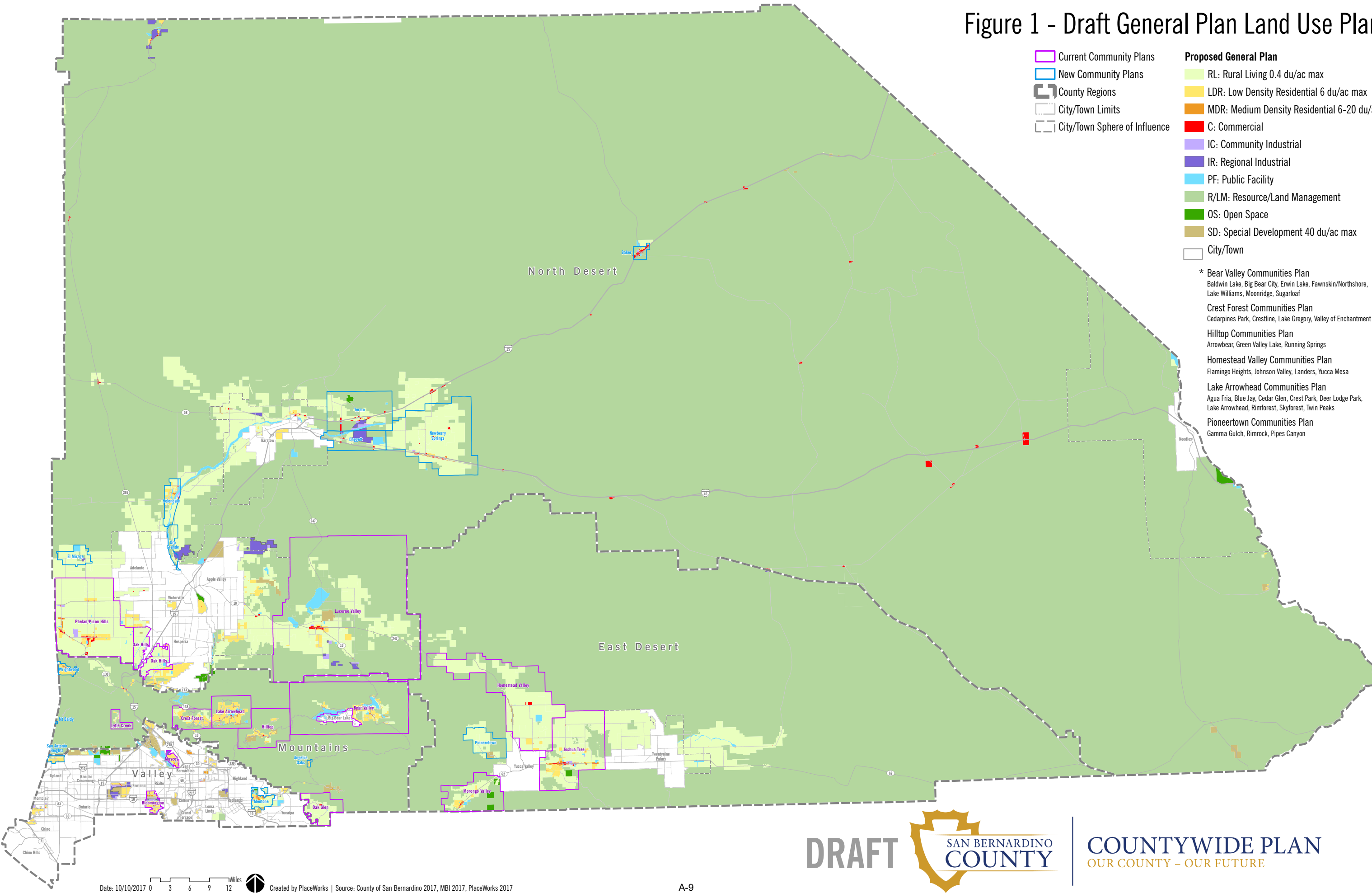
Pursuant to the California Public Resources Code Section 21083.9, the County will conduct a public scoping meeting. This meeting will provide a public forum for information dissemination and dialogue regarding the components of the proposed project and the environmental review process. Please note the main purpose of the public scoping meeting is to provide a project description and solicit comments to refine and/or expand the scope of the EIR. Although staff will summarize the issues raised at these meetings, anyone wishing to make formal comments on the scope of the EIR must do so in writing. The public scoping meeting will be held on **October 26, 2017**, from **9:30 AM to 11:30 AM** at the San Bernardino County Government Center, 385 N Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92415.

Remote video conferencing will also be available at the following locations and County staff will be present to take questions and comments.

Jerry Lewis High Desert Government Center  
15900 Smoke Tree St, Suite 131  
Hesperia, CA 92345

Bob Burke Joshua Tree Government Center  
63665 Twentynine Palms Highway  
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Figure 1 - Draft General Plan Land Use Plan



# San Bernardino SIGN-IN SHEET

## Scoping Meeting for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Thursday, October 26, 2017

Please print clearly:

NAME	ADDRESS	E-MAIL
1. GREGORY RICE	21867 CITRUS ST. CEDAR PINES, CA	GREGORYRICE@AOL.COM
2. Tom Egan	POB 388 Helendale CA 92342	tegan@defenders.org
3. Jose Najjar	22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos Moreno Valley, CA 92553	jnajjar@blm.gov
4. Shelby Barker	15095 Amargosa Rd, Bldg 2, Suite 210 Victorville, CA 92394	shelby.barker@waterboards.ca.gov
5. Eric Grubb	10440 Ashford St R. C. 91730	ericg@cvwdwater.com
6. Bart Brizze	County Counsel	
7. Jason Searles	" "	
8. Ricky Rivers	464 W. 4th Street, 92401	RICKY.RIVERS@DOT.CA.GOV
9. Jihadda Goran	602 S. Tippinmore Ave. San Bernardino, CA 92404	jihaddagoran@fb.fed.us
10. Angi and Gabe Delarosa	1388 Chrysolite Mentone CA	gabeandangie@aol.com



San Bernardino

# SIGN-IN SHEET

## Scoping Meeting for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Thursday, October 26, 2017

Please print clearly:

	NAME	ADDRESS	E-MAIL
21.	Karla Kellens	Po Box 8262 GVL CA 92341	KarlaKellens@gmail.com
22.	Brian Croft	777 E. Tahquitz Cyn Way.	Brian-Croft@fws.gov
23.	Lewis Murray	385N ARND SB	
24.	FRANK JORDAN	385 ARROWHEAD	FRANK.JORDAN@US.SB.COUNTY.CA
25.	Glen Thompson	P.O. Box 50. Lake Arrowhead	mountainwondercoalition@gmail
26.	Todd Warden	ARND 21865 Copley Drive, DB 91765	twarden@ARND.gov
27.	Gabe De La Rosa	Po Box 264 Mentore Ca 92359	
28.	Ericka Flores	3840 Sunnyhill Drive. SU. CA 92509	ericka.f@Ccaej.org
29.	Marven Norman	Po Box 8638 Redlands, CA 92375	policy@iebike.org
30.	Lori Semenick	PO BOX 2907 Blue Jay, CA 92317	lorisemenick@gmail.com

# SIGN-IN SHEET

## Scoping Meeting for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Thursday, October 26, 2017

Please print clearly:

NAME	ADDRESS	E-MAIL
11. Stephen Rogers	820 Church St. Redlands, CA 92374	swr.engineer@gmail.com
12. Esther Portillo	CCAE	esther.portillo1@gmail.com
13.		
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		

## COMMENT CARD

### San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR Scoping Meeting – October 26, 2017

Please provide your comments regarding the San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR (please print):

I would like to suggest that the Countywide Plan include the EJ element pursuant to SB1000; this bill will help protect and prioritize disadvantage communities and mandates that all cities and counties include an EJ element in their General Plan. Also, I urge that there be strong mitigation measures to protect sensitive receptors from industrial projects and/or commercial land use.

Name: Erica Flores

Address: 1717 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, San Bernardino CA 92411

Please do one of the following:

- 1) Return this card to the meeting facilitator at the end of the Scoping Meeting
- 2) Email your comments to [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov)
- 3) Mail this comment card to:

County of San Bernardino  
Land Use Services Department  
Attn: Jerry L. Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

## COMMENT CARD

### San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR Scoping Meeting – October 26, 2017

Please provide your comments regarding the San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR (please print):

— Urge you to include ~~an~~ an environmental justice element. to General Plan.

— Discuss proposals to Ammend General plan such as rezoning proposals.

— These meetings should also be scheduled for

Name: Esther Portillo residents who can only attend

Address: 1717 W 5th San Bernardino in the evening.  
92411 - CC AES

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## COMMENT CARD

### San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR Scoping Meeting – October 26, 2017

Please provide your comments regarding the San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR (please print):

Climate change adaptation should be addressed  
by the Countywide Plan, preferably relative to <sup>RCTIS planning</sup> open space.  
② Please include a section on environmental justice,  
relative to the Countywide Plan.

Name:

Tom Egan (760) 952-3678

Address:

POB 388 Helendale CA 92342

Please do one of the following:

tegan@defenders.org

- 1) Return this card to the meeting facilitator at the end of the Scoping Meeting
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San Bernardino, CA 92415

## COMMENT CARD

### San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR Scoping Meeting – October 26, 2017

Please provide your comments regarding the San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR (please print):

- ① How is open space addressed in the countywide plan? Opportunities & management encouraged?
- ② Will the countywide plan discuss how community plans are modified by the recently adopted Renewable Energy & Conservation Element? If so, how?

Name: Tom Egan (760) 952-3678

Address: POB 388 Helendale CA 92342  
tegan@defenders.org

Please do one of the following:

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San Bernardino, CA 92415

## COMMENT CARD

### San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR Scoping Meeting – October 26, 2017

Please provide your comments regarding the San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR (please print):

- ① Will the current unacceptable extent of illegal off road vehicle use be addressed in individual community plans? If so, how?
- ② Will options be explored to investigate how best to reduce illegal vehicle use in our communities, per our community plans?

Name: Tom Egan (760) 952-3678

Address: POB 388 Helendale CA 92342

Please do one of the following:

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San Bernardino, CA 92415

## COMMENT CARD

### San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR Scoping Meeting – October 26, 2017

Please provide your comments regarding the San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR (please print):

- ① How does the Countywide Plan address the San Bernardino Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) currently underway? Particularly relative to Community Plans Continuum. How can community plans later be amended to incorporate RCIS plan objectives?
- ② How often is the Countywide Plan, and how, ~~are~~ is this plan amended?

Name: Tom Egan (760) 952-3678

Address: PO Box 388 Helendale CA 92342

Please do one of the following:

tegan@defenders.org

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San Bernardino, CA 92415



**COMMENT CARD**  
**San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR Scoping Meeting – October 26, 2017**

Please provide your comments regarding the San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR (please print):

*In February 2012, two memoranda were created on lands encompassed by the San Bernardino County. The BLM & USFS is assessing the management direction not covered or addressed by SBNE LMP & BLM COCA LUP. Two management plans are proposed and alignment with planning efforts should be complementary.*

Name: *Jose M. Najar, BLM Planning & Environment Coordinator*

Address: *22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos, Moreno Valley  
California 92553*

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## COMMENT CARD

### San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR Scoping Meeting – October 26, 2017

Please provide your comments regarding the San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR (please print):

Redlands City has annexed parcels in Mentore. They use "sphere of influence aggressively! Redlands City also provides water "service" to Mentore through "City of Redlands" not as water "company." Mentore has many wells in Mentore. More "urgency" is the fact Redlands City annexed the former Lockheed parcel. To my knowledge there have been public comments/letters to Planning Commission regarding use of this parcel. → over

Name:

Angie Grisafe - De La Rosa / Cabe De La Rosa

Address:

1388 Chrysolite Ave. Mentore, CA 92359 PO Box 264  
Mentore CA 92359

Please do one of the following:

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San Bernardino, CA 92415

Particularly trucks (with toxic materials) going back & forth (through Mentore streets) to get to the Lockheed parcel.

There has to be a resolution, "plan," and/or impact report, addressing Redlands City code enforcement to ensure Mentore will not be impacted with Redlands plans or use of this parcel.

## COMMENT CARD

### San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR Scoping Meeting – October 26, 2017

Please provide your comments regarding the San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR (please print):

Please See Attached Sheet from the  
San Bernardino Mountaing Group Sierra Club

Name:

Karla Kelbens

Address:

PO Box 8262 GVL CA 92341

Please do one of the following:

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385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415



## San Bernardino Mountains Group

Mail: P.O. Box 94, Lake Arrowhead, Ca. 92352 Phone: (909) 337-1279 E-mail: silabob@gmail.com

To: Karen Watkins, Land Use Services, San Bernardino County

Address: 385 North Arrowhead Ave.,

San Bernardino, CA 92415-0187

Date: October 24, 2017

Because the updated San Bernardino County General Plan (GP) will govern the type and location of any new development and as a project of statewide, regional or areawide significance, this updated GP may lead to significant changes to the environment. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR) to inform decision makers and the public of the potential significant environmental impacts of this proposal and the possible ways to avoid or reduce any significant environmental impacts is required.

Although a General Plan EIR may not be as detailed as specific project EIRs that may follow, it is critical that a GP EIR identify **Alternatives, Mitigation and Cumulative Impacts, and Growth Inducing Impacts** of the new plan. For this scoping meeting of the San Bernardino County GP EIR, the Mountain Group of the Sierra Club has identified several additional potential impacts that need to be described and analyzed in the draft EIR. These include:

- Aesthetics
- Biological Resources (including consideration of wildlife habitat, areas of critical environmental concern and ecological protection criteria/standards)
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Land Use/Planning such as zoning ordinances/policies
- Population
- Circulation/transportation
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards/hazardous materials
- Mineral Resources
- Utilities/Service Systems
- Air Quality
- Geology/Soils
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Noise
- Recreation
- Environmental Justice

The expressed purpose of this scoping meeting for the Countywide Plan is to receive comments on the scope and content of the programmatic environmental impact report (EIR). The public has been invited to present environmental information that attendees believe should be considered in the EIR. This document constitutes our comments at this time. The Mountains Group of the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club will be monitoring the continuing evolution of the programmatic environmental impact report (EIR) and the Countywide Plan. We consider it imperative that the draft EIR address the above potential impacts and must manifest clear and comprehensive procedures and standards for the protection of the vital natural resources that are such an important component of our mountain communities.

On behalf of the Executive Committee (Mountains Group/San Gorgonio Chapter/Sierra Club)

Robert Sherman

Co-Chair- Conservation Committee



## COMMENTS FOR THE NOP AND SCOPING MEETING, OCTOBER 26, 2017

From Victoria Paulsen

43843 Valley Center, Newberry Springs, CA 92365

words4fun@gmail.com

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

My comment has to do with environmental issues that Newberry Springs would like to see addressed in the Program EIR.

Newberry Springs is large in land and small in population, and so can be – and is - easily overlooked when making blanket policies for all unincorporated San Bernardino County.

At the August 8 Board of Supervisors meeting, it was voted to eliminate from the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element of the Countywide Plan, this section:

- As a local energy policy document for the County, the REC Element emphasizes principles and priorities responsive to key issues and concerns identified by County residents, including the following:
- Utility-oriented renewable energy projects are prohibited in community plan areas and in the Rural Living land use district.

I know it is not in your purview to change what the Supervisors have approved, but you can help us in another way. Let me explain:



Taking out the Rural Living section of the REC Element opens up Newberry Springs, which is mostly Rural Living, to more installations like this one on Mountain View that was disastrous to the environment. They also voted to reconsider the size of utility oriented projects, which used to be 10 MW. The initial Mountain View project was approved at 3 Mw on 22 acres, and its impact was so severe I hate to think what a 10 Mw system would do.

Soltec ignored all the stipulations about environmental mitigation (blowing sand, air quality, viewscape, animal habitat, size of collectors, etc.). Homes across the street were practically buried in sand. The panels installed were at least twice the approved size, visible for miles.

It is this project in Newberry Springs, and the ensuing public outcry that prompted the Supervisors to put a moratorium on solar installations and begin development of the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element.

In Newberry, we are not opposed to solar energy. We've got plenty of sun and land to spare. But we want each proposed project to be subjected to a strict EIR that will address the tender desert environment that is so easily disrupted by any change in the understory. And that the EIR will respect the desire of residents to preserve their quality of life and viewscape from fields of solar panels the height of 4- to 6-story buildings.

Thank you.

### COMMENT CARD

#### San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR Scoping Meeting – October 26, 2017

Please provide your comments regarding the San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR (please print):

It doesn't have much "commerce" but is home to many SBC facilities: Court, Jail, Gov't bldg, Library + CHP, Hospital & health svcs, Schools, Comm. College, water district AND JNLP, ovr biz is tourism & hospitality so SBC needs to support this aspect of Jt, including its chamber. It must start benefiting from TOD. AND please - NO SOLAR FARMS. It needs to grow slow, we don't have water to support large growth, we have majority dirt roads, need more contg maint

Name: Rebecca Vines

Address: PO Box 1258, Jt 92252 (mail) 63379 Jadeite St., Jt 92252

Please do one of the following:

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385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Home, no mail delivery

also Dark skies,  
Lighting

PS: Great to hear from communities across County -  
Thank you for these take conference facilities

### COMMENT CARD

#### San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR Scoping Meeting – October 26, 2017

Please provide your comments regarding the San Bernardino Countywide Plan EIR (please print):

Transportation + traffic in the East desert are substantially different (weekdays vs weekend). In the past, traffic studies are usually done during the work week. I would recommend performing studies on both or it won't be accurate.

Name: Gayle Austin

Address: PO Box 2022 Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Please do one of the following:

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San Bernardino, CA 92415



## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Environmental and Cultural Department  
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
Phone (916) 373-3710



October 19, 2017

Jerry Blum  
San Bernardino County  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

Sent via e-mail: countywideplan@lus.sbcounty.gov

RE: SCH# 2017101033; San Bernardino Countywide Plan Project; San Bernardino County, California

Dear Mr. Blum:

The Native American Heritage Commission has received the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for Draft Environmental Impact Report for the project referenced above. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et seq.), specifically Public Resources Code section 21084.1, states that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.1; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15064.5 (b) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (b)). If there is substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before a lead agency, that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an environmental impact report (EIR) shall be prepared. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080 (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15064 subd. (a)(1) (CEQA Guidelines § 15064 (a)(1)). In order to determine whether a project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, a lead agency will need to determine whether there are historical resources with the area of project effect (APE).

**CEQA was amended significantly in 2014.** Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto, Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014) (AB 52) amended CEQA to create a separate category of cultural resources, "tribal cultural resources" (Pub. Resources Code § 21074) and provides that a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.2). Please reference California Natural Resources Agency (2016) "Final Text for tribal cultural resources update to Appendix G: Environmental Checklist Form," <http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/docs/ab52/Clean-final-AB-52-App-G-text-Submitted.pdf>. Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.3 (a)). **AB 52 applies to any project for which a notice of preparation or a notice of negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration is filed on or after July 1, 2015.** If your project involves the adoption of or amendment to a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation or proposed designation of open space, on or after March 1, 2005, it may also be subject to Senate Bill 18 (Burton, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004) (SB 18). **Both SB 18 and AB 52 have tribal consultation requirements.** If your project is also subject to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) (NEPA), the tribal consultation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (154 U.S.C. 300101, 36 C.F.R. § 800 et seq.) may also apply.

The NAHC recommends **lead agencies consult with all California Native American tribes** that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of your proposed project as early as possible in order to avoid inadvertent discoveries of Native American human remains and best protect tribal cultural resources. Below is a brief summary of portions of AB 52 and SB 18 as well as the NAHC's recommendations for conducting cultural resources assessments. **Consult your legal counsel about compliance with AB 52 and SB 18 as well as compliance with any other applicable laws.**

## AB 52

AB 52 has added to CEQA the additional requirements listed below, along with many other requirements:

1. Fourteen Day Period to Provide Notice of Completion of an Application/Decision to Undertake a Project: Within fourteen (14) days of determining that an application for a project is complete or of a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, a **lead agency** shall provide formal notification to a designated contact of, or tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, to be accomplished by at least one written notice that includes:
  - a. A brief description of the project.
  - b. The lead agency contact information.
  - c. Notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (d)).
  - d. A "California Native American tribe" is defined as a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC for the purposes of Chapter 905 of Statutes of 2004 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code § 21073).
2. Begin Consultation Within 30 Days of Receiving a Tribe's Request for Consultation and Before Releasing a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report: A **lead agency** shall begin the consultation process within 30 days of receiving a request for consultation from a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1, subds. (d) and (e)) and prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration or environmental impact report. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1(b)).
  - a. For purposes of AB 52, "consultation shall have the same meaning as provided in Gov. Code § 65352.4 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (b)).
3. Mandatory Topics of Consultation If Requested by a Tribe: The following topics of consultation, if a tribe requests to discuss them, are mandatory topics of consultation:
  - a. Alternatives to the project.
  - b. Recommended mitigation measures.
  - c. Significant effects. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (a)).
4. Discretionary Topics of Consultation: The following topics are discretionary topics of consultation:
  - a. Type of environmental review necessary.
  - b. Significance of the tribal cultural resources.
  - c. Significance of the project's impacts on tribal cultural resources.
  - d. If necessary, project alternatives or appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation that the tribe may recommend to the lead agency. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (a)).
5. Confidentiality of Information Submitted by a Tribe During the Environmental Review Process: With some exceptions, any information, including but not limited to, the location, description, and use of tribal cultural resources submitted by a California Native American tribe during the environmental review process shall not be included in the environmental document or otherwise disclosed by the lead agency or any other public agency to the public, consistent with Government Code sections 6254 (r) and 6254.10. Any information submitted by a California Native American tribe during the consultation or environmental review process shall be published in a confidential appendix to the environmental document unless the tribe that provided the information consents, in writing, to the disclosure of some or all of the information to the public. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (c)(1)).
6. Discussion of Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources in the Environmental Document: If a project may have a significant impact on a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency's environmental document shall discuss both of the following:
  - a. Whether the proposed project has a significant impact on an identified tribal cultural resource.
  - b. Whether feasible alternatives or mitigation measures, including those measures that may be agreed to pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21082.3, subdivision (a), avoid or substantially lessen the impact on the identified tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (b)).

7. Conclusion of Consultation: Consultation with a tribe shall be considered concluded when either of the following occurs:
  - a. The parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect, if a significant effect exists, on a tribal cultural resource; or
  - b. A party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (b)).
8. Recommending Mitigation Measures Agreed Upon in Consultation in the Environmental Document: Any mitigation measures agreed upon in the consultation conducted pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2 shall be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document and in an adopted mitigation monitoring and reporting program, if determined to avoid or lessen the impact pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21082.3, subdivision (b), paragraph 2, and shall be fully enforceable. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (a)).
9. Required Consideration of Feasible Mitigation: If mitigation measures recommended by the staff of the lead agency as a result of the consultation process are not included in the environmental document or if there are no agreed upon mitigation measures at the conclusion of consultation, or if consultation does not occur, and if substantial evidence demonstrates that a project will cause a significant effect to a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency shall consider feasible mitigation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21084.3 (b). (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (e)).
10. Examples of Mitigation Measures That, If Feasible, May Be Considered to Avoid or Minimize Significant Adverse Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources:
  - a. Avoidance and preservation of the resources in place, including, but not limited to:
    - i. Planning and construction to avoid the resources and protect the cultural and natural context.
    - ii. Planning greenspace, parks, or other open space, to incorporate the resources with culturally appropriate protection and management criteria.
  - b. Treating the resource with culturally appropriate dignity, taking into account the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource, including, but not limited to, the following:
    - i. Protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource.
    - ii. Protecting the traditional use of the resource.
    - iii. Protecting the confidentiality of the resource.
  - c. Permanent conservation easements or other interests in real property, with culturally appropriate management criteria for the purposes of preserving or utilizing the resources or places.
  - d. Protecting the resource. (Pub. Resource Code § 21084.3 (b)).
  - e. Please note that a federally recognized California Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC to protect a California prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, or ceremonial place may acquire and hold conservation easements if the conservation easement is voluntarily conveyed. (Civ. Code § 815.3 (c)).
  - f. Please note that it is the policy of the state that Native American remains and associated grave artifacts shall be repatriated. (Pub. Resources Code § 5097.991).
11. Prerequisites for Certifying an Environmental Impact Report or Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Negative Declaration with a Significant Impact on an Identified Tribal Cultural Resource: An environmental impact report may not be certified, nor may a mitigated negative declaration or a negative declaration be adopted unless one of the following occurs:
  - a. The consultation process between the tribes and the lead agency has occurred as provided in Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21080.3.2 and concluded pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.
  - b. The tribe that requested consultation failed to provide comments to the lead agency or otherwise failed to engage in the consultation process.
  - c. The lead agency provided notice of the project to the tribe in compliance with Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) and the tribe failed to request consultation within 30 days. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (d)).

*This process should be documented in the Cultural Resources section of your environmental document.*

The NAHC's PowerPoint presentation titled, "Tribal Consultation Under AB 52: Requirements and Best Practices" may be found online at: [http://nahc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AB52TribalConsultation\\_CalEPAPDF.pdf](http://nahc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AB52TribalConsultation_CalEPAPDF.pdf)

## SB 18

SB 18 applies to local governments and requires **local governments** to contact, provide notice to, refer plans to, and consult with tribes prior to the adoption or amendment of a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation of open space. (Gov. Code § 65352.3). Local governments should consult the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's "Tribal Consultation Guidelines," which can be found online at: [https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/09\\_14\\_05\\_Updated\\_Guidelines\\_922.pdf](https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/09_14_05_Updated_Guidelines_922.pdf)

Some of SB 18's provisions include:

1. **Tribal Consultation:** If a local government considers a proposal to adopt or amend a general plan or a specific plan, or to designate open space it is required to contact the appropriate tribes identified by the NAHC by requesting a "Tribal Consultation List." If a tribe, once contacted, requests consultation the local government must consult with the tribe on the plan proposal. **A tribe has 90 days from the date of receipt of notification to request consultation unless a shorter timeframe has been agreed to by the tribe.** (Gov. Code § 65352.3 (a)(2)).
2. **No Statutory Time Limit on SB 18 Tribal Consultation.** There is no statutory time limit on SB 18 tribal consultation.
3. **Confidentiality:** Consistent with the guidelines developed and adopted by the Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Gov. Code section 65040.2, the city or county shall protect the confidentiality of the information concerning the specific identity, location, character, and use of places, features and objects described in Public Resources Code sections 5097.9 and 5097.993 that are within the city's or county's jurisdiction. (Gov. Code § 65352.3 (b)).
4. **Conclusion of SB 18 Tribal Consultation:** Consultation should be concluded at the point in which:
  - a. The parties to the consultation come to a mutual agreement concerning the appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation; or
  - b. Either the local government or the tribe, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached concerning the appropriate measures of preservation or mitigation. (Tribal Consultation Guidelines, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (2005) at p. 18).

Agencies should be aware that neither AB 52 nor SB 18 precludes agencies from initiating tribal consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with their jurisdictions before the timeframes provided in AB 52 and SB 18. For that reason, we urge you to continue to request Native American Tribal Contact Lists and "Sacred Lands File" searches from the NAHC. The request forms can be found online at: <http://nahc.ca.gov/resources/forms/>

## NAHC Recommendations for Cultural Resources Assessments

To adequately assess the existence and significance of tribal cultural resources and plan for avoidance, preservation in place, or barring both, mitigation of project-related impacts to tribal cultural resources, the NAHC recommends the following actions:

1. Contact the appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) Center ([http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=1068](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1068)) for an archaeological records search. The records search will determine:
  - a. If part or all of the APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
  - b. If any known cultural resources have been already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
  - c. If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
  - d. If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
2. If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
  - a. The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum and not be made available for public disclosure.



- b. The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional CHRIS center.
3. Contact the NAHC for:
  - a. A Sacred Lands File search. Remember that tribes do not always record their sacred sites in the Sacred Lands File, nor are they required to do so. A Sacred Lands File search is not a substitute for consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project's APE.
  - b. A Native American Tribal Consultation List of appropriate tribes for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in planning for avoidance, preservation in place, or, failing both, mitigation measures.
4. Remember that the lack of surface evidence of archaeological resources (including tribal cultural resources) does not preclude their subsurface existence.
  - a. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of inadvertently discovered archaeological resources per Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15064.5(f) (CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5(f)). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American with knowledge of cultural resources should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
  - b. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the disposition of recovered cultural items that are not burial associated in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
  - c. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the treatment and disposition of inadvertently discovered Native American human remains. Health and Safety Code section 7050.5, Public Resources Code section 5097.98, and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15064.5, subdivisions (d) and (e) (CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5, subds. (d) and (e)) address the processes to be followed in the event of an inadvertent discovery of any Native American human remains and associated grave goods in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

Sincerely,

Gayle Totton, M.A., PhD.  
Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
(916) 373-3714



## San Bernardino Mountains Group

Mail: P.O. Box 94, Lake Arrowhead, Ca. 92352 Phone: (909) 337-1279 E-mail: silabob@gmail.com

To: Karen Watkins, Land Use Services, San Bernardino County

Address: 385 North Arrowhead Ave.,

San Bernardino, CA 92415-0187

Date: October 24, 2017

Because the updated San Bernardino County General Plan (GP) will govern the type and location of any new development and as a project of statewide, regional or areawide significance, this updated GP may lead to significant changes to the environment. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR) to inform decision makers and the public of the potential significant environmental impacts of this proposal and the possible ways to avoid or reduce any significant environmental impacts is required.

Although a General Plan EIR may not be as detailed as specific project EIRs that may follow, it is critical that a GP EIR identify **Alternatives, Mitigation and Cumulative Impacts, and Growth Inducing Impacts** of the new plan. For this scoping meeting of the San Bernardino County GP EIR, the Mountain Group of the Sierra Club has identified several additional potential impacts that need to be described and analyzed in the draft EIR. These include:

- Aesthetics
- Biological Resources (including consideration of wildlife habitat, areas of critical environmental concern and ecological protection criteria/standards)
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Land Use/Planning such as zoning ordinances/policies
- Population
- Circulation/transportation
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards/hazardous materials
- Mineral Resources
- Utilities/Service Systems
- Air Quality
- Geology/Soils
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Noise
- Recreation
- Environmental Justice

The expressed purpose of this scoping meeting for the Countywide Plan is to receive comments on the scope and content of the programmatic environmental impact report (EIR). The public has been invited to present environmental information that attendees believe should be considered in the EIR. This document constitutes our comments at this time. The Mountains Group of the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club will be monitoring the continuing evolution of the programmatic environmental impact report (EIR) and the Countywide Plan. We consider it imperative that the draft EIR address the above potential impacts and must manifest clear and comprehensive procedures and standards for the protection of the vital natural resources that are such an important component of our mountain communities.

On behalf of the Executive Committee (Mountains Group/San Gorgonio Chapter/Sierra Club)

Robert Sherman

Co-Chair- Conservation Committee

**From:** Countywide Plan Site Admin  
**To:** [Colin Drukker](#); [Halley Grundy](#); [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov); [CommunityPlans@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CommunityPlans@lus.sbcounty.gov)  
**Subject:** San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
**Date:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 9:19:15 AM

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From: Sherri Fairbanks <[sherfairbanks@yahoo.com](mailto:sherfairbanks@yahoo.com)>  
Subject: San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)

Message Body:

Highway 138 from Crestline to Lake Silverwood is listed as a major corridor and needs a major upgrade.  
Crestline Sanitation District outfall is having problems due to soil composition and traffic issues along Highway 138 before Lake Silverwood.

Comment sent from: <http://countywideplan.com/eir/eircomment/>

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on San Bernardino Countywide Plan (<http://countywideplan.com>)

**From:** Countywide Plan Site Admin  
**To:** [Colin Drukker](mailto:Colin.Drukker@lus.sbcounty.gov); [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov); [Halley Grundy](#)  
**Subject:** San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
**Date:** Friday, October 27, 2017 6:51:34 AM

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From: William L Tuck Jr <[bill.bt.tuckjr@gmail.com](mailto:bill.bt.tuckjr@gmail.com)>  
Subject: San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
Community: Phelan/Pinon Hills

Message Body:

From: William L Tuck Jr  
6790 Cambria Road  
Phelan California  
92371  
760 9648095  
[bill.bt.tuckjr@gmail.com](mailto:bill.bt.tuckjr@gmail.com)

to me

To: San Bernardino County Wide Plan for Phelan Pinon Hills  
From William L Tuck Jr  
6790 Cambria Rd  
Phelan California 92371

Comments for the Environmental Impact Report.

I am hoping that the following very important items will be addressed in the ER for Phelan Pinon Hills. Roads. Our roads are presently in Poor Condition and Heavily used. There very dangerous and many accidents and deaths are presently happening on them. San Bernardino County simply doesn't have the money to bring them up to Standards for a safe healthy place for the present residents and Possible future residents. This must be addressed in the ER. Sewer Service to the new residents and Businesses? We presently don't have sewer service in our area. It's not needed because of our two and one half acre home sites and small business downtown. This could be very expensive? We need a plan for sewage treatment. It must be affordable to the local people and Businesses. As well as for future Homes and Businesses.

Water? Our water company is tied as the second most expensive water provider in the Victor Valley. Most of our water comes from wells. Part of our area is overdrafted and the other part is close to being over drafted. How can we get water for our local and

possible new residents at an affordable cost. Is it even possible?

Thank You for your Consideration. William L Tuck Jr

Add to mailing list: Yes

Comment sent from:<http://countywideplan.com/eir/eircomment/>

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on San Bernardino Countywide Plan (<http://countywideplan.com>)



**From:** Countywide Plan Site Admin  
**To:** [Colin Drukker](#); [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov); [Halley Grundy](#); [Frances Yau](#)  
**Subject:** San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
**Date:** Sunday, October 29, 2017 6:09:30 AM

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From: Robert Bowman <bobbowman92@yahoo.com>  
Subject: San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
Community: Angelus Oaks

Message Body:

I have been hearing Rumor around the community that that the community plan is being changed to allow high density housing in the Phelan pinion hills area? This totally goes against what the people are asking for in the previous and current community plan. Looking at the Draft plan map I see that there are single residential in the area of Palmdale RD HWY 18 and sheep creek. Whos idea is this? The community does not want this type of development. Where is the water going to come from? I hear that the community is going to get stuck with the bill on the water. How or why is this happening? Whos Idea is this?

Add to mailing list: Yes

Comment sent from: <http://countywideplan.com/eir/eircomment/>

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on San Bernardino Countywide Plan (<http://countywideplan.com>)

FISCAL ADMIN

24 October 2017

2017 NOV -2 AM 11: 15

Terri Rahal  
Land Use Services Department  
San Bernardino County  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor  
San Bernardino CA 92415

Quail Wash, Joshua Tree  
Joshua Tree Community Plan  
EIR Scoping, General Plan Update of 2017

Dear Terri Rahal:

I hope this finds you well during this busy time for you.

My contribution to this cycle of the Joshua Tree Community Plan update consists of my 26 July 2014 submission to Michele Derry regarding the Transportation Department's Stormwater Maintenance Program DEIR of 2014 regarding Quail Wash in Joshua Tree. I have regularly discussed this matter with Michele in the intervening years, and I sent you a copy on 26 September 2016 in anticipation of the GP update. All enclosed.

What I can add to what I have already written is that truck traffic transporting dirt continues in and out of Quail Wash on almost a weekly basis as the Town of Yucca Valley and the Hi-Desert Water District implement the sewerage of Yucca Valley, which is, of course, slated to continue for many years.

I am keeping a list of the dates and times the trucks travel through the neighborhood: which residential sidestreets they are using, speed (some has been excessive for the presence of pedestrian elementary school children) noise and emissions. The list isn't complete, but it is impressive. The trucks are driven by independent contractors as well as County personnel and some haul double trailers. Our county's drivers seem much more careful.

I know that the County is not over-staffed and that we don't have the relationships we used to have with County personnel, but it would be really helpful if this matter could be reviewed on the ground.

Best personal regards,

I.M. Chelette  
(760)366-9895

Cc: Michele Derry, Environmental Management  
Jerry Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator

Enclosed: 7 pages

26 September 2016

Terri Rahal  
Planning Department  
San Bernardino County  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor  
San Bernardino CA 92415

Dear Terri Rahal,

It's been a while since we've had any contact, but I am hoping you will remember me from my days with our traditional MAC in Joshua Tree; drafting of the last General Plan revision; and particularly the latest Joshua Tree Community Plan. Almost everyone else I knew and worked with in the county is now gone and I was glad to hear that you are back.

Although I haven't served on any more committees or boards, I haven't been completely inactive. Enclosed is a copy of my 2014 response to an Initial Study floated for the Stormwater Maintenance Plan, specifically including Quail Wash in Joshua Tree. Michelle Derry tells me that this project is about a year out from further paperwork. I am sending a copy of this forwarding letter and a reminder copy of my Comments to Michelle.

I would like this single subject to be considered as my contribution for inclusion in the proposed revision of the Joshua Tree Community Plan. It is just as important to me, and has been as important to me for as long as the establishment and preservation of Section Six as Open Space was during the last revision cycle. Over the years I have griped to numerous planners (particularly Carrie Hyke) about the condition and use of Quail Wash so I was delighted to have an opportunity to attempt to affect its future and look forward to working with you and Michelle on this. As usual, any information or assistance I can provide is yours

Best personal regards,



M. Chelette  
Enclosure  
Cc: Michelle Derry with Enclosure

Iona Chelette, 61996 Sunburst Circle, Joshua Tree, CA 92252 (760)366-9895

26 July 2014

Michelle Derry, Senior Planner  
San Bernardino County Flood Control District  
Environmental Management Division  
825 East Third Street, Room 123  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835

Comments on June 2014 Initial Study for Stormwater Maintenance Program and  
Proposed Scope of DEIR specifically regarding Quail Wash, Joshua Tree

Dear Michelle Derry:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please place me on this mailing list.

My extended family has owned property from Sunburst Circle to Valley View Circle adjacent to QUAIL WASH in unincorporated Joshua Tree since the 1950s. I grew up hiking, climbing and picnicking at the wash's "Coyote Hole" headwaters and the "delta" where the wash joins Yucca Wash by the Joshua Tree Community Center and Sportsman's Club on the north side of SR62. The flora, fauna and petroglyphs, even the different textures of sand, were as familiar to me and my brother and sister as the backs of our hands, so this is personal to me. I left for college, and when I returned someone had built a levee along the wash and dynamited the bulk of the lower petroglyphs off the rocks to reinforce that barrier. I don't know if that construction project was preceded by archaeological or biological studies within protocol.

By the time I completed my travels and returned to live on family property in Joshua Tree in the early 1980's I first learned from Pat Garry, an area pioneer who knew the area even better than I who walked the Quail Wash levees adjacent to her business every morning, that asphalt was being mixed on the floor of the wash by the county. I don't know if that decision was preceded by archaeological, biological or hydrological studies within protocol.

On or about 1986, an oil pipeline which had been built in Yucca Wash burst and a decision was made to bring the polluted earth from the site of the breach on the border with Yucca Valley to Quail Wash for storage. A continual stream of single and double trailer semis ran between La Contenta Road and the entrance to Quail Wash at Bonair and Desertair Roads early, late and all day every day for weeks. The trucks traveled east along SR 62, took a right on Sunburst Circle, then a left on Desertair Road. Sometimes the trucks were lined up along our residential streets adjacent to our homes waiting to enter the wash. Our roads have never been great and this really tore them up. Joshua Tree's roads have been paid for by its citizens on our property tax bills. I don't

know if the trucks were being driven by public employees or contractors. I don't know if that decision was preceded by archaeological, biological, hydrological, hazardous waste, transportation, air quality or noise studies within protocol.

About that time the county also was using the old telephone company's operations yard at the intersection of Bonair and Desertair Roads for hazardous materials storage. The men operating the yard and working in plain view were suited against contamination, but the residents, as well as the wildlife which has always traversed those chain link fences and asphalt, were not. I do not know if there were any studies done within protocol either before or after the use of that building for hazardous waste storage. I don't know who permitted or regulated hazardous waste storage at that building before it was privately purchased then fortified.

Wal-Mart recently built a superstore in the Town of Yucca Valley. Many tons of dirt from the construction site is now stored in Quail Wash. Once again, a continual stream of single and double trailer semis ran early, late and all day every day for weeks. The trucks traveled east along SR 62, took a right on Sunburst Circle, then a left on Desertair Road. Sometimes the trucks were lined up along our residential streets adjacent to our homes waiting to enter the wash. This is still happening as Yucca Valley continues to build and move dirt. I don't know if these trucks are being driven by public employees or private contractors but they are frequently driven too fast. Once again, I don't know if that decision was preceded by archaeological, biological, hydrological, hazardous waste, transportation, air quality or noise studies within protocol. And who made the decision to take a nuisance from a town and dump it in another community without any consultation with the victimized community or adjacent property owners?

#### Anecdote:

I was sitting in a popular Yucca Valley restaurant on Good Friday this year adjacent to a large group of men. I was horrified to overhear them discussing how satisfied they were to have gotten rid of tons of construction dirt by dumping it in Joshua Tree as well as complaining about the amount and cost of water they had to purchase to satisfy the PM regulations imposed upon them. That is how my community (as old and as honorable as its neighbors - see Joshua Tree History and Boundaries on [joshuatreevillage.com](http://joshuatreevillage.com) and the county's Joshua Tree Community Plan) is viewed and treated by others. Supervisor Ramos' rearrangement of municipal advisory council management in his district hasn't helped. It takes a lot of time and patience, concentration and commitment, to get anything done in government like a community plan, night-sky protecting ordinance or highway improvements. We lost not only our community voice but our ability to reach a community consensus and act together to get anything improved for ourselves when he failed to reappoint Joshua Tree residents to the Joshua Tree Municipal Advisory Council which had existed for more than 50 years.

I thank you for finally getting around to funding environmental studies and even if belatedly providing notification to property owners adjacent to your operations in Quail Wash, which has been egregiously reduced from pastoral to haphazard industrial

condition within a generation. As an adjacent property owner and as a lifelong stakeholder I ask that the following be addressed in the Draft EIR.

1. Please explain the PROPRIETY OF SITING transportation and storage operations in what I was told by USGS is the second largest blue-line stream in San Bernardino County deserts after the Mojave River. Please be so kind as to provide documentation of any previous archaeological, biological, hydrological, hazardous waste, transportation, air quality and/or noise studies which addressed and/or drew conclusions about the propriety of the county or any other government entity using Quail Wash as it is presently being used. Has Quail Wash ever held "protected" status?
2. Who has been authorizing HOW THIS SITE IS USED and why are there never any public hearings? Particularly the asphalt mixing for the county and dirt storage from the Town of Yucca Valley? Who holds the permits for streambed alteration from the State of California? Are the current activities permitted, and by whom?
3. SITE MANAGEMENT is imposing upon us, its neighbors. We are never advised when there will be heavy equipment operations, we are not consulted about the adverse effects of traffic, noise, air pollution, etc. and our complaints are not heard or acted upon (although in fairness the 29 Palms "yard" is great about returning our calls). The route these trucks are taking is objectionable when there is access to Quail Wash from a construction yard on SR62. Please consider making arrangements for a different route for these trucks rather than tearing up residential streets, and consider insisting that the drivers, whoever they are, slow down for their own sakes as well as ours. This is an environmental justice issue because of the neighborhood's poor, elderly, ethnic demographic.
4. Additional OPERATIONAL SAFETY ISSUES: when the tons of dirt from the Town of Yucca Valley was hauled in, it was piled up until it topped the levee. One of the neighbors closest to the levee complained because the dirt was blowing into their yard. The Army Corps of Engineers was brought in, but only leveled the dirt off to the top of the levee. All this dirt poses another problem in the event of the 100-year flood that the levee was originally built to contain: the "delta" area (across SR62 leading to emergency services like the hospital, airport, law enforcement stations and our public transportation facility which could be blocked by a massive mud flow) has now been designated as Joshua Basin Water District's water recharge site and all of that dirt could end up over the recharge site in the event of a 100-year flood. Is the California Regional Water Quality Control Board aware of the amount of dirt that has been stored in Quail Wash? Is there a NPDES permit for construction and land disturbance (Initial Study p.67)? Is there a Traffic Control Plan on file with the California Department of Transportation for the movement of tons of dirt with heavy equipment (IS p. 35)?
5. Almost all of the biological opining in the Joshua Tree area has been done by one company for the past several decades. In my opinion, their conclusions about

Joshua Tree's degradation are unflattering and inappropriate. We need a NEW SET OF EYES on the ground in this area. Please be aware that the Dudek firm also works for the Joshua Basin Water District and determine if that poses a conflict of interest.

6. I'm not happy with the LIMITATIONS PROPOSED for the DEIR and I respectfully request that the following be included in your consideration:
  - (a) Please check county records regarding SR 62 as a County Scenic Highway through Joshua Tree. My best information is that it is one and this was well-documented in the Joshua Tree Community Plan (IS p. 43).
  - (b) Please note that the operations I describe above create far more than a Potentially Significant Impact for air quality standards. Emissions do not vary much when the traffic I've described becomes constant. (IS pp. 48-49) Similarly, the significant and sometimes continual vehicle traffic at the times I've described above create Significant odor impacts which should be considered in the DEIR (IS p. 50).
  - (c) Habitat Conservation Planning has been underway for the Morongo Basin for a number of years, including studies conducted by Joshua Tree National Park working with The Sonoran Institute. Former JTNP Superintendent Curt Sauer is now the General Manager of the Joshua Basin Water District and could direct you to the details of the status of habitat planning as it affects Quail Wash. (IS p.51)
  - (d) See pages 66-67 and 69 of the IS. How could placing tons of dirt from Yucca Valley into the Quail Wash levee where it could create a mud flow across SR 62 as it goes downstream, thereby blocking roadway emergency access to everyone at the western end of the Morongo Basin, as well as clogging up the JBWD recharge basin at the "delta" not be a Potentially Significant Impact? Please consider (h) and (i) as Potentially Significant Impacts on Hydrology and Water Quality which could cost us millions to repair in the inevitable event of a 100-year flood.
  - (e) Because JBWD has chosen to site its recharge basin over the "delta" of Quail Wash at its conjunction with Yucca Wash, the Less Than Significant impact upon interference with groundwater recharge should be changed to Potentially Significant (IS p.68) and the Regional Water Quality Board advised.
  - (f) Asphalt mixing in a streambed? In my opinion, this certainly should require a stormwater pollution prevention plan to avoid water quality degradation (IS p. 70).
  - (g) Please provide a lot more description explaining exactly how the current operation of Quail Wash protects life and limb and adjoining properties from the

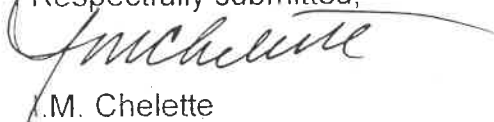
hazards of a 100-year flood, failure of the Quail Wash levee or inundation, or in the alternative please upgrade these impacts to Significant from No Impact or Less Than Significant Impact. (IS, pp. 70-71)

- (h) My neighbors and I are currently being subjected to significant exposure to the hazards of traffic noise. We are subjected to excessive groundborne vibration as well as a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity which exist outside the project (IS p. 75 (b) (c) should be "Significant"). Please consider making an unannounced visit to our neighborhood during these heavy traffic days to see for yourselves.
- (i) More police protection is required in my neighborhood because of the operation of the county facility in Quail Wash (IS pp.79-80). It would be appropriate to ask the Morongo Basin Sheriff Station and CHP how many complaints they have received about ORVs and hunters on the levees, breaking them down and creating a danger and nuisance for residents, as well as the number of officers who park by the county entrance to the wash at the intersection of Bonair and Desertair Roads to dissuade criminal activities in the wash and along the levees.
- (j) We are in a drought. Local water agencies are pressed to find and pay for imported water. Green waste gleaned during levee maintenance presumably goes to Landers, slated to close in 2018 (IS p. 88(f). Trucking all that dirt into Quail Wash from Yucca Valley certainly does impact the availability of sufficient water supplies to serve the project from existing entitlements (IS p. 88(d). Please explain how it is not cavalier for Dudek to claim that the existing management of the Quail Wash facility has no effect on these local service systems.

#### Conclusion

The siting and current operation and management of county flood control activities in Quail Wash in Joshua Tree has had considerable cumulative effects which have caused substantial direct adverse effects on human beings, fauna and flora and I applaud the mandatory findings of significance at IS p.91 because I've been agitating for a long time for someone to agree to initiate this dialogue.

Respectfully submitted,



J.M. Chelette  
Joshua Tree

5 pages



**From:** Peterson, Suzanne  
**To:** [Dan Silver](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Countywide Plan and DEIR  
**Date:** Friday, November 3, 2017 12:55:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hi Dan,

Thank you for your comments, this will be added to our record. Please note that all NOP comments will be addressed in the summary table of the EIR.

Suzanne

Please take a moment to complete our 1 Minute Satisfaction Survey

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LUS\\_Email](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LUS_Email)

**Suzanne Peterson**

Planner

**Land Use Services Department**

Phone: 909-387-4739

Fax: 909-387-3223

385 N. Arrowhead Ave

San Bernardino, CA, 92415-0187



***Our job is to create a county in which those who reside and invest can prosper and achieve well-being.***

***[www.SBCounty.gov](http://www.SBCounty.gov)***

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**From:** Dan Silver [mailto:dsilverla@me.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 4:43 PM

**To:** CountywidePlan <CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov>

**Cc:** Hudson, Tom <Tom.Hudson@lus.sbcounty.gov>; Ali Sahabi <asahabi@optimumgroupllc.com>; Josh Lee (jlee@gosbcta.com) <jlee@gosbcta.com>; Steven Smith <:ssmith@gosbcta.com>

**Subject:** Countywide Plan and DEIR

October 18, 2017

Jerry Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator  
County of San Bernardino, Land Use Service Dept.  
385 N Arrowhead Ave, 1st Floor  
San Bernardino CA 92415

**RE: Countywide Plan and DEIR**

Dear Mr. Blum:

Endangered Habitats League (EHL) appreciates the opportunity to comment on this Countywide update of the General Plan. For your reference, EHL is a Southern California conservation group dedicated to ecosystem protection and sustainable land use. EHL serves as co-chair of the Environment Element component of the County's Vision Process.

In 2016, the Board of Supervisor passed a resolution (enclosed) endorsing a Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) for the County. RCIS is a state program which identifies species of concern, evaluates conservation priorities, and leads to the issuance of mitigation credits which can serve as advanced mitigation for public and private projects. The environment benefits by such a targeted and comprehensive approach and infrastructure and other development benefits from streamlined mitigation.

The Environment Element convened stakeholders and state and federal agencies and, with funding provided by the the County, SANBAG, and SCAG, has started work on an RCIS to cover the western Valley and west Mojave portions of the County. While the RCIS is "in progress" it should be incorporated into the new General Plan as a program that, when completed, would direct mitigation for infrastructure and development and conserve biological resources. The land use, transportation, conservation, and open space elements are among the appropriate location for referencing a future RCIS and facilitating its successful implementation.

Thank you for considering our views.

With best personal regards,  
Dan

Dan Silver, Executive Director  
Endangered Habitats League  
8424 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite A 592  
Los Angeles, CA 90069-4267

213-804-2750  
[dsilverla@me.com](mailto:dsilverla@me.com)  
[www.ehleague.org](http://www.ehleague.org)

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 8

PLANNING (MS 725)

464 WEST 4th STREET, 6th FLOOR  
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401-1400

PHONE (909) 388-7017

FAX (909) 383-5936

TTY 711

www.dot.ca.gov/dist8

FISCAL ADMIN

2017 NOV -6 AM 9:41

Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.

October 30, 2017

File: 08-SBd-Various

Jerry Blum  
San Bernardino County  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

**Subject: San Bernardino Countywide Plan - Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**

Dear Mr. Blum:

Thank you for providing the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) the opportunity to review and comment on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan (Project). The proposed project is a comprehensive plan that is driven by the Countywide Vision and meets CA Code requirement for a general plan. The Countywide Plan includes four major components: County Policy Plan, Community Plans Continuum, County Business Plan, and Regional Issues Forum.

As the owner and operator of the State Highway System (SHS), it is our responsibility to coordinate and consult with local jurisdictions when proposed development may impact our facilities. As the responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, it is also our responsibility to make recommendations to offset associated impacts with the proposed project. Although the project is under the jurisdiction of the County of San Bernardino, due to potential impact to the State facilities, it is also subject to the policies and regulations that govern the SHS. We offer the following comments:

1. The Countywide Plan, specifically the Transportation and Mobility topic in the Build Environment element, should include language requiring the County to develop policies (a) stressing coordination between the County and the Department early in the land use and transportation planning process and (b) requiring new development to defraying all or a portion of the cost of transportation facilities related to the development project through the Development Impact Fee (Gov. Code § 66000(b)).

Caltrans is committed to providing a safe transportation system for all users. We encourage the City to embark a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system and complete street to enhance California's economy and livability. A pedestrian/bike-friendly environment served by multimodal transportation would reduce traffic congestion prevalent in the surrounding areas. (See *Complete Street Implementation Action Plan* 2.0 at [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/docs/CSIAP2\\_rpt.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/docs/CSIAP2_rpt.pdf)).

2. Coordinate with the transit operators to reconfigure the existing transit routes, stops, and schedules to connect the County to the region with other modes of transportation, especially with passenger rail system. Coordinated transit services may lead to growth in transit/rail ridership and reduction of Vehicle Miles Traveled and Greenhouse Gases which is one of the primary goals of the 2040 California Transportation Plan (<https://transplanning.onramp.dot.ca.gov/ctp-2040>). Look for opportunities to increase housing density near but not limited to uses such retail centers, offices and schools (See *Smart Mobility Framework 2010 A call to Action for the New Decade* [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/documents/smf\\_files/SMF\\_handbook\\_062210.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/documents/smf_files/SMF_handbook_062210.pdf)).
3. Promote the use of alternative transportation systems by upgrading and implementing the proposed Class II and Class III Bikeways to Class IV Protected Bikeways, particularly on the truck routes and high density employment/commercial areas. Consider using the roadway configurations and design standards found in the National Association of City Transportation Officials' Urban Street Design Guide and the Urban Bikeway Design Guide. Provide bike parking in compliance with the City's established standards. These standards can establish the required number and types of long-term and short term bicycle parking spaces in the commercial and residential visitor-attracting land uses. For the commercial, industrial, office, and mixed use development, consider requiring shower facilities and bicycle storage. Within the commercial, retail, and services zones and transportation hubs, design the facilities to easy bicycle access through the sites.
4. Design the local streets to serve vehicular and pedestrian circulation equally, and for safe pedestrian friendly environment. Consider both Americans with Disability Act and California Highway Design Manual standards and requirements to provide transportation routes for all users and modes, including pedestrian and bicyclists. "A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets," issued by AASHTO, and the "Highway Capacity Manual", published by the Transportation Research Board contain pedestrian LOS criteria. These are means of measuring the ability of the existing pedestrian facilities to provide pedestrian mobility and to determine the need for improvements expansions.
5. Promote a continuous multi-modal circulation system throughout the County, specifically for pedestrians, allowing current/future residents, employees, and guests to access the attraction places. A pedestrian friendly environment might have urban street frontages, shaded pedestrian links, and open spaces/pocket parks with the high visibility crosswalks. Consider no car zone in downtown area, and installing traffic calming devices, such as signage, road bulbs, chicanes, raised crosswalks, and speed humps and reducing curb-to-curb road widths and employing roadway design features such as islands, pedestrian refuges, and pedestrian count-down signal as needed and appropriate to improve safety and to enhance walkability within the community. Caltrans Strategic Management Plan for 2015-2020 is to double walking and triple bicycling in the state to reduce growth in VMT and GHG (See *Caltrans Strategic Management Plan 2015-2020* [http://www.dot.ca.gov/perf/library/pdf/Caltrans\\_Strategic\\_Mgmt\\_Plan\\_033015.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/perf/library/pdf/Caltrans_Strategic_Mgmt_Plan_033015.pdf)).

Mr. Blum  
October 30, 2017  
Page 3

These recommendations are preliminary and summarize our review of materials provided for our evaluation. Please continue to keep us informed of the project and other future updates, which could potentially impact the SHS and interfacing transportation facilities. If you have any questions or need to contact us, please do not hesitate to contact Jacob Mathew at (909) 806-3928 or myself at (909) 383-4557.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark Roberts".

MARK ROBERTS

Office Chief

Intergovernmental Review, Community and Regional Planning

**From:** Countywide Plan Site Admin  
**To:** [Colin Drukker](#); [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov); [Halley Grundy](#); [Frances Yau](#)  
**Subject:** San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
**Date:** Thursday, November 09, 2017 8:39:30 PM

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From: Angela Jones <angkjones07@yahoo.com>  
Subject: San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
Community: Phelan/Pinon Hills

Message Body:

I would like to say that this plan threatens to take away what makes this Desert beautiful. You are wanting to fill the space with electric farms that destroy the astics. People live in a rural desert community because we want to and because we like living in wide open areas with views of nature not structures. People enjoy having animals and being able to ride atvs down the neighborhood dirt roads. No one asked for change and growth. No one asked for solar farms. And no one asked for you to take away what makes this piece of desert unique.

Add to mailing list: Yes

Comment sent from: <http://countywideplan.com/eir/eircomment/>

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on San Bernardino Countywide Plan (<http://countywideplan.com>)

**From:** Countywide Plan Site Admin  
**To:** [Colin Drukker](#); [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov); [Halley Grundy](#); [Frances Yau](#)  
**Subject:** San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
**Date:** Thursday, November 09, 2017 1:51:34 PM

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From: Virginia Paleno <virginiapaleno@aol.com>  
Subject: San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
Community: Crestline

Message Body:

Our community had two swimming pools twenty years ago, but both were filled in when the properties were transferred to new owners. Our lake is being worked on, and the damn construction is likely to take another three years. We need a large community swimming pool, and it needs to be indoors due to our weather, I think. There is an old library building that is vacant, and could be for sale, which is 3,000 square feet. Would the county consider taking something like that and build a pool house?

Add to mailing list: Yes

Comment sent from: <http://countywideplan.com/eir/eircomment/>

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on San Bernardino Countywide Plan (<http://countywideplan.com>)

**Michelle Halligan**

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**From:** I <cnstncwlsh@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 9, 2017 5:42 PM  
**To:** CountywidePlan  
**Cc:** cnstncwlsh@aol.com  
**Subject:** Re: Nov. 20, 2017 Deadline for Comments on the EIR Scope Hello

Hi Suzanne,

Thank you! A personal response is rare and welcomed.

Joshua Tree map, north side, a brown rectangle at Sunflower (top third of map), designated special something. Do you know what the plan is for that rather large swath of land? Open desert presently.

Also north side, at Border, northern extension of Sunburst Av, top half, around Winters Road intersection, a bright red small triangle ("neighborhood commercial"). Presently open desert. Some concern as to nature of 'commercial' since Dollar Generals are famous for plunking themselves down in the most rural areas.

Lastly, huge amounts of green designated, it seems, "agricultural." How can this be. It is the desert.

If it is not your domain to respond to these questions, I would appreciate direction as you've offered.

This is the first email I've received from your department, to my knowledge, although I am on lists for local branches. I'm okay with remaining on your list for notices.



Thanks again for your prompt response and help.

Constance (Walsh)  
Joshua Tree, CA

-----Original Message-----

From: CountywidePlan <CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov>  
To: I <cnstncwlsh@aol.com>  
Sent: Thu, Nov 9, 2017 4:42 pm  
Subject: RE: Nov. 20, 2017 Deadline for Comments on the EIR Scope Hello

Hi Constance,

Thank you for your feedback. It looks like you are receiving the emails, please let me know if this is incorrect. There is a lot of information and materials available, however please do not feel that you must review everything that is available online. If there is something specific that you are looking for just let us know and we can point you in the right direction.

Thanks,  
Suzanne

Please take a moment to complete our 1 Minute Satisfaction Survey [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LUS\\_Email](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LUS_Email)

**Suzanne Peterson**  
Planner  
**Land Use Services Department**  
Phone: 909-387-8311  
Fax: 909-387-3223  
385 N. Arrowhead Ave  
San Bernardino, CA, 92415-0187



*Our job is to create a county in which those who reside and invest can prosper and achieve well-being.*  
[www.SBCounty.gov](http://www.SBCounty.gov)

County of San Bernardino Confidentiality Notice: This communication contains confidential information sent solely for the use of the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, you are not authorized to use it in any manner, except to immediately destroy it and notify the sender.

**From:** I [<mailto:cnstncwlsh@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 09, 2017 4:26 PM

To: CountywidePlan <[CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov)>

Subject: Re: Nov. 20, 2017 Deadline for Comments on the EIR Scope Hello

Dear Suzanne,

I am addressing you by your first name as this is how you signed your letter.

However my email address got on your list, I am glad to see the links and contents.

One would have to have an entire lifetime, perhaps several, to read and reflect on the materials enclosed. Is it perhaps the aim of government to overwhelm its citizens to a point of powerlessness so that they can proceed at will?

Such complexity is insane, unnecessary and destructive. I can only hope that there is some caring and sense in a few of our representatives, enough to forestall any more solar fields, Dollar Generals and corporate developments as though the bottom line were more valuable than the desert itself.

As in the paragraph above, most people can describe a desirable General Plan in three sentences or less.

Sincerely,  
Constance Walsh  
Joshua Tree, CA

-----Original Message-----

From: CountywidePlan <[CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov)>

To: CountywidePlan <[CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov)>

Sent: Thu, Nov 9, 2017 1:24 pm  
Subject: Nov. 20, 2017 Deadline for Comments on the EIR Scope

## Let us know what you think should be included.

The deadline is approaching for agencies and members of the public to comment on the scope and content of the information and analysis to be included in the Countywide Plan Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR). **Please send your comments (via mail, e-mail, or fax) as soon as possible—and no later than 5:00 PM on Monday, November 20, 2017.**

[Click here](#) for more information and to find out how you can comment.

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If you would like to be removed from the mailing list, reply STOP to this email.

Thank you,  
Suzanne

Please take a moment to complete our 1 Minute Satisfaction Survey [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LUS\\_Email](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LUS_Email)

**Suzanne Peterson**  
Planner  
**Land Use Services Department**  
Phone: 909-387-8311  
Fax: 909-387-3223  
385 N. Arrowhead Ave  
San Bernardino, CA, 92415-0187



***Our job is to create a county in which those who reside and invest can prosper and achieve well-being.***  
**[www.SBCounty.gov](http://www.SBCounty.gov)**

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**From:** Countywide Plan Site Admin  
**To:** [Colin Drukker](#); [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov); [Halley Grundy](#); [Frances Yau](#)  
**Subject:** San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
**Date:** Thursday, November 09, 2017 3:00:03 PM

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From: Kim Rocha <[rocharoques@att.net](mailto:rocharoques@att.net)>  
Subject: San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
Community: Bloomington

Message Body:

The county plan as shown in Fontana on foothill, was different than the MAC board showed the Bloomington residence. The plan the actual County showed us on Foothill was much better for the residence. The only thing is they do not have a way to stop developers from trying to change the plan, and that needs to be addressed.

Add to mailing list: Yes

Comment sent from: <http://countywideplan.com/eir/eircomment/>

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on San Bernardino Countywide Plan (<http://countywideplan.com>)

**Claudia & Danny Sall**  
**PO Box 37**  
**Pioneertown, CA 92268**

November 9, 2017

Jerry Blum  
San Bernardino County Planning  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor  
San Bernardino, Ca 92415

sent by email to

Jerry.Blum @LUS.sbcounty.gov

RE: Pioneertown Community Plan

Dear Mr. Blum

We are mindful of the opportunity to offer comments for the draft General Plan Update [GPU] that will include the Community Plans. Because of the breadth of this Update, the very recent release of the draft community plan, and that this opportunity for the public only comes every 7-10 years, *we request that the comment period be extended until after the first of the year.*

Quality of life values are of highest import to rural desert residents and citizens have year after year risen to the challenge of shaping their values around environmental protection. The Morongo Basin, as evidenced by SPARC records, posted the highest number of comments and workshop participants. In return, we have been promised and *now request that our decisionmakers heed our visioning input so as to shape a community plan to our needs.*

Lack of specificity in the earlier Joshua Tree Community Plan leading to inappropriate development has been a hard lesson rampant to the surrounding rural communities. At the time of the last GPU update, LUS was unwilling to include specificity into the Joshua Tree Plan as residents had demanded. Yet later on when projects inappropriate to the vision were proposed or resurrected without revised oversight, LUS cited lack of specificity in the Plan as a reason why a project would not be denied. Inappropriate development has been forced onto rural communities with no recourse other than civil litigation, an indicator of a breakdown in effective land use planning. Our strong, proactive efforts are directed toward shaping development to our envisioned quality of life and *we request certainty that such inconsistencies/disconnects will be resolved in this GPU.*



Lastly in our general comments, we are requesting that you consider in your decisions the historical reports and studies that the County has been a party in, e.g. the Morongo Basin Conservation Priorities Report and the South Coast Linkages Studies as well as the recent changes in land ownership now under protection and the new BLM national monuments in our area.

Finally, let us reiterate again that policies, goals, and objectives need to be expressed with verbs like “will” rather than “shall” or “may”. In the interest of clarity for the public and future planners, *we request that any language in the documents implying optional compliance be replaced with language that most directly states that an action requires compliance.*

The Action Plan [The Plan] format does not provide Certainty

Pioneertown has long aspired for a community plan because it would create certainty of land use and preserve the old west town flavor and the extensive, historic open space. Projects like Green Path North Transmission Line and Black Lava Butte Wind Project proposed in Pioneertown threatened this certainty and reaffirmed the need for the specific protection community plans enjoyed by other rural San Bernardino County communities. This Action Plan does not provide the same certainty of historic community plans guaranteed by CEQA because it does not have policies, goals, and objectives. It is unclear whether these community plans will become adopted into the General Plan and whether these documents will qualify as CEQA documents, a situation that would leave us nakedly unprotected by CEQA. *We request that our Plan be protected by CEQA.*

In this Action Plan the County has abdicated its role of lead planning authority to that of guide while saddling the community as the lead in moving outlined actions forward on their own, e.g. assuring sustainable water supply, preparing traffic and parking plans, enforcing land use regulations, all roles that fall within the expertise, domain, and authority of County LUS. The Plan in outlining “How to Create and Action Plan” states that a champion must be found who leads a citizen group to develop action steps” makes a fatal assumption: that Pioneertown has the resources and expertise to accomplish such steps, a view the State clearly does not support. On the contrary, Pioneertown is deemed by the State and County to be a disadvantaged community, a status that qualified the community access to special State grant funds for a proposed water pipeline. The present “Action Plan” format of the Community Plans unfairly and unrealistically pushes the responsibilities for action steps onto the shoulders of disadvantaged folks who have neither the tools nor resources



to accomplish these action statements in the Plan. This is the uncertainty that is endemic into this "Action Plan" community plan format and *we request that this uncertainty for the Plan be resolved.* .

#### Aspirations Statement falls short the Vision

In the attempt to characterize the narrative of the Pioneertown Communities, critical CEQA data for public decision-making is noticeably absent, namely the description of the area's physical character of vibrant open space and unique scenic vistas encapsulating these communities. There is no reference to the extensive holdings of a local land conservancy and federally managed lands especially the Sand-to-Snow National Monument that are reserved in protection for resource conservation. Open space and scenic vistas are a treasured and integral to the structure of the Pioneertown community and despite repeated, public input in the SPARC, this vital information has not been described into the Plan. The very essence of our identity with the Old West is only validated and supported by the preservation of this environment and the wildlife connectivity. Without these values articulated in the aspirations statement, Pioneertown would be relegated to the status of a Temecula Old Town themed shopping venue. *We request this critical information be added to the draft as a core value unique to the Pioneertown communities.*

Additionally, under "improved water supply", the draft Plan suggests that a water management committee is a driving force in maintaining water sustainability. What are missing from this narrative is both the roles of the Ames Basin Agreement and the Morongo Pipeline Agreement. The Ames Basin Agreement provides a mechanism for Pioneertown to access state water thru recharge and exchange. The Ames Basin Agreement also establishes a water production allowance for CSA W-4, the water service for Pioneertown subdivision and also provides such that any water needed above the cap must be accounted for (mitigated) through either a groundwater exchange with a party that doesn't exceed its cap OR replacement thru purchase and recharge of State Water via the Morongo Basin Pipeline. The Morongo Basin Pipeline agreement lays out limited allocations of imported water supply to the partners. Additionally, dictates of the State funding for the improved water supply now severely restrict new meters in Pioneertown.

*We request that a brief summary be included so that the public and later LUS are informed about the confines to the statement of "improved water supply".*

Finally, under "Balanced Growth . . ." and elsewhere in the Action Statements, vital information is absent. There is no mention of the previous effort of the general plan land use zoning district amendment proposed for



Pioneertown in both 2009 and again in 2013 discussed in detail below. Neither is there mention of the special County Scenic Byway status of Pioneertown and Pipes Canyon Roads, nor the wildlife linkage reports, cultural resource studies, all which underscore scenic and wildlife values. These values ascribe limits to land use development especially in regards to traffic circulation and environmental effects.

*We request that there is a presence of this information in the Plan so that subsequent development code revision will provide for continued protection.*

### 2013 Proposed General Plan Land Use Zoning District Amendment

In the previous 2007 GPU, Pioneertown had requested a community plan that would limit commercial development to fronting onto historic Mane Street, e.g. neighborhood commercial and RL zoning for the remaining residential parcels. The request was denied citing lack of available County funds. In 2009, Land Use Services [LUS] proposed a general plan land use zoning district amendment that would articulate the desired effect. The initial study [IS] was circulated to and widely supported by Pioneertown residents. [See attached documents]

Upon checking in late 2013, we learned that unbeknownst to the community, the amendment was left uncompleted when the assigned planner had retired. Subsequently, the IS was re-vetted internally by LUS and the NOA/NOI was re-circulated with the proposed amendment targeted for Board of Supervisor approval by the end of 2013. However, the amendment became stalled when Native American tribes demanded that Cultural Resources and Paleontologic Resources Overlays be performed. With funds in short supply, LUS in early 2014 notification elected to postpone this action until the next cycle of a GPU.

Neither this action nor the necessary Overlays are acknowledged in the Pioneertown Foundation Plan, nor upon checking the now updated, mapping website, are the action and overlays reflected. The drop down box associated with each parcel indicates the (1) potential future zoning and the (2) proposed general plan zoning and the zoning of the 300 parcels still remains as SD-RES. LUS assures us that this amendment will be folded into the GPU.

*We request that the 300 parcels proposed in the above referred to land use amendment post the “future potential” and “proposed general plan” for RL-5 in the mapping drop down boxes. We recommend that those parcels also become highlighted and that unless a time extension is granted, that this new information be incorporated into the mapping before the end of the November 20<sup>th</sup> deadline for comments.*



Additionally, parcel 594-252-12 is zoned general commercial outside of the Mane Street core and is therefore, inconsistent with the other commercial on Mane Street zoned SD-RES.

This parcel came into a commercial use when the owner applied for a CUP for the building of a western town to mimic historic Pioneertown, however, even with that action that parcel would have still retained its zoning of SD-RES. It is inexplicable how the parcel quietly became commercial general, a zoning that is not appropriate to the vision and a single, dangerous precedent for the area. The residents have communicated that they want commercial development fronted only onto Mane Street: returning the zoning on this parcel to SD-RES would still accommodate its present and potential usage yet conform to the Pioneertown Plan.

*We request that the GPU take the opportunity to correct that problem.*

#### Specific Parcel Concern within Pioneertown Community Plan

When the boundaries of the Pioneertown Community Plan were extended by LUS beyond the town of Pioneertown, Section 16, a marked anomaly within that Plan became apparent. Thanks to the GIS mapping tool, parcel 593-091-13 is a visible, colored aberration within the Pioneertown Plan [attached]. The parcel, presently zoned RS, is consistent with some of the nearby property although not consistent with the surrounding and current RC usage. Curiously, the parcel is marked with both buff and tan coloring forecasting 2 different zoning densities within the one parcel: is this a land division? Also, curious is that the drop down box on this parcel indicates that LUS deems this zoning for the potential future zoning and proposed general plan zoning as LDR and MDR. This density is the sole exception in the Pioneertown Community Plan and poses a dangerous precedent of inserting density into an RC and resource management open space. Moreover, this proposed use and manner of development is not consistent with the vision, goals, policies, and standards of the General Plan or of the proposed Pioneertown Plan. As noted in the Plan, "Pioneertown Communities consist entirely of single family residential", mostly 5-acre, owner-occupied homes. The only paved roads in the area are Pioneertown Rd and Pipes Canyon Rd, a two-lane rural road that connects Hwy 62 with Hwy 247 and which cannot support large influx of crowds. Neither the community nor its resources support this kind of unnecessary and inappropriate density. Such unusual deviation from consistency is the very poster child of inappropriate, willy-nilly development that we sought to avoid under a protective umbrella of a community plan.

*We request that this parcel remain the same as the other parcels around it and that the map be corrected before November 20<sup>th</sup> deadline for comments to eliminate such an inconsistent future action.*

We welcome any clarity you can offer on those comments regarding the specific parcels and submit this comment letter for the draft Pioneertown Communities Plan.

Please be advised that we may provide other comments if the scoping is extended.

Claudia and Danny Sall

Email Cc: Terri Rahhal      Terri.Rahhal@LUS.sbcounty.gov  
Mark Lundquist      Mark.Lundquist@bos.sbcounty.gov  
Heidi Duron      Heidi.Duron@LUS.sbcounty.gov  
The Wildlands Conservancy  
Morongo Basin Conservation Association  
Friends of Pioneertown



# LAND USE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## ADVANCE PLANNING DIVISION

385 North Arrowhead Avenue • San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182  
<http://www.sbcounty.gov/landuseservices>

(909) 387-4147 8311  
Fax (909) 387-3223



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
PUBLIC AND SUPPORT  
SERVICES GROUP

JULIE RYNERSON ROCK  
Director

May 7, 2009

**Subject: General Plan Amendment (GPA), Pioneertown Area, Sections 19 and 20: Approximately 660 acres/300 Parcels to be Rezoned from Special Development-Residential (SD-RES) to Rural Living (RL) Land Use Zoning District.**

Dear Property Owner,

The County of San Bernardino is proposing a General Plan Amendment (zone change) in the area of Pioneertown in Section 19 and a portion of Section 20 of Township 1N, Range 5E. The zoning is proposed to change from Special Development-Residential (SD-RES) to Rural Living (RL) to preserve the existing rural lifestyle. The downtown 30-acre core of Pioneertown is proposed to remain as SD-RES. The core is bounded by the following: Tom Mix Road, Rawhide Road, Curtis Road and Pioneertown Road.

The area to be rezoned from SD-RES to RL is along both sides of Pioneertown Road between Monterey Road and Skyline Ranch Road; except the area mentioned above.

- The proposed Land Use District Zoning Map is attached as Exhibit A.

Existing uses that were legally established may remain as legal, non-conforming uses. Table 82-7 is enclosed, which explains the RL land uses. In the future, you will be notified of public hearings before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors regarding this proposed General Plan Amendment. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (909) 387-4168.

Sincerely,

David Dawson, AICP  
Senior Planner

Att: Exhibit A: Proposed Land Use District Zoning Map  
Exhibit B: Table 82-7, RL Land Uses

*Jim Squire*

*8/5/2013 - per Christina @ 909 387.8311  
Barilla*

*John @ 3rd time*

*Jim Squire @  
LUS. 56 county.  
805*  
*Jim Squire  
909 387 4434*  
*contacted Teri Pahal  
+ will  
Get ok from Tom Pahal  
Check IS for adequacy  
Prepare Staff*  
*Oct for Pla*  
*Not Del*

MARK R. DUFFY  
County Administrator

NORMA M. MARQUEZ  
Assistant Planning Administrator  
Public and Economic  
Development

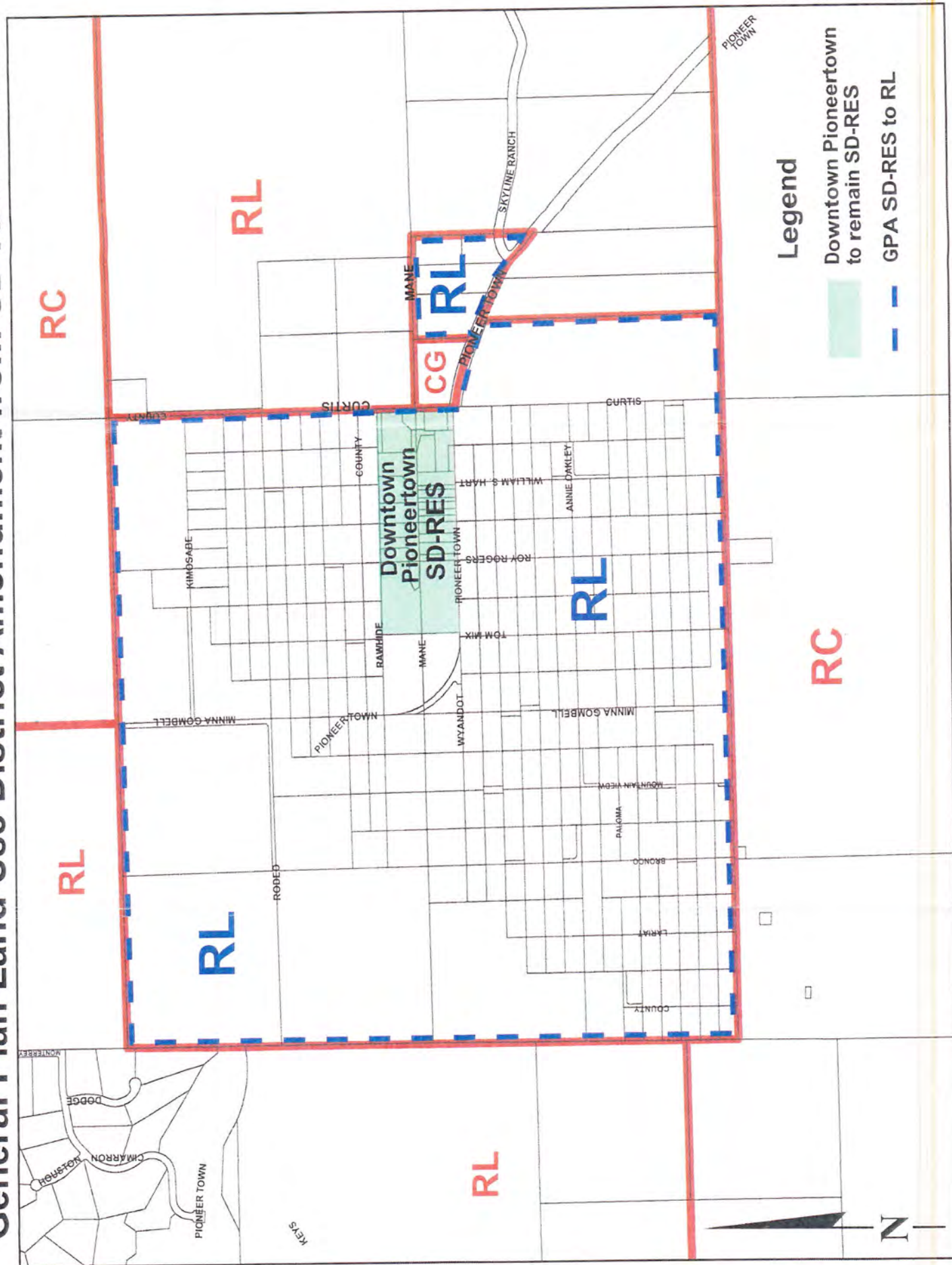
PAUL B. BELL  
County Engineer

JOHN GONZALEZ  
County Clerk

RENE D. DUFFY  
County Treasurer

# Proposed Land Use District Zoning Map

## General Plan Land Use District Amendment from SD-RES to RL







COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA) / NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) TO ADOPT  
AN INITIAL STUDY / NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
FOR THE PIONEERTOWN GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines, County Staff prepared a Draft Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) that identifies and evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed Oak Hills Community Plan update.

**Project Title:** Pioneertown General Plan Amendment/Zone Change

**Project No.:** P200800685

**Project Location:**

The project is located surrounding the community of Pioneertown in all of Section 19 and a portion of Section 20 of Township 1 North Range 5 East, between Monterey Road and Skyline Ranch Road, except the downtown core of Pioneertown which will maintain the current zoning of SD-RES. This area is bounded by Pioneertown, Tom Mix, Rawhide and Curtis Roads.

**Project Description:**

This project is a General Plan Land Use Zoning District Amendment from Special Development-Residential (SD-RES) to Rural Living (RL) on approximately 660 acres surrounding the community of Pioneertown in San Bernardino County. The proposed RL zoning is considerably more restrictive with regards to development potential than the current SD-RES zone.

**Environmental Review and Public Comment:** The circulation of the Draft Negative Declaration and Initial Study is to encourage written public comments. Interested persons can review the Draft IS/ND at <http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/Environmental/NoticesDeterminations/Desert.aspx> and the following physical location:

**Land Use Services Department - Planning Division**  
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

If unavailable on the web site, you may obtain the document in electronic format by telephoning the Land Use Services Department at either (909) 387-4434, or by emailing the Planner at [Jim.Squire@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:Jim.Squire@lus.sbcounty.gov). To request a PDF version of the document from the Land Use Services Department database, please reference the project number above.

The comment period began on **August 28, 2013**. All comments must be received no later than **September 16, 2013 at 5:00 PM**. Please submit comments to [Jim.Squire@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:Jim.Squire@lus.sbcounty.gov) or to:

Jim Squire, Planner  
County of San Bernardino  
Land Use Services Department - Current Planning Division  
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0187

**Public Hearing:** A public hearing to consider adoption of the Final IS/ND has been scheduled for October 3, 2013, at 9 a.m. at the County Government Center located at 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., San Bernardino.



## PLANNING DIVISION

385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0187  
(909) 387-8311 Fax (909) 387-3223  
<http://www.sbcounty.gov/landuseservices>

TOM HUDSON  
Director

January 23, 2014

**Subject: Pioneertown General Plan Amendment (GPA) from Special Development-Residential (SD-RES) to Rural Living on 660 Acres in Pioneertown.**

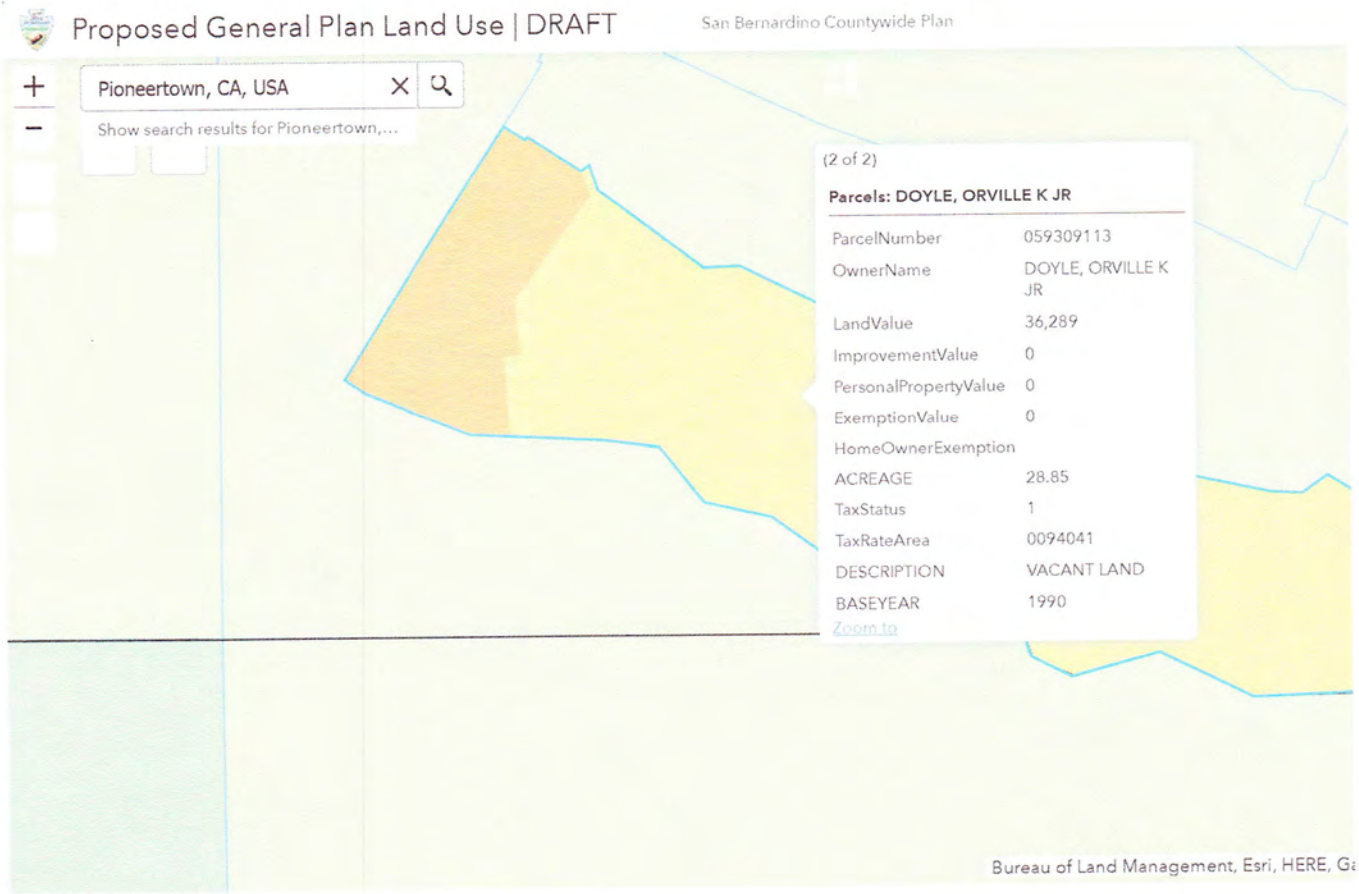
Dear Property Owner:

In 2008 and 2009, the County of San Bernardino was proposing a zone change in the downtown area of Pioneertown in response to requests arising from the General Plan Update completed in 2007. The specific boundary of the 30 acre/31 parcel zone change was as follows: Tom Mix Road on the west, Rawhide Road on the north, Curtis Road on the east and Pioneertown Road on the southern boundary (see attached map). A town meeting was held on January 6, 2009 at which time the opinions of the community were heard, and the project was subsequently changed to keep the downtown area unchanged but to amend the zoning of the area surrounding the core to Rural Living (RL).

The project was postponed in 2009 to a later date due to County staffing, budgeting and other higher priority projects. There was no applicant paying for this change.

During this past summer, the Department received a request to resurrect this amendment. Staff looked at what had been done before and decided to proceed with the change and sent out a Notice of Availability for the review of the draft Initial Study that had been prepared. This Notice had several typographical errors in it which caused much confusion and was subsequently rescinded. A new Notice was to be prepared and sent out to all affected property owners. Concurrently with all of this, the same Notice of Availability was sent to the Native American Tribes within the area as is required by State law. Senate Bill 18, adopted in 2007, requires that the local tribes be notified whenever a jurisdiction plans to amend its General Plan. The response from one of these tribes has caused staff to reconsider continuing processing the amendment at this time due to the time required to address the Tribe's concerns.

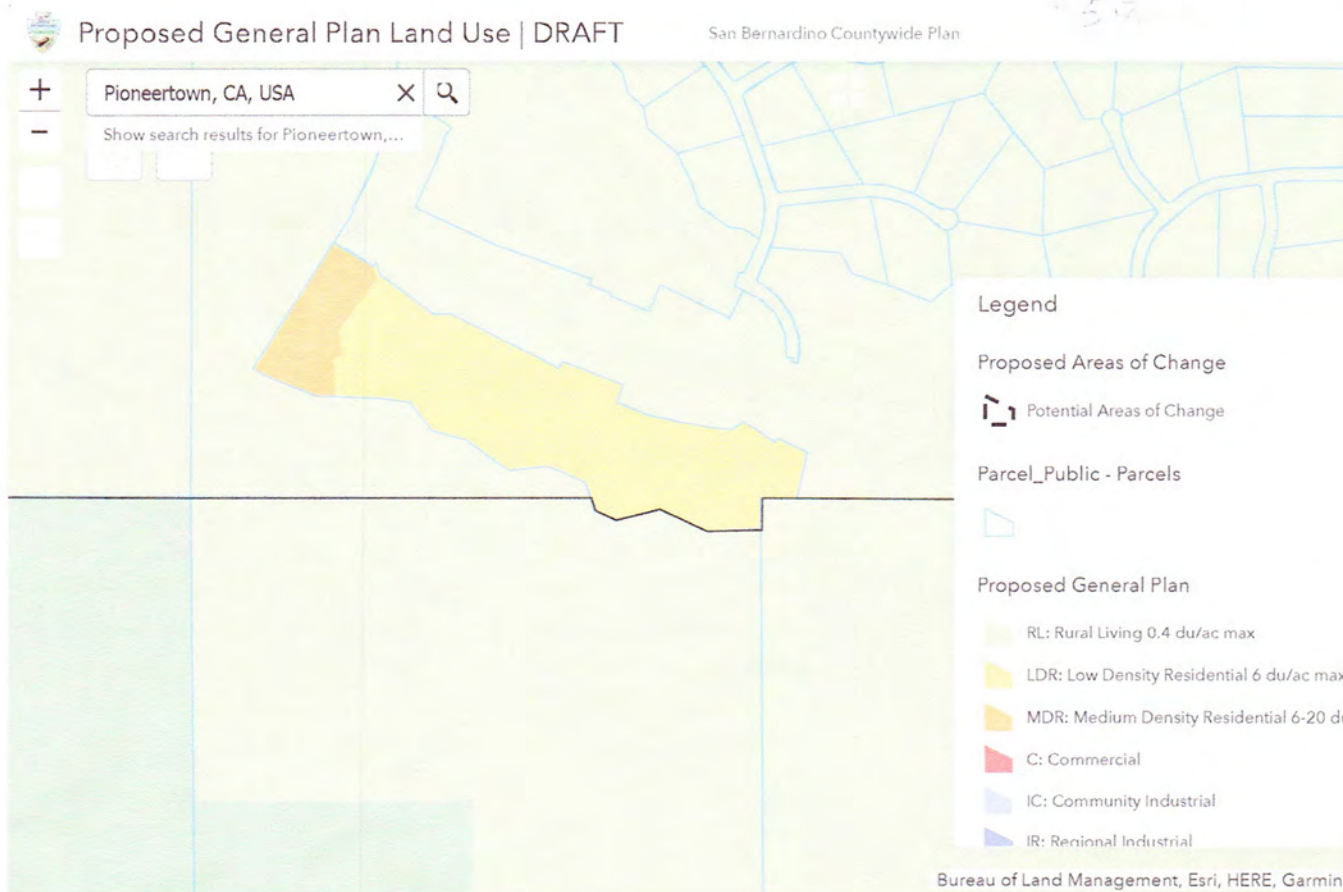




300ft  
-116.529 34.165 Degrees

59309113

57



600ft  
-116.531 34.167 Degrees



**From:** Countywide Plan Site Admin  
**To:** [Colin Drukker](#); [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov); [Halley Grundy](#); [Frances Yau](#)  
**Subject:** San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
**Date:** Thursday, November 09, 2017 1:44:59 PM

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From: Jim Miller <[fanofusc78@aol.com](mailto:fanofusc78@aol.com)>  
Subject: San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
Community: Big Bear City

Message Body:  
Comments on the 2017 Bear Valley Community Plan

## LAND USE

### Non-conforming Uses:

There is no feasible way to improve the commercial property along Big Bear Blvd as long the Planning Department continues its policy of “grandfathering in” non-conforming uses and/or changes of occupancy without going through any discretionary review. Existing single family homes in commercial zones are allowed to be converted to commercial use without having to comply with current federal, state and/or county ordinances. In addition, change of occupancy is not being coordinated between the Building Department and the Planning Department when it comes to public health and safety concerns. The “grandfathering” policy is also a violation of the Civil Rights Act in regards to building accessibility and is a violation of the State Building Codes which requires change of occupancy to comply with the current code. Because of this policy, property owners are not investing in their buildings and vacant commercial land is not being developed. No one is willing to invest in an existing commercial building or construct a new one when a competing business can operate out of a single family home at one tenth of the cost.

### Big Bear Valley Airport - Land Use Consistency

The Big Bear Valley Airport is under no obligation to follow the policies in the Community Plan. About 20 years ago the Airport expanded its runway without proper public review and made an attempt to acquire property for Caltrans to reroute Hwy 18 out of its new expanded crash zone. This negated the construction of a planned public park on land already owned by the Parks and Rec District. All of this was done without County Planning Department approvals because it was processed through County Special Districts. In addition the Airport is now acquiring land on the north side of the airport to create a development buffer that will remove valuable industrially zoned land from the valleys already deficient inventory. There needs to be some coordination between the Airport and County Planning Department in regards to CEQA and land use decisions.

### Right of Way Dedication, Setbacks and Parking Requirements:

Development is not going to occur along Big Bear Blvd due to over restrictive and unreasonable County development requirements. Due to the small narrow lots along Big Bear Blvd right of way dedication, parking requirements and rear yard setbacks make it impossible for anyone to build on a vacant lot or upgrade an existing building. Almost all of the properties along Big Bear Blvd back up to another street and road right of way dedication and rear yard setbacks make it impossible to construct a commercial building that is of a reasonable size to be economically viable. There needs to be a serious discussion on revising parking requirements, excessive right of dedication and rear yard setbacks for commercial properties that are served by two streets and/or front Big Bear Blvd.

### Mountain Architecture:

None of the policies in the current plan recommending that the architecture of new development should reflect our mountain character will be implemented. The Planning Department does not review residential projects or exterior commercial remodels for architectural compliance. Case in point: Approximately five years ago the County approved the construction of a two story, straight walled, stucco building at 208 East Big Bear Blvd with basically no architectural features.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Unpaved County Roads and AQMD and NPDES Compliance:

The county has no long term plan to pave the existing dirt roads that are fully built out with commercial and residential buildings. The county is also approving new businesses with dirt parking lots and does not require paved driveways or drainage control at streets edge. There appears to be no concern for complying with of AQMD PM 10 requirements and NPDES “BMP”s. In addition there are numerous county roads that dead end into the national forest that are unregulated. This results in uncontrolled access into areas that are home to numerous endangered plants and animals. These critical habitat areas are being vandalized by off road vehicles, illegal dumping, and increased erosion due to soil disturbance by vehicle tires. Though the plan calls for improving forest conservation and creating a healthy environment for its citizens the County puts very little effort in doing so. The County needs to take an aggressive role in complying with AQMD and dust control and NPDES erosion control requirements by paving roads, closing off county controlled access points into undeveloped areas and by requiring all businesses, new and old, to pave their parking lots.

### Proposed Arterials:

The Bear Valley Community Plan calls for a four lane major arterial connecting Baldwin Lane to Fox Farm Road in the City of Big Bear Lake. This is impossible due to the road going through land under the control of the US Forest Service and opposition from the City of Big Bear Lake residents. This road needs to be removed from the plan.

### Updated Traffic Study:

The current Level of Service for almost all of the interchanges along Big Bear Blvd is LOS “F” or worse. The previous plan made the assumption that Baldwin Lane would eventually be constructed through to Fox Farm Road and carry about one third of the valleys cross traffic. The previous traffic study therefore assumed that by 2030 or at build out, Big Bear Blvd would remain a level service of “C”. Based on what is known today no discretionary project can mitigate under CEQA for its cumulative traffic impacts. This issue will be a major obstacle for any future discretionary project and will allow anyone to successfully litigate under CEQA. A new traffic study needs to be done for the entire unincorporated area of the valley.

### Alternative modes of transportation:

The City of Big Bear Lake and the County spent four years developing a very comprehensive trails plan called The “Big Bear Valley Pedestrian, Bicycle and Equestrian Master Plan”. However the County Public Works Transportation Planning Division is under no obligation to consider it when doing street improvements in the valley and has made no attempts to apply for grants to implement it. The Trails Plan needs to be an appendices to the community plan to insure that it gets implemented.

## CONSERVATION

### Water Quality:

The County is not enforcing the Clean Water Act for the entire east valley unincorporated area. It does no TMDL testing and has no mechanism for monitoring new business that re-locate into existing buildings that are subject to the Clean Water Act. For example if you have a retail gift shop that becomes vacant and subsequently rented to a gasoline engine repair shop there is no way to determine if that new business has a hazardous materials containment area. There are numerous examples along Big Bear Blvd where automobiles and heavy equipment are being repaired and/or stored on parking lots that direct the drainage into the street and ultimately into a blue line stream that leads to Big Bear Lake. In addition it was recently discovered that the watershed map used for determining TMDL testing location shows all of the surface water east of Division Drive flowing into Baldwin Lake. Because of this error the County does not monitor any pollutants flowing from the entire commercial area, including the airport, into Stanfield Marsh. Therefore it is impossible to quantify how bad the water quality problem really is in this area. The true watershed area is actually everything west of Sawmill Canyon (see below). The weir constructed by the airport at the end of Sawmill Drive was specifically built to address the splitting of the water flow equally between the two lakes. This was done to comply with the federal Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act to insure that a blue line stream was not being diverted. Both Baldwin Lake and Big Bear Lake are considered by the regional water quality control board as impaired bodies of water. This error needs to be corrected and the Community Plan needs to have meaningful policies that make sure that our lakes, which play a huge role in the local economy, are not damaged by pollutants any further.

## HOUSING

### Affordable Housing:

Approximately two thirds of the families in the Big Bear Valley have median incomes well below the county average. Workforce housing is becoming a huge issue in the valley. Due to the areas resort/recreation based

economy the majority of jobs are service industry based which typically pay very little. Because of the somewhat isolated nature of this community from the balance of the County housing needs cannot be deferred to the generic policies in the County's Housing Element. There needs to be a discussion on "how" the County is going to implement its Housing Element in the Big Bear Valley. As it exists today no affordable housing programs are administered locally.

#### Housing Stock:

Most of the available housing in the unincorporated areas are small vacation home mostly built during the 1960's and 70's. Because of the large seasonal visitor population it is a very difficult to find year round rental properties. Those properties that are on the market today are so because they are in such need of repair they are unfit to be rented out on a weekly basis. Landlords are simply not investing any money in improving year round rentals and this will continue until the county implements an aggressive code enforcement program that begins to bring these rentals up to some level of livability. Coupled with the poor energy efficiency of the older houses and the low wages paid to service workers many areas in the valley are turning into slums. There needs to be a policy that addresses improving housing stock and availability.

#### NOISE

##### Big Bear Valley Airport:

The original airport was originally designed only for single engine planes due to the length of its runway. However in 1992 the Airport expanded its runway without processing the improvements through the San Bernardino County Planning Commission which has jurisdictional authority over any land use decisions made by the Airport (according to County Planning staff). Due to the extended runway twin-engine planes and small jets are now able to land as this facility. The noise study for the expansion was never vetted through the correct public review process and as such a new noise study needs to be done showing how the increased size of the airplanes has expanded the airport influence zone. The airport also needs to actively engage in community outreach to help with the noise impacts that are now occurring and will continue to increase in the future.

#### IMPLEMENTATION

##### Accountability:

The Big Bear Valley Community Plan is vague on how it is to be implemented. It appears as though the County is passing on their responsibilities to implement the plan to the local citizens. As history has demonstrated the 2007 plan policies were never adhered to and/or required on discretionary projects and there is ambivalence by County departments to even consider local plan policies when processing projects or enforcing County codes. This new document, just like the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Equestrian Master Plan and the previous 2007 Community Plan, will never trickle down to County field staff. County Department heads are under no obligation to enforce the policies and no one is holding them accountable. Therefore I would like to see two items included in the report:

1. Have the County Chief Executive Officer and all of County Department Heads responsible for implementing the plan (specifically Public Works, Building, Code Enforcement and Planning) sign a statement that acknowledges that they have read the policies and agree to implement them. This statement should be part of the "acknowledgments" section.
2. Recommend forming a Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) for the entire unincorporated areas of east Big Bear Valley so that local residents can hold County officials responsible for implementing the plan.

Submitted by: Jim Miller cell # (909) 633-2391 e-mail; fanofusc78@aol.com

Add to mailing list: Yes

Comment sent from: <http://countywideplan.com/eir/eircomment/>

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on San Bernardino Countywide Plan (<http://countywideplan.com>)

**From:** Countywide Plan Site Admin  
**To:** [Colin Drukker](#); [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov); [Halley Grundy](#); [Frances Yau](#)  
**Subject:** San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
**Date:** Thursday, November 09, 2017 2:54:31 PM

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From: Mike Davidson <[Mary\\_Davidson@verizon.net](mailto:Mary_Davidson@verizon.net)>  
Subject: San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
Community: Crestline

Message Body:

Crestline and the Crest Forest area is a beautiful place & must be preserved as a National Wildlife Refuge which cannot be touched by more development. Overpopulation of much of this county is causing global warming & we are all feeling the excessive heat which is hotter & hotter every year. Every time there is new development our land becomes hotter (cement is not cool) & the air becomes dirtier (more cars causing smog). When trees & forest are here they cool & clean the air, bring clouds which bring water to our drought stricken land & maintain room for wildlife that has been pushed out of their homes. It is time to stand up for what is right & put this area under permanent protection from development. Make this a permanent Wildlife Refuge with no possible development. We need to stop the overpopulation that is ruining our land!

Expecting you to do what is right. Thank you.

Mary Davidson

Add to mailing list: Yes

Comment sent from: <http://countywideplan.com/eir/eircomment/>

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on San Bernardino Countywide Plan (<http://countywideplan.com>)

November 14, 2017

Jerry L. Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator  
County of San Bernardino  
Land Use Services Department  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Dear Jerry Blum:

The San Bernardino County Department of Defense (DoD) Working Group would like to express its sincere appreciation to San Bernardino County for their continued collaboration with the DoD on compatible land-use planning issues. Collectively, the multi-installation working group shares a commitment to support efforts towards a General Plan update that will support military mission capabilities while advancing county goals to protect and enhance residents' health, safety, and welfare.

The San Bernardino County DoD Working Group represents San Bernardino County's five military installations: Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Edwards Air Force Base, National Training Center/Fort Irwin, and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center/Marine Corps Task Force Training Command. Together, these military installations collectively employ more than 52,000 military and civilian personnel and are our nation's premiere military training facilities, powerful economic engines, and an integral part of San Bernardino County's communities.

The DoD Working Group believes strongly that a robust regional economy is best achieved by collaboration and planning, and that the DoD is positioned to continue to contribute to the county's vibrant communities while building a more secure nation. Well thought-out compatible-use planning will enhance the long-term viability and continuity of installation mission requirements, preserving economic benefits that flow to communities from the installations, and providing new economic and partnering opportunities.

In continuance of the engagement and coordination thus far, the DoD Working Group respectfully offers the following scoping comments for consideration in preparation of the 2017 Countywide Plan Environmental Impact Report:

1. Request inclusion of a Military Element in the Countywide Policy Plan which provides a framework of guidelines to protect military operations and training at the five San Bernardino military installations well into the future. This would include the protection and designation of Military Influence Areas (MIA), Risk of Adverse Impact on Military Operations and Readiness Areas (RAIMORA), Military Training Routes (MTR), and Special Use Airspace (SUA). In addition, the Military Element would include:
  - a. Policies for long-term economic development
  - b. Guidance for developing collaborative partnerships among military and community stakeholders
  - c. Strategies that protect residents' health, safety, and welfare from military operations, noise, and other impacts
2. Request establishment of processes and policies for military input on proposed projects in within the sensitive areas identified in the Military Element, including timely project notification.
3. Request consideration and analysis of updates to code, zoning, and ordinances in the subsequent Countywide Implementation Plan that would protect military training through encroachment prevention, including the protection of habitat, wildlife corridors, water sustainment and security, and dark skies, as well as the development of local military base real estate disclosure, noise attenuation standards, and additional policies related to unmanned aircraft systems.

4. Request analysis of encroachment factors of San Bernardino County's military installations that includes land under San Bernardino County's jurisdiction, and also considers trends and policy related to the development of federal land (as this comprises approximately 80% of San Bernardino County) well into the future. The analysis would include projections of population, development, and economic growth. It would also include an evaluation of current and foreseeable local, state, and federal policy related to land use, air quality, special use air space and military influence areas, water resources, threatened and endangered species, unmanned aircraft systems, and potential increases in renewable energy development.
5. Request an economic analysis that comprehensively evaluates the value and impact of San Bernardino County's five military installations to the county. The analysis shall include activity that takes place on or in association with the DoD installations in San Bernardino County, and the contracts between both the DoD and private contractors, as well as DoD related employment, earnings, and expenditures.

Sincerely,

**From:** Countywide Plan Site Admin  
**To:** [Colin Drukker](#); [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov); [Halley Grundy](#); [Frances Yau](#)  
**Subject:** San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2017 9:20:30 AM

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From: Michael Diaz <[mdiaz@cityofmontclair.org](mailto:mdiaz@cityofmontclair.org)>  
Subject: San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
Community: \*Other/Not Listed

Message Body:

Continue to work closely with local cities when considering development projects or land use entitlements within Sphere of Influence Areas. Coordination with cities in regard to proposed land uses, development/design, and utility improvements is critical to ensure that development projects and/or entitlements are compatible with the City standards so as to minimize or avoid any significant adverse issues when these areas are eventually annexed.

Add to mailing list: Yes

Comment sent from: <http://countywideplan.com/eir/eircomment/>

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on San Bernardino Countywide Plan (<http://countywideplan.com>)

## Michelle Halligan

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**From:** Cat Celebrezze <gojiracat@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2017 4:32 AM  
**To:** CountywidePlan  
**Subject:** SP complete 11/15/2017 - Countywide Plan

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Please note: the comment period on the scope of Countywide Plan Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should be extended for 30 days. Although my comments are below, many people in the Joshua Tree community are not fully versed in the intricacies of the Countywide Plan and the commencement of the comment period should allow for least one, if not two, meetings of the the Morongo Advisory Council so these details may be discussed by the Joshua Tree Community.

\*\*\*

Implemented in March 13th 2017 the Joshua Tree area has a robust and active Community Plan that reflects the goals and policies of Joshua Tree as a unique and important community area within the larger San Bernardino County. My first comment with regard to the content and analysis to be included in the San Bernardino's Countywide Plan Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is that the County recognize that the goals and policies of Community Plans, such as the one adopted and effected in Joshua Tree, be used as active standards by which to analyze the potential environmental impact wrought by any proposed Countywide Plan. To this point, the County's execution of the process by which a Countywide Plan is to be built has happened in a reverse order manner, asking Joshua Tree to comment on what's to be included in the EIR, when there already is an effective Community Plan. Although the request for comment is a positive, community engaged action, it also assumes that there is no active set of goals and policies that Joshua Tree has worked hard to enact. In addition, this process by which the County has engaged Joshua Tree (and other unincorporated desert communities of the Morongo Basin) on the input on the Countywide Plan has been obfuscated by the vagaries of "workshopping" - word clouds and discussions about what "might" be interesting developments within Joshua Tree's borders without explicit recognition of the goals and policies already in force under the Joshua Tree Community Plan is troublesome and dissembling at best and dismissive of the goals and policies of the Joshua Tree Community Plan at worst.

Secondly, and to this point, the County needs to include in its EIR on the Countywide Plan an analysis that recognizes Joshua Tree's exceptional position within the County. Because of its role as steward to the Joshua Tree National Park, its rural desert character and scenic vistas in a world of ever-encroaching and strident commercial interests guised under catch-all phrase of "development", Joshua Tree's "non traditional" position in the County should not be given short shrift in these consequential and weigh-bearing analyses.

Third, and in further exposition of key points already adopted and effective in the Joshua Tree Community Plan, I want to remind the County of some specific points that must be addressed in any proposed Countywide Plan generally an in any EIR specifically in order for the County to be in line with the 2007 Joshua Tree Community Plan.

The Conservation section of the 2007 Joshua Tree Community Plan (JT5.2) states a very clear first conservation goal (JT/CO1) to "encourage conservation and protection of native wildlife and vegetation habitats and soils." The corresponding policies approved to put achieve this goal are quite explicit on issues of 1) compatibility with the community and landscape (JT/CO 1.1), 2) protection view sheds (JT/CO7), 3) preservation of night skies (JT/CO8). The 2007 Joshua Tree Community Plan Open Space section speaks directly to the goal of preserving the Mojave Desert's



characteristic open space lands and vistas (JT/OS 2) and Joshua Tree (and adjacent desert communities) as protected lineage zones of wildlife movement (JT/OS 2.8) so that “projects shall be designed to minimize impacts to those area.”

And yet in the years between 2007 and the present, time and time again the County allowed projects that clearly violate these policies to move forward, i.e. industrial scale NextEra solar Project slated for the Joshua Tree Roy Williams Airport location on Sunfair Road which, although not executed, cleared land and disrupted areas already dealing with dangerous amounts of PM 10 (particulate matter with diameters less than 10 micrometers). The abundance of industrial scale project proposals approved for review is evidence that the County is overlooking its responsibility to the 2007 Joshua Tree Community Plan. To this point, if an EIR is to be conducted in full, the County needs to install a PM 10 monitoring station in the Joshua Tree area (as of right now, the closest one is in Lucerne Valley) so as to have accurate statistical research on some of the effects of these previously approved and damaging projects. Further, the County must take the opportunity to strengthen its language in line with the recommendations made by the Morongo Basin Conservation Association in their letter dated July, 24th, 2017 with regard to the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element (found [here](#)).

Last, any proposed Countywide Plan land use changes must be accompanied by an explicit project presentation to the Morongo Advisory Council prior to implementation. This presentation must include a clear policy and project outline of what the County is proposing so Joshua Tree and the adjacent desert communities have a opportunity to review what these proposed changes mean in terms of the current Joshua Tree Community Plan.

In closing, the myth of Joshua Tree as unoccupied and underdeveloped land is faulty and must be corrected whenever this mythos is used in arguments for projects that are outright damaging to resources of our area - wildlife corridors, flora that prevents the off-drift of soil into highly dangerous particular matter, vistas that maintain natural view sheds - all of which are, unfortunately in our political era, under siege. To this point, the County’s EIR on the Countywide Plan must maintain a position that recognizes in full the established 2007 Joshua Tree Community Plan and requires developers to hold to the standards expounded therein.

Corporate, commercial interests never align with public needs unless strong oversight is in place and robust policies state unequivocally the consequences of violations of set principles. This is the County’s job. This is what the 2007 Community Plan achieved. The County must recognized its responsibilities to this adopted and enacted plan in its Countywide Plan Program Environmental Impact Report.

Cat Celebrezze  
Joshua Tree, California  
[gojiracat@gmail.com](mailto:gojiracat@gmail.com)

SENT VIA USPS AND E-MAIL:

November 17, 2017

[CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov)

Jerry L. Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator  
County of San Bernardino  
Land Use Services Department  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

**Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the  
San Bernardino Countywide Plan**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) staff appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. SCAQMD staff's comments are recommendations regarding the analysis of potential air quality impacts from the Proposed Project that should be included in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Please send SCAQMD a copy of the EIR upon its completion. Note that copies of the EIR that are submitted to the State Clearinghouse are not forwarded to SCAQMD. Please forward a copy of the EIR directly to SCAQMD at the address shown in the letterhead. **In addition, please send with the EIR all appendices or technical documents related to the air quality, health risk, and greenhouse gas analyses and electronic versions of all air quality modeling and health risk assessment files<sup>1</sup>. These include emission calculation spreadsheets and modeling input and output files (not PDF files). Without all files and supporting documentation, SCAQMD staff will be unable to complete our review of the air quality analyses in a timely manner. Any delays in providing all supporting documentation will require additional time for review beyond the end of the comment period.**

**Air Quality Analysis**

The SCAQMD adopted its California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Air Quality Handbook in 1993 to assist other public agencies with the preparation of air quality analyses. The SCAQMD staff recommends that the Lead Agency use this Handbook as guidance when preparing its air quality analyses. Copies of the Handbook are available from the SCAQMD's Subscription Services Department by calling (909) 396-3720. More recent guidance developed since this Handbook was published is also available on SCAQMD's website at: [http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/ceqa-air-quality-handbook-\(1993\)](http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/ceqa-air-quality-handbook-(1993)). The SCAQMD staff also recommends that the Lead Agency use the CalEEMod land use emissions software. This software has recently been updated to incorporate up-to-date state and locally approved emission factors and methodologies for estimating pollutant emissions from typical land use development. CalEEMod is the only software model maintained by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) and replaces the now outdated URBEMIS. This model is available free of charge at: [www.caleemod.com](http://www.caleemod.com).

On March 3, 2017, the SCAQMD's Governing Board adopted the 2016 Air Quality Management Plan (2016 AQMP), which was later approved by the California Air Resources Board on March 23, 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15174, the information contained in an EIR shall include summarized technical data, maps, plot plans, diagrams, and similar relevant information sufficient to permit full assessment of significant environmental impacts by reviewing agencies and members of the public. Placement of highly technical and specialized analysis and data in the body of an EIR should be avoided through inclusion of supporting information and analyses as appendices to the main body of the EIR. Appendices to the EIR may be prepared in volumes separate from the basic EIR document, but shall be readily available for public examination and shall be submitted to all clearinghouses which assist in public review.

Built upon the progress in implementing the 2007 and 2012 AQMPs, the 2016 AQMP provides a regional perspective on air quality and the challenges facing the South Coast Air Basin. The most significant air quality challenge in the Basin is to achieve an additional 45 percent reduction in nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions in 2023 and an additional 55 percent NO<sub>x</sub> reduction beyond 2031 levels for ozone attainment. The 2016 AQMP is available on SCAQMD's website at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/library/clean-air-plans/air-quality-mgt-plan>.

SCAQMD staff recognizes that there are many factors Lead Agencies must consider when making local planning and land use decisions. To facilitate stronger collaboration between Lead Agencies and the SCAQMD to reduce community exposure to source-specific and cumulative air pollution impacts, the SCAQMD adopted the Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning in 2005. This Guidance Document provides suggested policies that local governments can use in their General Plans or through local planning to prevent or reduce potential air pollution impacts and protect public health. SCAQMD staff recommends that the Lead Agency review this Guidance Document as a tool when making local planning and land use decisions. This Guidance Document is available on SCAQMD's website at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/library/documents-support-material/planning-guidance/guidance-document>. Additional guidance on siting incompatible land uses (such as placing homes near freeways or other polluting sources) can be found in the California Air Resources Board's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective*, which can be found at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/handbook.pdf>. Guidance<sup>2</sup> on strategies to reduce air pollution exposure near high-volume roadways can be found at: [https://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/rd\\_technical\\_advisory\\_final.PDF](https://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/rd_technical_advisory_final.PDF).

The SCAQMD has also developed both regional and localized significance thresholds. SCAQMD staff requests that the Lead Agency compare the emission results to the recommended regional significance thresholds found here: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/scaqmd-air-quality-significance-thresholds.pdf>. In addition to analyzing regional air quality impacts, SCAQMD staff recommends calculating localized air quality impacts and comparing the results to localized significance thresholds (LSTs). LSTs can be used in addition to the recommended regional significance thresholds as a second indication of air quality impacts when preparing a CEQA document. Therefore, when preparing the air quality analysis for the Proposed Project, it is recommended that the Lead Agency perform a localized analysis by either using the LSTs developed by the SCAQMD or performing dispersion modeling as necessary. Guidance for performing a localized air quality analysis can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/localized-significance-thresholds>.

When specific development is reasonably foreseeable as result of the goals, policies, and guidelines in the Proposed Project, the Lead Agency should identify any potential adverse air quality impacts and sources of air pollution that could occur using its best efforts to find out and a good-faith effort at full disclosure in the EIR. The degree of specificity will correspond to the degree of specificity involved in the underlying activity which is described in the EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15146). When quantifying air quality emissions, emissions from both construction (including demolition, if any) and operations should be calculated. Construction-related air quality impacts typically include, but are not limited to, emissions from the use of heavy-duty equipment from grading, earth-loading/unloading, paving, architectural coatings, off-road mobile sources (e.g., heavy-duty construction equipment) and on-road mobile sources (e.g., construction worker vehicle trips, material transport trips). Operation-related air

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<sup>2</sup> In April 2017, CARB published a technical advisory, *Strategies to Reduce Air Pollution Exposure Near High-Volume Roadways: Technical Advisory*, to supplement CARB's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective*. This technical advisory is intended to provide information on strategies to reduce exposures to traffic emissions near high-volume roadways to assist land use planning and decision-making in order to protect public health and promote equity and environmental justice. The technical advisory is available at: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/landuse.htm>.

quality impacts may include, but are not limited to, emissions from stationary sources (e.g., boilers), area sources (e.g., solvents and coatings), and vehicular trips (e.g., on- and off-road tailpipe emissions and entrained dust). Air quality impacts from indirect sources, such as sources that generate or attract vehicular trips, should be included in the analysis. Furthermore, for phased projects where there will be an overlap between construction and operation, the air quality impacts from the overlap should be combined and compared to SCAQMD's regional air quality CEQA operational thresholds to determine significance.

In the event that the Proposed Project generates or attracts vehicular trips, especially heavy-duty diesel-fueled vehicles, it is recommended that the Lead Agency perform a mobile source health risk assessment. Guidance for performing a mobile source health risk assessment ("*Health Risk Assessment Guidance for Analyzing Cancer Risk from Mobile Source Diesel Idling Emissions for CEQA Air Quality Analysis*") can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/mobile-source-toxics-analysis>. An analysis of all toxic air contaminant impacts due to the use of equipment potentially generating such air pollutants should also be included.

### **Mitigation Measures**

In the event that the Proposed Project generates significant adverse air quality impacts, CEQA requires that all feasible mitigation measures that go beyond what is required by law be utilized during project construction and operation to minimize or eliminate these impacts. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4 (a)(1)(D), any impacts resulting from mitigation measures must also be discussed. Several resources are available to assist the Lead Agency with identifying possible mitigation measures for the Proposed Project, including:

- Chapter 11 of the SCAQMD *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*
- SCAQMD's CEQA web pages available here: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/mitigation-measures-and-control-efficiencies>
- SCAQMD's Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust, and the Implementation Handbook for controlling construction-related emissions and Rule 1403 – Asbestos Emissions from Demolition/Renovation Activities
- SCAG's MMRP for the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy available here: [http://scagtrtpscs.net/Documents/2016/peir/final/2016fPEIR\\_ExhibitB\\_MMRP.pdf](http://scagtrtpscs.net/Documents/2016/peir/final/2016fPEIR_ExhibitB_MMRP.pdf)
- CAPCOA's *Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures* available here: <http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf>

### **Alternatives**

In the event that the Proposed Project generates significant adverse air quality impacts, CEQA requires the consideration and discussion of alternatives to the project or its location which are capable of avoiding or substantially lessening any of the significant effects of the project. The discussion of a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives, including a "no project" alternative, is intended to foster informed decision-making and public participation. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(d), the EIR shall include sufficient information about each alternative to allow meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison with the Proposed Project.

### **Permits**

In the event that the Proposed Project requires a permit from SCAQMD, SCAQMD should be identified as a responsible agency for the Proposed Project. For more information on permits, please visit

SCAQMD webpage at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/permits>. Questions on permits can be directed to SCAQMD's Engineering and Permitting staff at (909) 396-3385.

**Data Sources**

SCAQMD rules and relevant air quality reports and data are available by calling the SCAQMD's Public Information Center at (909) 396-2039. Much of the information available through the Public Information Center is also available via the SCAQMD's webpage (<http://www.aqmd.gov>).

The SCAQMD staff is available to work with the Lead Agency to ensure that project air quality and health risk impacts are accurately evaluated and mitigated where feasible. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at [lsun@aqmd.gov](mailto:lsun@aqmd.gov) or call me at (909) 396-3308.

Sincerely,

*Lijin Sun*

Lijin Sun, J.D.  
Program Supervisor, CEQA IGR  
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources

LS  
SBC171017-03  
Control Number



## ***TWENTY-NINE PALMS BAND OF MISSION INDIANS***

*46-200 Harrison Place . Coachella, California . 92236 . Ph. 760.863.2444 . Fax: 760.863.2449*

November 17, 2017


Jerry Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator  
San Bernardino County Planning Department  
385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

**RE: Notice and Preparation and Scoping Meeting for the San Bernardino County  
Countywide Plan Environmental Impact Report**

Dear Mr. Blum:

This letter is in regards to continued consultation for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan Environmental Impact Report. As stated in our letter sent January 6, 2017, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office has concerns with some of the community plan areas having the possibility of adverse effects on potential cultural resources that concern the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians. Additionally, the County Policy Plan consists of goals and policies of Cultural and Tribal Resources. Once the Draft EIR is made available, the THPO requests to review this document. We are interested in the project, and request to be notified of any changes or updates to the Countywide Plan. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Tribal Historic Preservation Office at (760) 775-3259 or by email: [TNPConsultation@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov](mailto:TNPConsultation@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Anthony Madrigal, Jr.  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Darrell Mike, Twenty-Nine Palms Tribal Chairman  
Sarah Bliss, Twenty-Nine Palms Tribal Cultural Specialist

November 17, 2017

Karen Watkins, Land Use Services, San Bernardino County  
385 North Arrowhead Ave.,  
San Bernardino. CA 92415-0187

Quiet Skies lake Arrowhead (QSLA) is a grass roots organization representing approximately 3,900 petitioners concerned with low flying loud aircraft crossing over Lake Arrowhead and surrounding communities. QSLA is concerned about the environmental impacts of the new proposed San Bernardino County General Plan (GP).

The updated San Bernardino Countywide GP will govern the type and location of any new development and as a project of statewide, regional and/or areawide significance, this updated GP may lead to significant adverse changes to the environment. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR) must be designed to inform decision makers and the public of the potentially significant environmental impacts and possible ways to avoid or reduce any significant environmental impacts.

Background of QSLA organization: QSLA has repeatedly asked the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to move the new flight path routing jet air craft inbound to Ontario International Airport (ONT) across communities surrounding Lake Arrowhead. Marketing efforts by ONT demonstrate there will be increased air travel on the new flight path. While air travel across the local mountain communities in San Bernardino county is an essential part of routing aircraft into ONT in compliance with the FAA's SoCal Metroplex, negative effects of jet pollution and noise must be moved back to the Heaps Peak Transfer station to diminish significant environmental impacts and sustain a positive quality of life for residents and tourists.

San Bernardino County Supervisor Janice Rutherford, has been extremely supportive to efforts by QSLA to move the new flight path back to the uninhabited and open lands of the Lucerne Valley approach with aircraft crossing the Rim of the World State Highway 18 at Heaps Peak region. While SoCal Metroplex is not a part of the San Bernardino County GP project, this project has now altered the environmental baseline of the local communities (like any other environmental disaster) and environmental impacts to the local area due to this project should be considered and analyzed in the baseline of the area Community Plan, as part of the Countywide GP and EIR. In particular, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has determined this area an 'Non Attainment Area' for air quality elements and particulates, how does the SoCal Metroplex project impacts now add to the air quality effects in this area?

Although a General Plan EIR may not be as detailed as other specific project EIRs that may follow, it is critical that a GP EIR identify Alternatives, Mitigation and Cumulative Impacts, and Growth Inducing Impacts of the new plan. QSLA recommends identification and analysis of several potential impacts. These include:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources (protection criteria/standards)
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Noise



- Hazards and hazardous materials
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Environmental Justice/Social impacts

The purpose of this scoping outreach for the Countywide Plan is to receive comments on the scope and content of the programmatic EIR. QSLA will be monitoring the continuing evolution of the programmatic EIR and the Countywide Plan. We consider it imperative that the draft EIR address the above potential impacts and must present clear and comprehensive procedures and standards for the health and protection of the citizens of this county and the vital natural resources that are such an important component of our mountain communities.

On behalf of the Quiet Skies Lake Arrowhead, thank you for your attention to these comments and please add my contact information to the project's mailing list.

Christine A. Del Ross-Risher, AICP  
delrossrisher.chris@gmail.com  
Environmental Chair, QSLA

cc: Supervisor Janice Rutherford  
David Caine, QSLA



## Michelle Halligan

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**From:** Shauna Tucker <shaunatuckernyc@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 19, 2017 7:30 PM  
**To:** CountywidePlan  
**Subject:** NOP / PROGRAM EIR PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMISSION

To SBC Land Use Services:

Upon review, these documents raise several immediate and important concerns regarding the scope and content of the Countywide Plan EIR – many of which I know you will be hearing about in great detail from a number of equally concerned citizens and organizations.

In my comment I am simply stating that you have given the public inadequate time and provided insufficient local outreach and education to allow for a fair and accurate assessment of everything you are proposing and presenting.

Every one of these elements should be evaluated at the local level through an *extensive* public process – with an *abundant* opportunity for public review, analysis and input – and with *ample* opportunity for communities to voice and submit their opinions.

Therefore, I would strongly urge the County and LUS to extend the public process to include public Q&A meetings, more informative outreach materials and presentations, and additional time beyond those actions for public comments to be submitted.

Making educated and informed plans, decisions and comments is something we take very seriously in our communities, and we also expect that our electeds and appointeds at the County level do and will provide for on our behalf.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Shauna Tucker  
Joshua Tree, CA  
shaunatuckernyc@aol.com

**From:** Countywide Plan Site Admin  
**To:** [Colin Drukker](#); [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov); [Halley Grundy](#); [Frances Yau](#)  
**Subject:** San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
**Date:** Sunday, November 19, 2017 4:33:21 PM

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From: Paula Deel <deelpum2@gmail.com>  
Subject: San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
Community: Newberry Springs

Message Body:

EIR must address our existing issues of Water overdraft and ecology of our desert. Clearing large parcels and planting high water use crops is detrimental to everyone.

Add to mailing list: Yes

Comment sent from: <http://countywideplan.com/eir/eircomment/>

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on San Bernardino Countywide Plan (<http://countywideplan.com>)

**From:** [Colin Drukker](#)  
**To:** [Frances Yau](#); [JoAnn Hadfield](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Countywide Plan Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 9:47:32 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Paula Deel (2<sup>nd</sup> letter – **not a repeat** of the first comment).

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**From:** Peterson, Suzanne [mailto:Suzanne.Peterson@lus.sbcounty.gov] **On Behalf Of** CountywidePlan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 9:45 AM  
**To:** Paula Deel <sweetrockhomestead@earthlink.net>  
**Cc:** Paul <deelplum1@gmail.com>; Vickie Paulsen <words4fun@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Countywide Plan Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Comment

Hi Paula,

This letter you included has also been added along with your previous comments.

Thanks,  
Suzanne

Please take a moment to complete our 1 Minute Satisfaction Survey [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LUS\\_Email](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LUS_Email)

**Suzanne Peterson**  
Planner  
**Land Use Services Department**  
Phone: 909-387-4739  
Fax: 909-387-3223  
385 N. Arrowhead Ave  
San Bernardino, CA, 92415-0187



*Our job is to create a county in which those who reside and invest can prosper and achieve well-being.*

[www.SBCounty.gov](http://www.SBCounty.gov)

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**From:** Paula Deel [mailto:sweetrockhomestead@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 19, 2017 4:47 PM  
**To:** CountywidePlan <CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov>  
**Cc:** Paul <deelplum1@gmail.com>; Vickie Paulsen <words4fun@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Countywide Plan Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Comment

November 19, 2017

Jerry L. Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator  
County of San Bernardino  
Land Use Services Department  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Subject: Scope and content of the information and analysis to be included in the  
Countywide Plan Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Dear Mr. Blum:

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should study how a proposed project will work for the project area. This EIR should determine if the proposed County Plan will best serve its residents.

We address specifically the Newberry Springs area.

Will the proposed land use designations be compatible with existing conditions?

1) Water

Newberry Springs is in overdraft. Currently there is nothing in place to prevent additional high water users in Newberry Springs (alfalfa, marijuana, higher density population, lakes, etc.) The new County Plan should address this issue and correct it. Minimum parcel size 10 acres; no new alfalfa fields; no new lakes, etc.

2) Ecology

Our desert is very fragile. When the ground is disturbed it takes a very long time for it to heal. When acreage is cleared (example: for a solar farm) the surrounding properties are inundated with blowing sand. Coupled with our dropping water table it is disastrous.

These are two areas that are a major concern for us.

We are a rural area and should be addressed as such; urban rules and regulations do not always apply.

Thank you for your consideration of the above.



Paul Deel  
Newberry Springs Economic Development Association



## INLAND EMPIRE BIKING ALLIANCE

19 November 2017

Jerry L. Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator  
County of San Bernardino  
Land Use Services Department  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
San Bernardino, Ca 92415

Re: Comments on Countywide Plan EIR Notice of Preparation

Dear Mr. Blum,

I am writing on behalf of the Inland Empire Biking Alliance in response to the Notice of Preparation for the Environmental Impact Report to be prepared for the Countywide Plan. As an organization dedicated to seeing bicycling in the most dangerous area of the state be improved, we also realize that being involved in the planning process is crucial for ensuring that changes can be made to improve safety conditions for everyone across the county and that there is tremendous value in not having to wait for more people to be injured or killed before addressing known problems. Additionally, the planning process provides a tremendous opportunity to save money by integrating improvements that improve safety and quality of life as part of the regular cycle of construction and maintenance. This is of the utmost importance for infrastructure for vulnerable users which typically only receive a minute portion of the budget, despite accounting for double-digit percentages of those who are seriously injured or killed on the streets.

To address these issues, there are several things that need to be included and done for the completion of the Environmental Impact Report. The most important step that needs to be taken is to analyze traffic impacts using the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) metric that has been developed by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research as directed by SB 743 (Steinberg, 2013). While OPR has indicated that the new guidelines are not yet applicable statewide, it is imperative that a document like the Countywide Plan with a long period of implementation use that analysis because the updated requirements will be in effect before the horizon of the Plan is reached. Having compliant analyses already completed will save time and money for future projects.

Additionally, AB 1358 (Leno, 2008) requires that general plan circulation elements revised after January 1, 2011 to be modified to provide a balanced transportation network for all road users, including bicyclists and pedestrians. Therefore, to ensure that the circulation element is in fact balanced, it is equally as imperative that any traffic impact analysis that is completed based on the level of service (LOS) standards include an analysis of the LOS impacts to **all** users, including bicyclists (BLOS) and pedestrians (PLOS). Standards for this analysis are included in the 2010 Highway Capacity Manual that is often used as a source of the calculations to be conducted as part of the analysis.



## INLAND EMPIRE BIKING ALLIANCE

However, BLOS and PLOS are a bare minimum of what is necessary. As noted at the Scoping Meeting held on October 26, 2017, the County has selected Fehr & Peers as the consultant to conduct the Transportation/Traffic analysis. We believe that the County must make full use of the innovative tools that Fehr & Peers has developed such as StreetScore+. The StreetScore+ tool is used for analyzing bicyclist and pedestrian impacts in a manner that is equitable and addresses the real problems faced by vulnerable users, something that is instrumental in meeting the equity requirements set forth by SB 1000 (Leyva, 2016).

We are also concerned about safety and encourage the County to reject infrastructure that is known to be unsafe. The use of StreetScore+ will go far toward addressing this problem for bicyclists and pedestrians, but we would also like to see intersection safety for all users be taken seriously as well. To do that, the County needs to further the installation and use of roundabouts at intersections instead of traffic signals. Research has shown that roundabouts are a proven and effective measure to reduce serious injuries and especially deaths at intersections<sup>1</sup>, with the avoidance of just a single serious injury often being able to cover any price difference between a signalized intersection and a roundabout. As such, it is important that any analysis that would lead to a recommendation of the addition of traffic signals at an intersection should instead make the use of roundabouts the default instead.

To recap, IEBA has several concerns that need to be addressed as part of the EIR process. It would be preferable for the County to also include VMT as part of the analysis of traffic impacts and any LOS-based analysis needs to include BLOS and PLOS. Additionally, the County should leverage the suite of tools that has been developed by Fehr & Peers to provide a comprehensive Countywide Plan that addresses the issues faced by all road users, including the most vulnerable. We look forward to seeing these concerns addressed as part of the EIR to be prepared.

Sincerely,

Marven E. Norman, Policy Director

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<sup>1</sup> Roundabouts: An informational guide, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. NCHRP 672. Retrieved online on 20 November 2017 from <https://nacto.org/docs/usdg/nchrprpt672.pdf>.

**From:** Countywide Plan Site Admin  
**To:** [Colin Drukker](#); [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov); [Halley Grundy](#); [Frances Yau](#)  
**Subject:** San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2017 1:47:20 PM

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From: Robert L. Berkman <ctcdaggett@mindspring.com>  
Subject: San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
Community: Newberry Springs

Message Body:  
Restore Policy 410 (Solar Development) for protection of residential locations.

Add to mailing list: Yes  
Comment sent from: <http://countywideplan.com/eir/eircomment/>

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on San Bernardino Countywide Plan (<http://countywideplan.com>)



November 20, 2017

**Delivered via online submission and via electronic mail**

Terri Rahhal, Planning Director  
Jerry L. Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator  
County of San Bernardino  
Land Use Services Department  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415  
CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov

**Re: Notice of Preparation for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan Environmental Impact Report**

Dear Ms. Rahhal and Mr. Blum

As a compliment to observations we have provided at the October 13, 2017 Scoping Meeting, we appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (dEIR) the San Bernardino Countywide Plan (Countywide Plan, the Plan).

***Limited inclusion of Environmental Justice (EJ) communities does not provide for an adequate analysis in the dEIR of potential impacts and mitigation measures.***

The passage of Senate Bill 1000 (Leyva, 2016), Planning for Healthy Communities Act, was designed to improve local planning efforts to reduce negative disproportionate environmental, public health and public safety impacts on California's most vulnerable residents by ensuring that local governments include Environmental Justice Elements and/or policies in General Plans when they are updated. Having a General Plan with specific environmental justice policies and guidelines will help position San Bernardino County to access state funding to support necessary mitigation measures that will protect EJ communities from harmful environmental impacts. Even more so stand-alone EJ policies will ensure all San Bernardino residents have access to prosperity and healthy communities.

We are disappointed to note the failure to include the mention of Environmental Justice Communities in Section 4, *Probable Environmental Effects*, in the NOP dEIR. For example, the unincorporated community of Bloomington would clearly qualify as an EJ community based on California Environmental Protection Agency's (CalEPA) CalEnviroScreen Tool (Census Tract: 6071003606). Bloomington is in the bottom 81-85% of the overall CalEnviroScreen 3.0, and more notably Ozone in the bottom 98 percentile and PM 2.5 in the bottom 93 percentile. Clearly specific analysis of the impacts of both Ozone and PM 2.5 should be highlighted in the dEIR analysis of the County Wide Plan to adequately assess potential hazards to the most vulnerable communities within the Plan's boundaries. We recommend a specific analysis on impacts and mitigation measures for all EJ communities to meet minimum standards of analysis in the DEIR.

Even more so, residents living in EJ communities should be targeted in and adequately notified to ensure participation in the entire outreach process for the dEIR. The Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ) has communicated with residents of Bloomington and have noted that these residents were not adequately notified of the NOP dEIR process, we would like to see the deadline for comments extended and specific inclusion of all EJ communities should be prioritized to ensure an adequate analysis in the dEIR.

***Air Quality and Indirect Source Rule***

We recommend the dEIR analyze consistency with the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) South Coast Air Quality Management Plan, the analysis should calculate cumulative regional impacts of the Plan's buildout. In particular the analysis should include a specific analysis of impacts on Ozone and PM 2.5 in terms of attainment of Air Quality Standards in the South Coast Air Quality Basin. Even more so we recommend the dEIR provide analysis of a Plan scenario with an Indirect Source Rule (ISR), the analysis should compare buildout and cumulative impacts on both Ozone and PM 2.5 in a potential ISR scenario to a scenario without an ISR. Furthermore the dEIR should present an analysis of mitigation measure for both ISR and non ISR scenarios.

### ***Health Impact Assessment***

We recommend the dEIR conduct a Health Impact assessment(HIA) as a component of the dEIR. The assessment should focus on the differential impacts on EJ communities in the County's jurisdiction. We specifically request an analysis of potential increase in health care costs for individuals in EJ communities resulting from exposure to elevated toxins. The HIA would help the County determine the economic impact and burden on residents in EJ communities within the Plan's boundaries. Even more so, the HIA would help identify necessary mitigation measures and public health disparities for the County's EJ communities.

We recommend the HIA address potential impacts on sensitive land uses within a ½ mile, 1 mile, 1.5 mile and 2 mile radius of industrial zoned land within the Plan's boundaries. Both CARB and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) recommend placing sensitive land uses, such as housing schools, etc should be places at least 1,000 feet from indirect mobile sources such as distribution centers. We are concerned that the Air Quality impact would exacerbate cancer risk and health risk in the area and as such the HIA should specifically address these risks.

### ***Inadequate analysis of Projected Growth in the Unincorporated Communities***

We are concerned the projected growth identified on Table 1 fails to provide realistic metrics for employment and housing, shifts in these metrics would change shift many environmental impacts and potential mitigation measures. Unincorporated communities in the Valley region, where the majority of growth will occur, are undergoing unprecedented shifts in land use and limited diversification in employment.

For example, in the community of Bloomington current zoning is being shifted, from residential to industrial, to accommodate increased development of warehousing such zoning dramatically change the Growth Forecast for these unincorporated areas. Recently, in Bloomington, the County rezoned several parcels from residential to industrial and approved logistics centers for the newly zoned land. The re-zone will reduce the current available housing stock and shift employment trends, residents will have to travel farther to access jobs and this will in turn increase emissions. These shifts are wholly omitted from the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategies (RTP/SCS) produced by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and should be scrutinized in the dEIR, if the current shift in zoning is not included in the analysis of the results will be inadequate at best.

We recommend that all public information available on amendments proposed by developers or other entities to change land use designations in unincorporated be included in the dEIR as part of the analysis. Changes in land use designations from residential to industrial or rural to industrial will have a significant impact on the Environmental Impacts of the Plan, failure to analyze these amendments will produce an inadequate dEIR. Furthermore, we recommend the dEIR analyze

current zoning and create new metrics for projected growth, particularly for EJ communities, in order to produce an effective analysis of environmental impacts on the Plan.

\* \* \* \* \*

We welcome sustained collaboration with the San Bernardino County and will continue to engage in all processes regarding the proposed project. We look forward to your feedback. Please contact any of following CCAEJ team members: Esther Portillo, Ericka Flores, and Michele Hasson at: 951-360-845.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Michele Hasson, Policy Director  
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice



November 20, 2017

Jerry L. Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator  
County of San Bernardino  
Land Use Services Department  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Delivered via email to [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov)

**RE: Notice of Preparation – San Bernardino Countywide Plan  
Environmental Impact Report**

Dear Mr. Blum:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the notice of preparation (NOP) for the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) being prepared for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan (Plan). The EIR is intended to provide program-level CEQA review of the short and long term effects of the Countywide Plan on the environment.

These comments are submitted on behalf of Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders); a non-profit environmental organization with 1.2 million supporters nationally, including 170,000 in California. Defenders is dedicated to protecting all wild animals and plants in their natural communities. To that end, Defenders employs science, public education and participation, media, legislative advocacy, litigation, and proactive on-the-ground solutions in order to prevent the extinction of species, associated loss of biological diversity, and habitat alteration and destruction.

With over 12 million acres San Bernardino is the largest county in the nation and about 80% of that land is under federal ownership. Of the remaining private lands about 96% of the County is unincorporated. The proposed Plan is intended to be a comprehensive plan driven by the 2011 Countywide Vision and would meet California Code requirements for a general plan. For planning purposes the county has been into four distinct geographical regions: Valley, Mountain, North Desert, and East Desert. The Plan will include four major components: County Policy Plan, Community Plans Continuum, County Business Plan, and Regional Issues Forum.

The Countywide Plan is intended to be a comprehensive approach to implementing the Countywide Vision by taking into account all services provided by County Government and to reflect the values and priorities of each

**California Program Office**  
980 9th Street, Suite 1730  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Telephone 916-313-5800  
Fax 916-313-5812  
[www.defenders.org/california](http://www.defenders.org/california)

unincorporated community. In particular, the County Policy Plan would be the long-term guide for “developing, servicing, maintaining, protecting, and improving its land, resources, people, institutions, and organizations.

Defenders supports “complete county” planning that is science based and values the protection of natural resources as part of community and economic vitality. The ideals set forth in the 2011 Countywide Vision can only be achieved with thoughtful, informed decision making. The PEIR’s scope, identification and analysis of impacts, and the consideration of alternatives are essential to meeting the County’s ambitious vision and goals.

## **COMMENTS**

The PEIR is intended to inform the public and decision-makers of potential project impacts, identify options to avoid and reduce environmental impacts, look at alternative plans that may avoid or minimize impacts, and encourage inter-agency coordination. The PEIR for the Countywide Plan will be prepared in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statutes and Guidelines, and it will focus on the primary effects than can be expected to occur after the adoption of the Countywide Plan. Defenders understand that because of this, the Program EIR will not be as detailed as a Project EIR commonly prepared for a specific development or construction project. The PEIR should provide the following:

### **Science Based Baseline Biological Information**

San Bernardino County is home to a wealth of special status species, habitats, and ecosystems. These species and ecosystems continue to face an array of impacts and stresses; including habitat fragmentation, pollution, invasive species, and climate change, and are vulnerable to further impacts from poorly planned or implemented policies and development. We recommend the County engage in full consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for guidance on impact assessment and mitigation. We encourage the County to undertake a comprehensive review of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB)<sup>1</sup> and RAREFIND Program<sup>2</sup> for biological resource site specifics in developing the Countywide Plan EIR, the supporting Policy Plan, and Individual Community Plans.

The PEIR should utilize the extensive biological information outlined in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan<sup>3</sup> (DRECP) Desert Biological Conservation Framework<sup>4</sup> in conducting the

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<sup>1</sup> California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2017. California Natural Diversity Database. Headquarters. Sacramento, California. <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB>.

<sup>2</sup> CDFW. 2017. CNDDB Maps and Data. Headquarters. Sacramento, California. <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Maps-and-Data>.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.drecp.org/>

<sup>4</sup> California Energy Commission (CEC), California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2016. California Desert Biological Conservation Framework. CEC Headquarters. Sacramento, California. [http://www.drecp.org/documents/docs/conservationbio/CA\\_Desert\\_Bio\\_Conservation\\_Framework\\_w\\_Appendices.pdf](http://www.drecp.org/documents/docs/conservationbio/CA_Desert_Bio_Conservation_Framework_w_Appendices.pdf).

EIR analysis for the Countywide Plan. Table A-1 (Framework Biological Goals and Objectives) of this document and the supporting DRECP Baseline Biology Report<sup>5</sup> in particular, provide a wealth of biological resource data that can greatly inform the PEIR, County Policy planning, and Individual Community Plan development.

Data gathered during the County's Regional Conservation Investment Strategy<sup>6</sup> (RCIS) planning efforts<sup>7</sup> will also point towards appropriate focal species to be analyzed by the PEIR. The RCIS is a voluntary, collaborative, non-regulatory conservation assessment process intended to result in high-quality conservation outcomes and which can inform open space planning. It can also deliver an advance mitigation tool. There is an opportunity here with the Countywide Plan and RCIS Planning for the County to craft future growth and planning in a manner that minimizes the further loss of habitat for threatened and endangered species, as well as promotes listed species' recovery and builds on previous conservation investments. Such planning can build upon previous land use planning investments, reduce on-the-ground impacts to certain species; and reduce the need to list certain special status species per the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and/or the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (e.g., Mohave ground squirrel).

### **Stewardship of Natural Resources**

The County is rich in natural resources which include biological resources. The Countywide Plan has the following Stewardship Goal *"Communities that protect the viability of natural resources and open spaces as valuable environmental, aesthetic, and economic assets."*

Long-term resource conservation and open space planning/management are certainly Quality of Life aspects that can easily be integrated into the County's current planning endeavors. Long-term resource conservation and open space planning/management should be addressed and incorporated into the PEIR to inform the County's current planning endeavors. The inclusion of a section analyzing resource conservation and open space opportunities in Individual Community Plan areas is needed to inform these Plans and provide consistency and direction for the Countywide Plan.

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<sup>5</sup> Dudek and ICF. 2012. Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Baseline Biology Report. Document prepared for California Energy Commission (CEC). CEC Headquarters. Sacramento, California. [http://www.drecp.org/documents/docs/baseline\\_biology\\_report/](http://www.drecp.org/documents/docs/baseline_biology_report/).

<sup>6</sup> California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2017. Regional Conservation Investment Strategies Program. Headquarters. Sacramento, California. <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=141619&inline>.

<sup>7</sup> San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. 2016. Resolution No. 20. Resolution Authorizing Participation in a Pilot Program of the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy Initiative. San Bernardino, California.

## **Regional Ecology**

The PEIR should analyze the Countywide Plan for potential impacts and provide avoidance and minimization measures to protect the ecology of the following:

### **Valley Region**

The Valley Region once supported large expanses of alluvial fan scrub, grassland, meadow and riparian forest; as well as several specialized plant and animal species. However, the extent and connectivity of these natural communities has declined considerably in recent years. The degree of urbanization is highest and federal land ownership lowest in the Valley Region of the County and future development potential is high.

### **California Desert**

The portion of the California Desert within San Bernardino County (i.e., North & East Desert Regions) is an incredibly diverse region supporting vast expanses of creosote bush scrub, narrow ribbons of streamside forest, rare life-giving spring-wetlands, dry lakes/playas, mountain peaks and canyons, unique plant assemblages and natural communities, as well as several highly-adapted suites of wildlife. Federal land ownership is relatively high in the North Desert Region (i.e., public lands & military installations) and future development potential on private lands is also considered high. However, future development potential in the East Desert Region, where federal land ownership is highest, is considered low.

### **Mountain Region**

The Mountain Region of the County is intimately linked to both the West Desert and Valley Regions hydrologically; and there are a number of special status animal species known from West Desert and Valley Regions which travel through the Mountains Region in certain seasons. Federal land ownership (i.e., national forest) is fairly high in the Mountain Region and the development potential here is considered low.

### **Water Resources**

Water, as well as that terrain and those plant communities associated with waterways and wetlands, are a key natural resource feature of the East Desert, Mountain, Valley, and North Desert Regions of the County. The Mojave River of the North Desert Region is a singularly defining feature; with its rare springs, washes and dry lakes also considered critical waters/waterway features. The Colorado River, along with springs, washes and dry lakes/playas, are similarly defining features of the East Desert Region; and the Santa Ana River, a defining feature of the Valley Region. Several primary creeks, lakes and canyons are defining waters/waterway features of the Mountain Region.



## Biological Resources

The County is rich in natural resources and special status species. PEIR must fully consider impacts to these species from the Countywide Plan and how the Countywide Plan can benefit biological resources and special status species to meet the County's stewardship goals.

### Focal Species

We suggest that summarized information on focal species and special status natural communities within County Sub-areas, at a minimum, are considered in development of the Policy Plan and Individual Community Plans. As mentioned previously, the DRECP Desert Biological Conservation Framework (CEC et al. 2016) and the DRECP Baseline Biology Report (Dudek and ICF 2012), both provide considerable supporting information relative to potential focal species and special status natural communities. Data gathered during recent County planning efforts may also point towards appropriate focal species to consider for individual sub-areas being addressed in countywide planning.

Many of the species in the Tables below are considered keystone, umbrella or otherwise indicative of natural system conditions. Critical habitat has been designated for some; and recovery planning has also been completed for several. A considerable number of other non-listed special status species, some of which are also keystone, umbrella or indicator species, are also known from the County. Proactive planning can address how habitat supporting these listed species can be managed for long-term conservation in the midst of environmental stressors like climate change, invasive species renewable energy development and community growth. Such planning can build upon previous land/planning investments; can reduce on-the-ground impacts to certain species; and consequently, the need to list certain special status species per the ESA and/or CESA.

Arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*), San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*), southern rubber boa (*Charina umbratica*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), unarmored threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*), as well as suites of carbonate endemic and Pebble Plain plant species, are considered focal listed species of the Mountain Region (Table 1). California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*), Santa Ana speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus* ssp.) and Santa Ana River woolly-star (*Eriastrum densifolium* ssp. *sanctorum*) are a few of the focal listed species known from the Valley Region (Table 2). Agassiz's desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), Mohave tui chub (*Siphateles bicolor mohavensis*) and Lane Mountain milkvetch (*Astragalus jaegerianus*) are just a few of the focal listed species known from the West Desert Region (Table 3). Tortoises are also a focal species of the East Desert Sub-area, along with several riparian vegetation-dependent avian species and a suite of listed fish species native to the Colorado River.

<b>Table 1a.</b> <b>Potential Focal Animal Species for the Mountain Region of San Bernardino County.</b>			
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Status<sup>A</sup></b>	<b>Species of Greatest Conservation Need<sup>B</sup></b>
American badger*	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	S: CSC	Yes
Arroyo toad*	<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>	F: Endangered; S: CSC	Yes
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	F: BGEA, Sen; S: Endangered	Yes
California spotted owl	<i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i>	F: MBTA, Sen; S: CSC	Yes
Coast horned lizard*	<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	F: Sen; S: CSC	Yes
Desert bighorn sheep*	<i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i>	F: Sen; S: Protected	Yes
Eared grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	F: MBTA	No
Golden eagle*	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	F: BGEA, Sen; S: Protected	No
Gray vireo*	<i>Vireo vicinior</i>	F: Sen; S: CSC	Yes
Mountain lion	<i>Puma concolor</i>	S: Protected	No
Mountain plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	F: MBTA, Sen; S: CSC	Yes
Southern mountain yellow-legged frog	<i>Rana muscosa</i>	F: Endangered; S: Endangered (believed extirpated from SBC)	Yes
Pinyon jay	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>	F: MBTA	No
Ringtail	<i>Bassariscus astutus</i>	S: CSC	Yes
San Bernardino kangaroo rat*	<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>	F: Endangered	Yes
San Diego ringneck snake*	<i>Diadophis punctatus similis</i>	F: Sen	No

<p><b>Table 1a.</b>  <b>Potential Focal Animal Species for the Mountain Region of San Bernardino County.</b></p>			
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Status<sup>A</sup></b>	<b>Species of Greatest Conservation Need<sup>B</sup></b>
San Emigdio blue butterfly*	<i>Plebejus emigdionis</i>	F: Sen	No
Santa Ana speckled dace	<i>Rhinichthys osculus</i> ssp.	S: CSC	Yes
Southern rubber boa	<i>Charina umbratica</i>	S: Threatened	Yes
Townsend's big-eared bat*	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	S: CSC	Yes
Two-striped garter snake*	<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	F: Sen; S: CSC	Yes
Unarmored threespine stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni</i>	F: Endangered; S: Endangered	Yes
Willow flycatcher (all subspecies)*	<i>Empidonax traillii</i> subspecies	F: Endangered; S: Endangered	Yes

<sup>A</sup> California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2017. Special Animals List – October 2017. Headquarters. Sacramento, California.

<sup>B</sup> CDFW. 2015. California State Wildlife Action Plan. Headquarters. Sacramento, California.

\* Occurs in more than one SBC Sub-area (i.e., East Desert, Mountain, Valley, West Desert).

F: Federal

S: State

BGEA: Bald & Golden Eagle Act

Protected: Per the California Fish and Game Code

MBTA: Migratory Bird Treaty Act

CSC: California Species of Concern

Sen: Federal agency-designated sensitive

<b>Table 1b.</b> <b>Potential Focal Plant Species for the Mountain Region of San Bernardino County.</b>			
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Status<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>Species of Greatest Conservation Need</b>
Ash gray Indian paintbrush	<i>Castilleja cinerea</i>	F: Threatened; S: RPR 1B.2	Yes
Big Bear Valley sandwort	<i>Eremogone ursina</i>	F: Threatened; S: RPR 1B.2	Yes
Pedate checkermallow	<i>Sidalcea pedata</i>	F: Endangered; S: Endangered	Yes
California taraxacum	<i>Taraxacum californicum</i>	F: Endangered; S: RPR 1B.1	Yes
Cushenbury buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum ovalifolium</i> var. <i>vineum</i>	F: Endangered; S: S: RPR 1B.1	Yes
Cushenbury milkvetch	<i>Astragalus albens</i>	F: Endangered; S: S: RPR 1B.1	Yes
Cushenbury oxytheca	<i>Acanthoscyphus parishii</i> var. <i>goodmaniana</i>	F: Endangered; S: RPR 1B.1	Yes
Parish's daisy*	<i>Erigeron parishii</i>	F: Threatened; S: RPR 1B.2	Yes
Mojave Indian paintbrush*	<i>Castilleja plagiotoma</i>	F: Sen; RPR 4.3	No
San Bernardino Aster*	<i>Symphyotrichum defoliatum</i>	F: Sen; S: RPR 1B.2	No
San Bernardino blue grass	<i>Poa atropurpurea</i>	F: Endangered; S: RPR 1B.2	Yes
San Bernardino Mountains bladderpod	<i>Physaria kingii</i> ssp. <i>bernardina</i>	F: Endangered; S: RPR 1B.1	Yes
Short-joint beavertail*	<i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>basilaris</i>	F: Sen; S: RPR 1B.2	No
Slender-petaled thelypodium	<i>Thelypodium stenopetalum</i>	F: Endangered; S: Endangered	Yes
Southern mountain buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum kennedyi</i> var. <i>austromontanum</i>	F: Threatened; S: RPR 1B.2	Yes

Status<sup>P</sup>: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes and Lichens List – October 2017. Headquarters. Sacramento, California.

\* Occurs in more than one SBC Sub-area (i.e., East Desert, Mountain, Valley, West Desert).

F: Federal

S: State

Sen: Federal agency-designated sensitive

RPR: California Rare Plant Rank

RPR 1A: Presumed extirpated in California/rare or extinct elsewhere; RPR 1B: Rare or Endangered in California and elsewhere; .1: Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat); and .2: Moderately threatened in California (20-80% of occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat).

Table 2a. Potential Focal Animal Species for the Valley Region of San Bernardino County.			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status <sup>A</sup>	Species of Greatest Conservation Need <sup>B</sup>
Arroyo chub	<i>Gila orcutti</i>	S: CSC	Yes
Bells sparrow	<i>Artemisiospiza belli</i>	S: WL	No
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	F: Threatened (believed extirpated from SBC)	Yes
Coastal California gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila californica californica</i>	F: Threatened; S: CSC	Yes
Delhi Sands flower-loving fly	<i>Rhabdomidas terminatus abdominalis</i>	F: Endangered	Yes
Least Bell's vireo*	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	F: Endangered; S: Endangered	Yes
Los Angeles pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i>	S: CSC	Yes
Mountain lion	<i>Puma concolor</i>	S: Protected	No
Quino checkerspot butterfly	<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	F: Endangered (believed extirpated from SBC)	Yes
San Bernardino kangaroo rat*	<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>	F: Endangered	Yes
San Diego ringneck snake*	<i>Diadophis punctatus similis</i>	F: Sen	No
Santa Ana speckled dace	<i>Rhinichthys osculus</i> ssp.	S: CSC	Yes
Santa Ana sucker	<i>Catostomus santaanae</i>	F: Threatened; S: CSC	Yes
Tricolored blackbird*	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	F: MBTA, Sen; S: CSC, SLC	Yes
Two-striped garter snake*	<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	F: Sen; S: CSC	Yes

Table 2a. Potential Focal Animal Species for the Valley Region of San Bernardino County.			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status <sup>A</sup>	Species of Greatest Conservation Need <sup>B</sup>
Western burrowing owl*	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	F: MBTA, Sen; S: CSC	Yes
Western pond turtle*	<i>Emys marmorata</i>	S: CSC	Yes
Western spadefoot	<i>Spea hammondi</i>	F: Sen; S: CSC	Yes
Western yellow-billed cuckoo*	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	F: Threatened; S: Endangered	Yes
White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	F: MBTA, Sen; S: Protected	No
Willow flycatcher (all subspecies)*	<i>Empidonax traillii</i> subspecies	F: Endangered; S: Endangered	Yes

<sup>A</sup> California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2017. Special Animals List – October 2017. Headquarters. Sacramento, California.

<sup>B</sup> CDFW. 2015. California State Wildlife Action Plan. Headquarters. Sacramento, California.

\* Occurs in more than one SBC Sub-area (i.e., East Desert, Mountain, Valley, West Desert).

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Protected: Per the California Fish and Game Code

MBTA: Migratory Bird Treaty Act

CSC: California Species of Concern

Sen: Federal agency-designated sensitive

Table 2b. Potential Focal Plant Species for the Valley Region of San Bernardino County.			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status <sup>P</sup>	Species of Greatest Conservation Need <sup>B</sup>
Gambel's water cress	<i>Nasturtium gambelii</i>	F: Endangered; S: Threatened	Yes
Slender-horned spineflower	<i>Dodecagema leptoceras</i>	F: Endangered; S: Endangered	Yes
Marsh sandwort	<i>Arenaria paludicola</i>	F: Endangered; S: Endangered	Yes
Nevin's barberry	<i>Berberis nevinii</i>	F: Endangered; S: Endangered	Yes

Table 2b. Potential Focal Plant Species for the Valley Region of San Bernardino County.			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status <sup>P</sup>	Species of Greatest Conservation Need <sup>B</sup>
San Bernardino Aster*	<i>Symphytotrichum defoliatum</i>	F: Sen; S: RPR 1B.2	No
Santa Ana River woolly-star	<i>Eriastrum densifolium</i> ssp. <i>sanctorum</i>	F: Endangered; S: Endangered	Yes

Status<sup>P</sup>: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes and Lichens List – October 2017. Headquarters. Sacramento, California.

\* Occurs in more than one SBC Sub-area (i.e., East Desert, Mountain, Valley, West Desert).

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S: State

Sen: Federal agency-designated sensitive

RPR: California Rare Plant Rank

RPR 1A: Presumed extirpated in California/rare or extinct elsewhere; RPR 1B: Rare or Endangered in California and elsewhere; .1: Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat); and .2: Moderately threatened in California (20-80% of occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat).

Table 3a. Potential Focal Animal Species for the North Desert Region of San Bernardino County.			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status <sup>A</sup>	Species of Greatest Conservation Need <sup>B</sup>
Agassiz's desert tortoise*	<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>	F: Threatened; S: Threatened	Yes
American badger*	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	S: CSC	Yes
Arroyo toad *	<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>	F: Endangered; S: CSC	Yes
Coast horned lizard*	<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	F: Sen; S: CSC	Yes
Desert bighorn sheep*	<i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i>	F: Sen; S: Protected	Yes
Desert kit fox	<i>Vulpes macrotis arsipus</i>	S: Protected	No
Golden eagle*	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	F: BGEA, Sen; S: Protected	No
Gray vireo*	<i>Vireo vicinior</i>	F: Sen; S: CSC	Yes
Least Bell's vireo*	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	F: Endangered; S: Endangered	Yes



Table 3a. Potential Focal Animal Species for the North Desert Region of San Bernardino County.			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status <sup>A</sup>	Species of Greatest Conservation Need <sup>B</sup>
Le Conte's thrasher	<i>Toxostoma lecontei</i>	None	No
Mojave fringed-toed lizard	<i>Uma scoparia</i>	F: Sen; S: CSC	Yes
Mohave ground squirrel	<i>Xerospermophilus mohavensis</i>	F: Sen; S: Threatened	Yes
Mojave River vole	<i>Microtus californicus mohavensis</i>	F: Sen; S: CSC	Yes
Mohave tui chub	<i>Siphateles bicolor mohavensis</i>	F: Endangered; S: Endangered	Yes
Mountain lion	<i>Puma concolor</i>	S: Protected	No
Pallid bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	S: CSC	Yes
San Emigdio blue butterfly*	<i>Plebejus emigdionis</i>	F: Sen	No
Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	F: MBTA, Sen; S: Threatened	Yes
Townsend's big-eared bat*	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	S: CSC	Yes
Tricolored blackbird*	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	F: MBTA, Sen; S: CSC, SLC	Yes
Victorville shoulderband	<i>Helminthoglypta mohaveana</i>	None	Yes
Western burrowing owl*	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	F: MBTA, Sen; S: CSC	Yes
Western pond turtle*	<i>Emys marmorata</i>	S: CSC	Yes
Western yellow-billed cuckoo*	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	F: Threatened; S: Endangered	Yes
Willow flycatcher (all subspecies)*	<i>Empidonax traillii</i> subspecies	F: Endangered; S: Endangered	Yes

<sup>A</sup> California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2017. Special Animals List – October 2017. Headquarters. Sacramento, California.

<sup>B</sup> CDFW. 2015. California State Wildlife Action Plan. Headquarters. Sacramento, California.

\* Occurs in more than one SBC Sub-area (i.e., East Desert, Mountain, Valley, West Desert).

F: Federal

S: State

BGEA: Bald & Golden Eagle Act

Protected: Per the California Fish and Game Code

MBTA: Migratory Bird Treaty Act

CSC: California Species of Concern

Sen: Federal agency-designated sensitive

Table 3b. Potential Focal Plant Species for the North Desert Region of San Bernardino County.			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status <sup>P</sup>	Species of Greatest Conservation Need <sup>B</sup>
Alkali mariposa lily	<i>Calachortus striatus</i>	F: Sen; S: RPR 1B.2	No
Barstow woolly sunflower	<i>Eriophyllum mohavense</i>	F: Sen; S: RPR 1B.2	No
Joshua tree	<i>Yucca brevifolia</i>	County/Local Ordinances	No
Lane Mountain milkvetch	<i>Astragalus jaegerianus</i>	F: Endangered; S: RPR 1B.1	Yes
Mojave monkeyflower	<i>Diplacus mohavensis</i>	F: Sen; S: RPR 1B.2	No
Mojave Indian paintbrush*	<i>Castilleja plagiotoma</i>	F: Sen; S: RPR 4.3	No
Parish's alkali grass	<i>Puccinellia parishii</i>	F: Sen; S: RPR 1B.1	Yes
Parish's daisy*	<i>Erigeron parishii</i>	F: Threatened; S: RPR 1B.2	Yes
San Bernardino Aster*	<i>Symphyotrichum defoliatum</i>	F: Sen; S: RPR 1B.2	No
Short-joint beavertail*	<i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>basilaris</i>	F: Sen; S: RPR 1B.2	No

Status<sup>P</sup>: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes and Lichens List – October 2017. Headquarters. Sacramento, California.

\* Occurs in more than one SBC Sub-area (i.e., East Desert, Mountain, Valley, West Desert).

F: Federal

S: State

Sen: Federal agency-designated sensitive

RPR: California Rare Plant Rank

RPR 1A: Presumed extirpated in California/rare or extinct elsewhere; RPR 1B: Rare or Endangered in California and elsewhere; .1: Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat); and .2: Moderately threatened in California (20-80% of occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat). RPR 4: Plants of limited distribution - Watch list; .1: Seriously threatened in California (over 80 percent of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat); .2: Moderately threatened in California (20-80 percent of occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat); and .3: Not very threatened in California (less than 20 percent of occurrences threatened/low degree of threat).

### Special Status Species

In terms of special status species and important natural communities, 212 animal species, 260 plant species, 26 special terrestrial/aquatic communities are known from San Bernardino County, per the CNDDB.<sup>8</sup> At a minimum the PEIR must evaluate impacts to:

- Listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under Endangered Species Act (ESA) or candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under the ESA (50 Code of Federal Regulations §17.12).
- Listed or candidates for listing by the State of California as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) [California Fish and Game Code (CFGF) §2050 *et seq.*].
- Listed as rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act (CFGF §1900 *et seq.*). A plant is rare when, although not presently threatened with extinction, the species, subspecies, or variety is found in such small numbers throughout its range that it may be endangered if its environment worsens (CFGF §1901).
- Species considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to be “rare, threatened or endangered in California” (Lists 1A, 1B, 2A and 2B), which are currently recognized through California Native Plant Rankings (RPRs).
- Species that may warrant consideration on the basis of local significance or recent biological information;
- Species included on the California Natural Diversity Database’s (CNDDB) “*Special Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List*”<sup>9</sup> and “*Special Animals List*.”<sup>10</sup>

### Mojave Ground Squirrel and Desert Tortoise

The Mojave Ground Squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*) and desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) are special status species that warrant particular consideration by the PEIR. We strongly urge the county to engage in proactive planning for these species to identify habitat supporting these listed species for long-term conservation in the midst of environmental stressors like climate change, invasive species, renewable energy development and community growth. Such planning should build upon previous land/planning investments, reduce on-the-ground impacts, and reduce the avoid need to list these special status species per the ESA and/or the CESA.

### Land Use and Conservation Planning Consistency

The DRECP was adopted in 2014 and covers over 10.8 million acres of federally owned land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Given the “checker-board” land use pattern of

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<sup>8</sup> California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2017. County Species List: San Bernardino County. California Natural Diversity Database Quick Viewer Program. Headquarters. Sacramento, California. <https://map.dfg.ca.gov/bios/?tool=cnddbQuick>.

<sup>9</sup> California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2017. Special Animals List – October 2017. Headquarters. Sacramento, California. <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=109406&inline>.

<sup>10</sup> CDFW. 2017. Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes and Lichens List – October 2017. Headquarters. Sacramento, California. <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=109383&inline>.

private and federal lands in the County, the DRECP is firmly interwoven into the planning policy landscape and cannot be ignored. Per CEQA Guidelines § 15125(d) the PEIR must consider the DRECP as part of the adopted policy consistency analysis.

### **Military Lands**

Military missions and environmental health are closely intertwined in the California Deserts. Careful analysis is necessitated in areas surrounding military installations to identify impacts and solutions to benefit both military training and conservation and should be included in the PEIR. Landscape-scale planning such as the DRECP and RCIS can inform the PEIR to solutions for military encroachment issues<sup>11</sup> associated with the six military installations in the County.

### **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

The County has experienced considerable development as has surrounding jurisdictions. Renewable energy development has been a notable source of extensive land development. Looking forward renewable energy development in the region can reasonably be expected to result in further substantive land development. Cumulatively these projects have the potential to convert thousands of acres of open lands to the light industrial land use of utility scale power plants. This is in addition to impacts resulting from residential, industrial, and infrastructure development, and other types of energy development. The PEIR's cumulative impact analysis must take into consideration renewable energy development in the region, including on public lands, as part of the cumulative impact analysis.

### **CONCLUSION**

Defenders is very interested to see the Countywide Plan move forward. We strongly encourage the County to incorporate information from the DRECP's Desert Biological Conservation Framework and to coordinate and work closely with CDFW and FWS to incorporate the necessary biological analysis and to develop appropriate strategies to avoid, minimize and mitigate any impacts to biological resources.

We look forward to reviewing the draft PEIR for this Project. Please include us in any notices for the proposed Project. Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide scoping comments on the Countywide draft PEIR and for considering our comments. If you have any questions, please me at (916) 313-5800 x1 or via email at [kdelfino@defenders.org](mailto:kdelfino@defenders.org).

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<sup>11</sup> The Sonoran Institute. 2017. Evaluating Encroachment Pressures on the Military Mission in the California Desert Region. The Military Mission and Environmental Health are Intertwined. Final Report. Tucson, Arizona. <https://sonoraninstitute.org/files/ProtectingCalDesertMilitary.pdf>.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Delfino", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kim Delfino

California Program Director

**From:** Countywide Plan Site Admin  
**To:** [Colin Drukker](mailto:Colin.Drukker@lus.sbcounty.gov); [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov); [Halley Grundy](#); [Frances Yau](#)  
**Subject:** San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2017 4:29:49 AM

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From: Glen Thompson <gwteng123@hotmail.com>  
Subject: San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
Community: Lake Arrowhead

Message Body:

Two issues are being viewed in a manner that is not acceptable to me.

The first is that our community is no longer in a state of drought. That is a misconception based on the decision by the State to stop requiring water conservation methods after last Winter's precipitation. "Drought" conditions still exist in the San Bernardino mountains, and are likely to remain for the foreseeable future. The change in climate we can easily see in the year to year magnitude of rainfall and temperatures is trending toward hotter and drier. The effect on the very large vegetation is also easily visible. Whether or not the next 20 years will see die-off or insect infestation relies on a number of factors, but ignoring the increase of use of our community by a larger number of tourists can be examined - and should be - in the Environmental Impact Review.

The second is that the increase of population in San Bernardino County is not expected to impact the mountain communities. This error can only be attributed to the definition of "population increase." If the number of residents is the only metric, of course the population of my community will not change drastically - the regulations governing the construction of houses will limit the amount of possible growth. The number of people attempting to use the facilities, the stores and the parks in our mountain community will certainly increase, however. It is THAT result of growth in the surrounding areas that should be considered in any complete Environmental Impact Report. The limited roads into and out of our community are also a factor (as is their needed repair due to increased traffic load). Repair is not needed as a result of a passage of time. Repair is needed as a result of the amount and type of traffic. When I first move to the greater Lake Arrowhead area, the number of people using the mountains as a permanent residential area was far less than it is now. The number of people staying in second homes (and thus shopping, dining and using local roads) is more than double. This will not be reduced with a marked growth in the number of residents in the valley below; it will increase. The Environmental Impact report should reflect that increase.

Add to mailing list: Yes

Comment sent from: <http://countywideplan.com/eir/eircomment/>

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on San Bernardino Countywide Plan (<http://countywideplan.com>)



## Michelle Halligan

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**From:** R. Diamond <rd50776@fastmail.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 4:59 PM  
**To:** CountywidePlan  
**Subject:** Countywide Plan - EIR comments

Hello --

Residents of Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree and other communities within the Morongo Basin have seen an increasing series of challenges to maintaining the rustic and peaceful environment which is so important to us.

Of late, the rustic character of our home has been repeatedly jeopardized by a series of development and land uses.

Friends, neighbors and I have discussed these issues, and some of our concerns are listed below.

For the purposes of scoping, this is a high-level list of concerns, and thoughts on how the detrimental effects of similar projects might be mitigated in the future.

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### Residential Subdivisions

When outsiders view the desert, they tend to see it as “cheap land”, simply waiting to be monetized to the maximal value possible. One example of this was the proposed Alta Mura[?] housing development project.

This would have created approximately 200 new homes in an uncharacteristically dense fashion, and far more quickly than the development that is normal for the area.

By contrast, much of the area of Friendly Hills was platted out in the 1950s, and was (and continues to be) developed incrementally, at a far slower rate.

Beyond the additional density of that specific development, the development of a large number of homes on small lots would have caused lasting ripple effects beyond that immediate land. For example, if Alta Loma Drive (and Yucca Trail) were widened to accommodate the extra traffic, that would have created an alternate high-traffic route for Highway 62, encouraging even more traffic (via the phenomenon of Induced Demand), and even more high-density development in the area. This would have eroded the rural character of the area even further.

Thus, a single project like this could have significantly changed the character of an entire area.

Therefore, we would like to adopt measures to discourage such rapid large-scale development which is out of character of the existing area. For example:

- Limits to the RATE of building within a given area (beyond simply the theoretical capacity of the zoning for a given parcel). For example, a maximum percentage (e.g., 10%) of subdivided lots, or the number of new houses, etc., that can be developed per year.
- Proactively working with local water boards to limit the rate of approval (and capacity) of new water meters. (This is also an environmental issue relating to the finite supply of quality water available in the area itself.)
- And/or any other feasible limits to the rate of residential development in the Basin.

~

### Noise Limits for Events

For better and perhaps for worse, the desert is becoming known to out-of-towners for large music events such as Desert Daze, the JT Music Festival, Coachella and others.

We welcome visitors to the enjoy the area peaceably, though those events can also be disruptive to the surrounding community.

We would like the permitting process and any relevant ordinances to include meaningful limits to the amount of noise created which may intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of residences outside the venues. For example, the recent Desert Daze event in October was audible for much of that entire three-day weekend for hundreds (perhaps thousands) of residences for at least several miles outside the venue.

Judging by such events, county noise ordinances are either not being enforced, or are ineffective to begin with for such situations.

Thus:

- More meaningful, and more strictly-enforced, limits to the level of sound generated from the venues in question, and the radius in which that sound is audible. Those that violate such limits, and create unnecessary disruption to the peaceful nature of the surrounding community, should be denied permitting for future events.

~

#### Airbnb

We welcome visitors to visit and share the beauty of the surrounding area, including those who stay at private residences, via services such as Airbnb and others.

However, we ask that such activity not be at the expense of the peaceful enjoyment of other residents.

To encourage responsible use, we believe that such short-term rentals should be:

- Licensed & taxed.
- Held accountable for disruptions created by guests. For example, this could mean suspending such permitting if there are multiple noise complaints within a given period (e.g., 30 days). Such suspension could be on an escalating scale, such as:  
... 1st offense: 3 month suspension; 2nd offense: 6 month suspension; 3rd offense: 2 years suspension; and so on.

~

#### Commercial construction

There has been an increasing amount of commercial construction in the Basin. Not all such development has been within the character of the existing areas, which we would like to maintain.

Thus, possible limits might include limits to:

- The height of buildings constructed in specific areas (e.g., 2 stories within 500 feet of Highway 62)
- The height of buildings in the rest of the Basin (e.g., 3 or 4 stories maximum)
- The size of retail businesses (e.g., 5000 square feet within areas such as downtown Joshua Tree)
- The types of signage (e.g., colors, brightness, etc.)
- The brightness and dispersion of artificial lighting
- Parking to the rear of retail stores adjacent to the highway
- The color scheme, if possible, for special-purpose lanes (e.g., the bike lanes within downtown Joshua Tree, to better match the existing color scheme)

In addition, we would like to see large-scale commercial installations limited to solely appropriately-zoned areas. Thus:

- Disallowing use of residential areas (including Rural Living) for large-scale commercial use
- Limiting visibility of such installations, including that of reflected sunlight, to prevent disruption and distraction outside such properties

~~~

Thank you very much for your time and attention! We look forward to working together to continue to maintain and enhance the quality of life within our special home in San Bernardino County.

Best regards,  
Ron Diamond, et al  
Yucca Valley / Joshua Tree, CA

**From:** Countywide Plan Site Admin  
**To:** [Colin Drukker](#); [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov); [Halley Grundy](#); [Frances Yau](#)  
**Subject:** San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2017 10:58:08 AM

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From: Demi Espinoza <[demi@saferoutespartnership.org](mailto:demi@saferoutespartnership.org)>  
Subject: San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
Community: \*Other/Not Listed

Message Body:

-I would like to see a meaningful community engagement process around the development of the environmental justice element.

-I would like to see the draft EIR capture truck routes patterns in order to better understand circulation element updates and environmental justice needs. We should be striving to regulate truck routes away from residential areas and schools.

-San Bernardino Countywide plan should coordinate with the San Bernardino Countywide Safe Routes to School Plan in circulation element to ensure traffic flow safety standards, especially in disadvantaged communities around the County.

-Active transportation portions of the circulation element should consider environmental justice hazards and develop mitigation strategies. For example, best practices for biking and walking away from high volume traffic such as truck routes, etc.

-Circulation element should include vision zero policy elements as best practices for traffic safety.

-Countywide plan should encourage local planning agencies to record and document EIR development projects in a more streamlined way. Can the County planning department have a clearing house online to show upcoming draft EIR documents so that it is easier for the public to know about new projects coming into their neighborhood?

Add to mailing list: Yes

Comment sent from: <http://countywideplan.com/eir/eircomment/>

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on San Bernardino Countywide Plan (<http://countywideplan.com>)

**From:** Countywide Plan Site Admin  
**To:** [Colin Drukker](#); [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov); [Halley Grundy](#); [Frances Yau](#)  
**Subject:** San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2017 6:41:29 PM

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From: Thomas Fjallstam <totalunity@gmail.com>  
Subject: San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
Community: Joshua Tree

Message Body:  
Joshua Tree comments

Improve and pave Division Street between Sunset Rd and Park Blvd.

Work with empty lot owners to develop downtown parking in this area. This allows for business development in downtown that is currently restricted due to limited parking. Restaurants, etc.

Require traffic coming out of Joshua Tree Health Foods parking area to have "Right Turn Only" restriction onto Sunset Rd - heading South. Then traffic can turn left on Division and left on Park Blvd to cross the highway at the traffic signal.

Restrict East bound traffic on Hwy 62 - no turning South on Sunset Rd.

Crosswalks outside Park Visitor Center across Park Blvd. Currently people are crossing at various locations

Make driving lane of Park Blvd narrow into one lane. Currently it is two lanes wide without any lane dividers in Park Visitor area.

Put in diagonal street parking on both sides of Park Blvd at Visitor Center like on Hwy 62 downtown.

Comments on the proposed "Community Plan" or action document that has been produced after the 3 community meetings.

Here is the current JT Community Plan

<http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/lus/CommunityPlans/JoshuaTreeCP.pdf>

My main criticism of this is it should really should be called the "Community Action Plan." As it completely departs from the current Community Plan intentions.

Current Community Plan:

"The primary purpose of the Joshua Tree Community Plan is to guide the future use and development of land within the Joshua Tree Community Plan area in a manner that preserves the character and independent identity of the community. By setting goals and policies for the Joshua Tree community that are distinct from those applied countywide, the Community Plan outlines how the County of San Bernardino will manage and address growth while retaining the attributes that make Joshua Tree unique."

New "Community Plan":

"the new Community Plans replace any existing 2007/2014 Community Plans, with a greater focus on community self-reliance, grass-roots action, and implementation. Goals, policies, land use, and infrastructure decisions will be addressed in the Policy Plan of the Countywide Plan.

The Community Plan is strategic in nature and provides clear Focus Statements and Action Statements identified by

the community that led to creation of an action plan that can be implemented at the grass-roots level within each community. Some actions may require assistance by a County department, but the community will take the lead in moving the action forward, identifying funding or scheduling meetings or requesting information from specific County departments.”

Basically the “plan” part has been removed and this new “plan” is simply a set of assignments reflected back to the community for “grass-roots” implementation. Not much mention as to where the funding will come from to make these a reality.

Add to mailing list: Yes

Comment sent from:<http://countywideplan.com/eir/eircomment/>

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on San Bernardino Countywide Plan (<http://countywideplan.com>)

**From:** Countywide Plan Site Admin  
**To:** [Colin Drukker](#); [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov); [Halley Grundy](#); [Frances Yau](#)  
**Subject:** San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2017 4:28:55 PM

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From: Ericka Flores <[ericka.flores@ccaej.org](mailto:ericka.flores@ccaej.org)>  
Subject: San Bernardino EIR - NOP comment (17 OCT 2017 - 20 NOV 2017)  
Community: Bloomington

Message Body:  
November 20, 2017

The comments shared below in this letter, although written by Michele Hasson (Policy Director of CCAEJ) are the same concerns expressed by Bloomington residents and all members of CCAEJ.

Delivered via online submission and via electronic mail

Terri Rahhal, Planning Director  
Jerry L. Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator  
County of San Bernardino  
Land Use Services Department  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415  
[CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov)

Re: Notice of Preparation for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan Environmental Impact Report

Dear Ms. Rahhal and Mr. Blum

As a compliment to observations we have provided at the October 13, 2017 Scoping Meeting, we appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (dEIR) the San Bernardino Countywide Plan (Countywide Plan, the Plan).

Limited inclusion of Environmental Justice (EJ) communities does not provide for an adequate analysis in the dEIR of potential impacts and mitigation measures.

The passage of Senate Bill 1000 (Leyva, 2016), Planning for Healthy Communities Act, was designed to improve local planning efforts to reduce negative disproportionate environmental, public health and public safety impacts on California's most vulnerable residents by ensuring that local governments include Environmental Justice Elements and/or policies in General Plans when they are updated. Having a General Plan with specific environmental justice policies and guidelines will help position San Bernardino County to access state funding to support necessary mitigation measures that will protect EJ communities from harmful environmental impacts. Even more so stand-alone EJ policies will ensure all San Bernardino residents have access to prosperity and healthy communities.

We are disappointed to note the failure to include the mention of Environmental Justice Communities in Section 4, Probable Environmental Effects, in the NOP dEIR. For example, the unincorporated community of Bloomington would clearly qualify as an EJ community based on California Environmental Protection Agency's (CalEPA) CalEnviroScreen Tool (Census Tract: 6071003606). Bloomington is in the bottom 81-85% of the overall CalEnviroScreen 3.0, and more notably Ozone in the bottom 98 percentile and PM 2.5 in the bottom 93 percentile. Clearly specific analysis of the impacts of both Ozone and PM 2.5 should be highlighted in the dEIR analysis of the County Wide Plan to adequately assess potential hazards to the most vulnerable communities within the Plan's boundaries. We recommend a specific analysis on impacts and mitigation measures for all EJ communities to meet minimum standards of analysis in the DEIR.

Even more so, residents living in EJ communities should be targeted in and adequately notified to ensure



participation in the entire outreach process for the dEIR. The Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ) has communicated with residents of Bloomington and have noted that these residents were not adequately notified of the NOP dEIR process, we would like to see the deadline for comments extended and specific inclusion of all EJ communities should be prioritized to ensure an adequate analysis in the dEIR.

#### Air Quality and Indirect Source Rule

We recommend the dEIR analyze consistency with the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) South Coast Air Quality Management Plan, the analysis should calculate cumulative regional impacts of the Plan's buildout. In particular the analysis should include a specific analysis of impacts on Ozone and PM 2.5 in terms of attainment of Air Quality Standards in the South Coast Air Quality Basin. Even more so we recommend the dEIR provide analysis of a Plan scenario with an Indirect Source Rule (ISR), the analysis should compare buildout and cumulative impacts on both Ozone and PM 2.5 in a potential ISR scenario to a scenario without an ISR. Furthermore the dEIR should present an analysis of mitigation measure for both ISR and non ISR scenarios.

#### Health Impact Assessment

We recommend the dEIR conduct a Health Impact assessment(HIA) as a component of the dEIR. The assessment should focus on the differential impacts on EJ communities in the County's jurisdiction. We specifically request an analysis of potential increase in health care costs for individuals in EJ communities resulting from exposure to elevated toxins. The HIA would help the County determine the economic impact and burden on residents in EJ communities within the Plan's boundaries. Even more so, the HIA would help identify necessary mitigation measures and public health disparities for the County's EJ communities.

We recommend the HIA address potential impacts on sensitive land uses within a ½ mile, 1 mile, 1.5 mile and 2 mile radius of industrial zoned land within the Plan's boundaries. Both CARB and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) recommend placing sensitive land uses, such as housing schools, etc should be places at least 1,000 feet from indirect mobile sources such as distribution centers. We are concerned that the Air Quality impact would exacerbate cancer risk and health risk in the area and as such the HIA should specifically address these risks.

#### Inadequate analysis of Projected Growth in the Unincorporated Communities

We are concerned the projected growth identified on Table 1 fails to provide realistic metrics for employment and housing, shifts in these metrics would change shift many environmental impacts and potential mitigation measures. Unincorporated communities in the Valley region, where the majority of growth will occur, are undergoing unprecedented shifts in land use and limited diversification in employment.

For example, in the community of Bloomington current zoning is being shifted, from residential to industrial, to accommodate increased development of warehousing such zoning dramatically change the Growth Forecast for these unincorporated areas. Recently, in Bloomington, the County rezoned several parcels from residential to industrial and approved logistics centers for the newly zoned land. The re-zone will reduce the current available housing stock and shift employment trends, residents will have to travel farther to access jobs and this will in turn increase emissions. These shifts are wholly omitted from the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategies (RTP/SCS) produced by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and should be scrutinized in the dEIR, if the current shift in zoning is not included in the analysis of the results will be inadequate at best.

We recommend that all public information available on amendments proposed by developers or other entities to change land use designations in unincorporated be included in the dEIR as part of the analysis. Changes in land use designations from residential to industrial or rural to industrial will have a significant impact on the Environmental Impacts of the Plan, failure to analyze these amendments will produce an inadequate dEIR. Furthermore, we recommend the dEIR analyze current zoning and create new metrics for projected growth, particularly for EJ communities, in order to produce an effective analysis of environmental impacts on the Plan.

\* \* \* \* \*

We welcome sustained collaboration with the San Bernardino County and will continue to engage in all processes regarding the proposed project. We look forward to your feedback. Please contact any of following CCAEJ team members: Esther Portillo, Ericka Flores, and Michele Hasson at: 951-360-845.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Hasson, Policy Director  
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice

Add to mailing list: Yes

Comment sent from: <http://countywideplan.com/eir/eircomment/>

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on San Bernardino Countywide Plan (<http://countywideplan.com>)

November 20, 2017

Jerry L. Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator  
County of San Bernardino  
Land Use Services Department  
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
San Bernardino, CA. 92415

Sent to: [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov)

Re: San Bernardino County Countywide Plan Draft EIR

Dear Mr. Blum

Thank you for the opportunity to respond with comments to the Draft EIR associated with the comprehensive update of San Bernardino County's 2007 Countywide Plan. We appreciate all efforts to honor community values and preserve the Morongo Basin's quality of life in land use and development issues.

We are residents of Gamma Gulch, an area that is now being considered within the Pioneertown Communities Community Plan. We have reviewed the 2007 County General Plan Final Environmental Impact Report. It is this 2007 EIR upon which we are basing our comments for the current EIR for consideration of the potential environmental effects and protections the Countywide Plan and the Pioneertown Community Plan will have on our community, as well as the adjacent unincorporated communities in the Morongo Basin and Lucerne Valley.

**We have concerns about projections for "Project Build-out".**

We learned during The Notice of Preparation and Scoping Meeting for the EIR held in Joshua Tree on October 13, 2017 that "Project Build-out" for areas, including the North Desert / Morongo Basin area is anticipated as follows:  
*Little or no growth is projected for the other unincorporated areas based on the availability of water and infrastructure systems, presence of natural hazards and topographical constraints, and the desires of residents.*

The skyrocketing numbers of tourists to the Basin – well documented by Joshua Tree National Park entrance figures and the increasing number of vacation rentals – demonstrate the dramatic interest and the associated new pressures for services and incentives for development in the area. It is easy to also envision a significant influx of new permanent residents in coming years with the retirement of the baby-boomers and population pressures from surrounding urban areas. In

anticipation of projected growth, the EIR for the 2018 Countywide Plan must not underestimate these demands on the Desert region.

The Joshua Tree community has clearly stated that high density gated communities are not compatible with the Joshua Tree community vision. We share this sentiment along with many other Pioneertown residents. The natural scenic qualities and the undeveloped landscape are the prime drivers of our quality of residential life and the tourist economy – the EIR and Countywide Policy Plan must insure the scenic characteristics are preserved and protected.

**We have concerns about the EIR Impacts & Mitigations: strengths & weakness / errors & omissions.**

The 2007 EIR laid out a breadth of issues that were anticipated to impact our desert communities as a result of projected growth and provided mitigations intended to provide protections. The revised 2018 EIR must consider the reality of a greatly increased population and new pressures to develop in the Desert Region since the 2007 EIR. Particularly, the impacts of industrial scale renewal energy projects must be seriously recognized.

While the 2007 EIR envisioned safe guards to evaluate and mitigate impacts, it is unfortunate that the County fell short in implementation of the strategies described in critical areas. Identifying those shortcomings will be critical in making improvements to this EIR.

The 2007 EIR Mitigation BIO-3 optimistically described that the County would fund the San Bernardino County Museum to create an ambitious base project to integrate data from the Museum and other sources (federal, state, local) to be used in guidelines and report formats. This was to be included in the Biological Resources Overlay and the Open Space Overlay and added to the General Plan as policy CO 2.2. This did not happen. Perhaps in some part due to the failure of the County to fund the Museum. Significant numbers of the Museum's professional staff left or were laid off and the institution lost accreditation granted by the American Alliance of Museums. Suffice it to say, this mitigation was a failure. The San Bernardino County Museum did not have the capacity to provide the critical role in data collection that was envisioned in the 2007 EIR.

Per 2007 EIR Mitigation BIO-8, a qualified biologist was to assist with the design and implementation of wildlife crossings (culverts, overcrossings, under-crossings, and fencing) and these designs were to have been added to the General Plan as policy CO 2.2. Now, 10 years later, this strategy and approach would continue to be an appropriate and valuable mitigation. Let's make it happen this time!

With the recent creation of new National Monuments within the County and the recognition of the value of existing protected public lands, this new EIR has the opportunity to create meaningful mitigations Protecting and connecting landscapes through identifying all wildlife corridors and establishing strong policies to protect them fell short of intended mitigations found in the 2007 EIR. The 2018 EIR and Countywide Policy must reflect lessons learned in the evaluation of deficiencies of the 2007 EIR and by utilizing up-to-date science, and best planning practices address these shortcomings!

The 2018 EIR must use unqualified language in mitigations. When an impact is identified, the mitigation must be clear and enforceable.

**We support completion of the Pioneertown Community Plan, as well as the other Community Plans and their incorporation into the Countywide Policy Plan. We reject the current strategy of ‘Suggested Action Plans’.**

Our communities want to create a robust, strong and legally binding Community Plan. The “plans” consisting of “Action Items” without policy are not community plans according to their formal definition under state law and we feel will not provide the community with legal recourse under CEQA.

Community plans must be incorporated into the Countywide Policy Plan to support the EIR decision-making framework and to establish operating rules for implementing community vision. This is necessary for legal enforcement of residents’ specific goals and policy for local community land use under CEQA.

As stated in the 2007 Plan EIR, specific needs and circumstances in Community Plans are integral to customizing the Countywide Plan to meet our unique circumstances: *To facilitate consistency, the Community Plans build upon the goals and policies of each element of the General Plan. In addition, policies that are included within the Community Plans are regarded as refinements of the broader General Plan goals and policies that have been customized to meet the specific needs or unique circumstances raised by the individual communities.*

**We endorse protections for the preservation of our rural character, natural environment, and scenic characteristics. Provide incentives for distributed renewable energy!**

2007 EIR 1.2. Preservation of Rural character

Since the 2007 Countywide Plan EIR, the Morongo Basin and Lucerne Valley have been significantly and adversely impacted by industrial scale renewable energy developments. Further, it is now clear that the affect of these industrial developments on scenic resources cannot be mitigated.

Morongo Basin residents actively participated in the SPARC and RECE public forums. Our voices, positions and concerns were clearly articulated and documented in comments. In significant numbers residents spoke to how their quality of life was impacted by renewable energy developments in rural residential neighborhoods. Property values for homes adjacent to RE developments are deflated – a loss both to the individual homeowners, as well as to the County in lost property tax revenue!

Repeatedly, RE projects have received “negative declaration” or “mitigated negative declaration” findings by Land Use Services (LUS). Renewable Energy projects have been allowed to proceed without the requirement of a rigorous EIR. This type of project must be vetted with thorough environmental review. We now know from experience that industrial scale renewable energy projects do indeed have serious effects and impacts on the environment. We can no longer assume they may not! Further, cumulative effects of RE projects must be monitored and considered before granting approval to construct more.

The two unincorporated cities in the Basin: Twentynine Palms and Yucca Valley prohibit renewable energy projects within their City limits. Residents in the unincorporated areas share this sentiment: RE should NEVER be located in rural residential communities (RL or RC zoning.)

To preserve the health of our communities, the tourist economy, and desert ecosystems going into the future – this EIR must acknowledge the demands and impacts of Renewable Energy development. County Planners must utilize adaptive planning, science, proper zoning, and mapping techniques in considering applications for this type development.

Incentives for roof-top, distributed solar renewables are the best mitigation for preserving and protecting the pristine desert.

**We believe the 2018 EIR must mandate the use of science, maintain a forum for adaptive management to guide ongoing regional conservation planning, and enact incentives and regulations for wildlife-sensitive development.**

The Countywide Land Use Map must incorporate wildlife linkage designs for effective decision-making. The EIR must accurately identify data relevant to the Desert Regions and beyond, with updated identification of key resources, including high priority conservation areas.

The Biotic Resources and Open Space map available on the LUS website lists only a small fraction of wildlife corridors and linkages found in the California desert. The County must fully integrate linkage designs to analyze and prevent

fragmentation of existing species habitat and linkage design areas. All facets of San Bernardino County's planning, policies, and maps should utilize the following sources that should be referenced in the 2018 EIR:

- The Morongo Basin Conservation Priorities Report
- California Natural Diversity Database
- South Coast Wildlands'
  - A Joshua Tree - Twentynine Palms Connection
  - A Linkage Network for the California Deserts
- Apple Valley Linkage Design

There are economic benefits to creating a protected, regional open space network that links "room to roam" for native plants and animals with quality neighborhood and commercial development. Wildlife corridors – within the Basin and connecting to the surrounding Mountain Region and East Desert Region - must be clearly called out and visible in GIS map overlays. As envisioned in the 2007 EIR, the "specific and detailed wildlife corridor map for the County of SB to be included in the Open Space and Biological Resource Overlays and added to the General Plan and Policy CO. 2.2", mapping capacity, long over-due, must finally be realized and relied upon in the 2018 EIR and added to the General Plan as a Program and Policy.

The 2018 EIR Biotic Resource Overlay should also recognize that some lands need to be to be preserved from development all together.

The mitigations associated with Biological Resources in the 2007 General Plan and EIR should be assessed to see how effective they have been in protecting species, habitats and wildlife corridors over the 10-year period in which they have been in effect. The mitigations didn't always result in the actual preservation of species, habitat and wildlife corridors. LUS staff should conduct research and consult with experts and examine the current best practices for mitigation for preserving wildlife corridors, species and habitats in the revised EIR and Countywide Plan.

The San Bernardino County Environmental Element of the Countywide Vision has identified the North Desert as an area of concern in addressing impacts of development. Focal species – plants and animals – have been selected as "umbrella" and "indicators" of ecological health for the area. The 2018 EIR should incorporate the findings of the Environmental Element to guide and assist future land use decisions.

**We believe the unique and spectacular scenery found throughout the Pioneertown Communities must be recognized and acknowledged with zoning protections and mitigations.**



The 2007 EIR Mitigation AES-14 calls for the General Plan to update review of land use zoning designations to establish buffer areas to protect visual and natural qualities within one mile of designated scenic areas and national monuments.

The Pioneertown/Pipes Canyon area is identified as a community treasure in the *Morongo Basin Conservation Priorities Report: A strategy for preserving conservation values / 2012* prepared by the Morongo Basin Open Space Group.

The 2018 EIR should anticipate revised Land Use Zone Designations in the General Plan Update to provide protections for these Pioneertown scenic areas and others throughout the Morongo Basin.

A Scenic Resources Overlay District (Chapter 82.22) over parcels with RC and RL zoning in the Pioneertown Communities of Pioneertown, Rimrock, Gamma Gulch and Pipes Canyon will provide the protections called for in the 2007 EIR. Private property located adjacent to areas protected by The Wildlands Conservancy, the Mojave Desert Land Trust, and the Sand to Snow Monument are clearly eligible under EIR AES-14 for overlay SR Scenic Resources “buffer zone” development design standards to preserve their unique aesthetic and scenic qualities.

A SR overlay for RL & RC zoning adjacent to the Pioneertown Buttes/Sand to Snow Monument will prevent future applications for recreational vehicle campgrounds, campsites, and other inappropriate developments that the area that residents clearly find objectionable and incompatible with the neighborhood.

**We endorse new & greater protections for Scenic Routes.**

2007 EIR Table IV-A-2. County Designated Scenic Routes

Several routes in the Morongo Basin are listed in the 2007 EIR / Aesthetics, Mitigation AES-5. Pioneertown Rd (“from Pipes Canyon to the Town of Yucca Valley”) is listed as a protected scenic route with applicable polices to development. We advocate extending scenic route protections for all of Pipes Canyon Road from Pioneertown Rd. to Highway 247. This would acknowledge the fact that Pipes Canyon Rd. runs adjacent to the Sand-to-Snow Monument (federally protected landscape). Designating Pipes Canyon would serve to connect the two existing county designated scenic routes: Pioneertown Rd.: Hwy 62 in Yucca Valley to Pipes Canyon Rd. and County Scenic Byway / Hwy 247 / Old Woman’s Springs Road).

The 2007 EIR Mitigation AES-12 states: *“The county shall define the Scenic Corridor either side of the designation route. Development along scenic corridors*

*shall be required to demonstrate through visual analysis that proposed improvement are compatible with scenic qualities present.”*

Burns Canyon in the Rimrock community of the Pioneertown Communities is also listed as a county scenic byway in the 2007 EIR. This is another area worthy of a buffer overlay to protect scenic qualities.

Table IV-A-2. County Designated Scenic Routes - includes three routes in or near Pioneertown under the category “Multiple Planning Regions”. The protections for the scenic qualities of these routes and must be retained in the 2018 EIR, Community and Countywide Policy Plans.

Table IV-A-1 Eligible State Scenic Routes in San Bernardino County - lists Hwy SR-247 from SR-62 near Yucca Valley to I-15 near Barstow . Work is currently underway by the Homestead Community Council to complete the Caltrans application required for this designation. County Supervisor James Ramos has endorsed the Scenic 247 project and assigned LUS staff to support the HVCC volunteer committee. Routes eligible for the Caltrans State Scenic Highway Program should also appear in the 2018 EIR.

Members of the Homestead Valley Community Council (HVCC) Scenic Committee and others in the communities in Lucerne Valley are alarmed by the number applications to develop industrial scale renewable energy projects along County Scenic Highway 247. These projects, if approved, would permanently and irrevocably alter the highway’s scenic qualities. Further, they jeopardize efforts by HVCC and Caltrans for 247’s designation as a state scenic highway. (Visual intrusions such as industrial renewable energy development that exceed a required level negate designation by Caltrans evaluators.)

Given Mitigation AES-12, the placement of renewable energy projects such as Ord Mountain and the Calcite Substation along highway 247 are clearly inappropriate for a designated County or State scenic highway. SR-62 / Twentynine Palms Highway is also listed as a County scenic highway in the 2007 EIR. In the interim between the adoption of the 2007 EIR and today, LUS has approved several projects along this route – including the Joshua Tree airport, Cascade Solar, and Lear projects. The community has showed that these projects have impacted the visual quality of the landscape from the highway and even from Joshua Tree National Park. We question why these projects were even considered by LUS.

Renewable energy projects clearly threaten the scenic qualities of County scenic highways. The visual analysis techniques conducted LUS that resulted in green-lighting RE projects along County scenic highways must be revised and defined in the 2018 EIR. We advocate enlisting a committee of local residents to

participate in the evaluation. The 2018 EIR must create stronger enforcement to protect the County's Scenic Highways in the Countywide Policy Plan.

**We believe that the EIR must address Air Quality through local monitoring by Mojave Desert Air Quality Management.**

The 2007 EIR Air Quality Impact (AQ-2) correctly acknowledges that growth will expose residents to pollutants. Further, this would be particularly significant to sensitive populations.

The EIR goes on to state incentives to promote proper siting of new technologies, including renewable energy (AQ-9). These air quality mitigations are increasingly critical to the Desert regions in light of new understanding of dust impacts from renewable energy development and Sand Transport Paths.

2007 EIR Project Analysis IV-7 c. Desert Region: *“Due to the persistent winds that blow throughout the year, large portions of the desert surface have been modified into a mosaic of ground surfaces that consists of stones and cobbles known as desert pavement.”*

This statement must be revised in light of the current understanding of the role of Sand Transport Paths (STP). A STP is a geologic feature created by wind-driven sand. A deposit over 140 miles long begins at Emerson Dry Lake in the 29 Palms Marine Base, crosses Hwy 62 where it turns east, passes thru 29 Palms and Wonder Valley, crosses the Mojave Desert to the Mule Mountains near Mesa Verde and the Colorado River. The STP is stabilized by the creosote bush-galleta grass plant community. When the stabilizing roots are removed, sand and dust become fugitive with the wind.

Residents in Desert Regions are “sensitive receptors” – downwind of increasingly common fugitive dust that affects lungs, occasionally reduces visibility to mere feet when driving, and impacts indoor environments of homes and public buildings. The increasing amount and longevity of wind driven dust events in the past 3-4 years is striking. However, alarmingly, San Bernardino County does not recognize STPs as emission sources.

A Sand Transport Path overlay is critical to assessing the Basin's air quality and the impacts of industrial scale renewable energy projects. San Bernardino County must acknowledge the STP, the effect it has on air quality – public health and safety, and include existence of the STP as a tool in maps used in LUS decision-making.

Since 2013 three solar energy facilities, covering 350 acres, have been constructed in Morongo Basin communities. Construction required 100% grading

of the surface and removal of all vegetation. All three emitted dust during construction and continue now, even after operation for 3+ years, to emit dust during high wind events.

PM10 levels must be monitored with properly placed equipment in the Morongo Basin to adequately collect data from dust transmission from the Sand Transport Path. At present, there is no monitoring equipment in the Morongo Basin for a PM10 baseline measure.

PM10 sources also include unpaved roads common in the Mojave desert residential communities, construction sites and other disturbed areas, and now must be recognized to include utility and industrial scale solar sites.

Current LUS requirements during the construction of renewable energy projects include requiring water, chemical stabilization and/or gravel covering for dust control. Additional research into the safety and effectiveness of these mitigations is necessary. Use of water for dust control has been documented to be excessive and far in excess of developers anticipated levels of consumption. The use of water for mitigation is not effective nor is it a good use of our limited water supplies (see Mitigation HWQ-2.)

We urge that the 2018 EIR recognize the existence of STPs and the role they have in affecting air quality. More data is needed to map STPs, soil, and geology for planners to make sound evaluations on how disturbance of the soil crust and the removal of desert vegetation affects erosion and the release sand/dust. The cumulative affect of projects must also be taken into consideration in evaluating new development in the desert regions.

Air pollution impacts are a social justice issue for County residents.

**The 2018 EIR must acknowledge and anticipate the effects of climate change.**

In the 2007 EIR, climate change was not mentioned or its possible effects explicitly acknowledged or considered. Climate change must be integral in the 2018 EIR and Countywide Policy Plan and evaluation of the effects and potential mediation strategies for climate change incorporated. Climate change is here, its effects ever more apparent and the urgency to address this issue continuing to grow.

The Countywide Policy Plan must utilize sound science and current best-practices in planning. GIS mapping strategies are critical to proper analysis and implementation of policies. The 2018 Countywide Policy Plan EIR must recognize and anticipate the impacts of climate change through the use of

adaptive and resilient techniques to ensure that the Countywide Vision is achieved and maintained for residents.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kennington and Steve Bardwell

52015 Gamma Gulch Road  
Post Office Box 644  
Pioneertown, CA. 92268

## Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 20, 2017

File: Environmental Doc Review  
San Bernardino County

Jerry Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator  
County of San Bernardino  
Land Use Services Department  
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0185  
Email: [Jerry.Blum@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:Jerry.Blum@lus.sbcounty.gov)

### **COMMENTS ON THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTYWIDE PLAN, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY LAND USE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2017101033**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) staff received a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the above-referenced plan (Plan) on October 18, 2017. The NOP, which included an expanded project description and a link to the Countywide Plan online, was prepared by the County of San Bernardino (County) and submitted in compliance with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Water Board staff, acting as a responsible agency, is providing these comments to specify the scope and content of the environmental information germane to our statutory responsibilities pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15096. We commend the County for taking the necessary steps to reduce water use such as designing a recycled water system for irrigation and landscaping in Helendale and including “natural resources and conservation” as a key topic of consideration. We encourage the County to take this opportunity to also integrate strategies that promote watershed management and groundwater sustainability and to consider working with stakeholders in the development of standards for Low-Impact Development (LID) and storm water management.

### **WATER BOARD’S AUTHORITY**

All groundwater and surface waters are considered waters of the State. Surface waters include streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands, and may be ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial. All waters of the State are protected under California law. State law assigns responsibility for protection of water quality in the Lahontan Region to the Lahontan Water Board. Some waters of the State are also waters of the U.S. The Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) provides additional protection for those waters of the State that are also waters of the U.S.

The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan) contains policies that the Water Board uses with other laws and regulations to protect the quality of waters of the State within the Lahontan Region. The Basin Plan sets forth water quality standards for surface water and groundwater of the Region, which include designated beneficial uses as well as narrative and numerical objectives which must be maintained or attained to protect those uses. The Basin Plan can be accessed via the Water Board's web site at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/references.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/references.shtml).

San Bernardino County falls within the jurisdiction of three Regional Water Boards, the Lahontan, Santa Ana, and Colorado River Water Boards. The northern portions of the County, specifically the area north of the San Bernardino Mountains divide identified as County District Zones 4 and 5 and portions of District Zone 6, are within the jurisdiction of the Lahontan Water Board.

## **PURPOSE OF THE PLAN**

The Countywide Plan is a long-term comprehensive plan including a County Policy Plan, Community Plans Continuum, County Business Plan and Regional Issues Forum that will guide decisions of future growth and development. The Countywide Plan incorporates the several general elements: governance and policy; economic and social resources; safety, security, health and welfare issues; built environment; and conservation and natural resources throughout the unincorporated areas of the approximate 20,000 square mile planning area. Given the conceptual, long-term nature of the Plan, the forthcoming DEIR should provide a general overview of the potential impacts of proposed projects, and specify that subsequent and focused environmental review will occur as individual projects are proposed to implement elements of the Plan.

## **SPECIFIC ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE EIR**

Our comments on the Plan are outlined below and are germane only to those activities that have the potential to occur within the Lahontan Region.

1. The County is urged to develop policies and procedures, incorporating LID strategies, to provide for floodplain protection and establish buffer zones around surface water resources within land use areas.
2. We request that the Countywide Plan consider LID strategies including: maintaining natural drainage paths and landscape features to slow and filter runoff and maximize groundwater recharge; managing runoff as close to the source as possible; and maintaining vegetated areas for stormwater management and onsite infiltration.
3. Post-construction storm water management must be considered a significant component of the Countywide Plan. Of particular concern is collection of storm water runoff and the concentrated discharge of that storm water to natural



drainage channels. Where feasible, policy and design alternatives should be considered that redirect these flows to areas where they will dissipate by percolation into the landscape rather than directly discharge to surface water.

4. We encourage the County to incorporate adaptive management strategies into the Plan that will allow for: (1) periodic updates to Best Management Practices (BMP) lists based on the working knowledge of what is effective and where, and (2) periodic updates to document changes in habitat and environmental resources associated with land uses over time.
5. The cumulative impacts on water quality and hydrology over time must be fully evaluated in the environmental document. We urge the County to provide a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts in the environmental document. The analysis should consider the potential impacts from development and infrastructure within the watershed and evaluate, at minimum, the potential impacts to groundwater recharge due to increased impervious surface and compacted soils, changes in the hydrology of the respective watershed(s) and potential flooding implications, and habitat connectivity. The cumulative impacts analysis should identify both regional and project-specific mitigation measures that, when implemented, will reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EIR**

6. The beneficial uses of water resources in the Lahontan Region are listed either by watershed (for surface water) or by groundwater basin (for groundwater) in Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan. Project-level environmental reviews should identify and list the beneficial uses of the water resources within the Countywide Plan area, and include an analysis of the potential impacts to water quality and hydrology with respect to those beneficial uses.
7. Water quality objectives and standards, both numerical and narrative, for all waters of the State within the Lahontan Region, including surface waters and groundwater, are outlined in Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan. Water quality objectives and standards are intended to protect the public health and welfare, and to maintain or enhance water quality in relation to the existing and/or potential beneficial uses of the water. It is these objectives and standards that should be used when evaluating thresholds of significance for individual project impacts.
8. All surface waters are waters of the State. Some waters of the State are “isolated” from waters of the U.S. Determinations of the jurisdictional extent of waters of the U.S. are made by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on a project-by-project basis. As planning progresses, the County is urged to consult with the USACE and the Water Board and perform the necessary jurisdictional determinations for surface waters within the Project area

to ensure that the full extent of both State and federal jurisdictional areas are accurately documented.

9. The Water Board requires that impacts to water resources be avoided where feasible and minimized to the extent practical. Compensatory mitigation will be required for all unavoidable permanent impacts to surface water resources. Water Board staff coordinate all mitigation requirements with staff from other federal and state regulatory agencies, including the USACE and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. In determining appropriate mitigation ratios for impacts to waters of the State, Water Board staff considers Basin Plan requirements (minimum 1.5:1 mitigation ratio for impacts to wetlands) and utilizes *12501-SPD Regulatory Program Standard Operating Procedure for Determination of Mitigation Ratios*, published December 2012 by the USACE, South Pacific Division.
10. All temporary impacts to upland and water resource areas should be recontoured to match pre-Project conditions.
11. Vegetation clearing should be kept to a minimum. Where feasible, existing vegetation should be mowed to allow vegetation to more readily reestablish and help mitigate for potential storm water impacts.
12. Equipment staging areas and excavated soil stockpiles should be sited in upland areas outside stream channels and other surface waters on or around the Project site/alignment. Buffer areas should be identified and exclusion fencing used to protect the water resource and prevent unauthorized vehicles or equipment from entering or otherwise disturbing the surface waters. Equipment should use existing roadways to the extent feasible.
13. Obtaining a permit and conducting monitoring does not constitute adequate mitigation. Development and implementation of acceptable mitigation is required. Where applicable, the DEIR must specifically describe the BMPs and other measures used to mitigate Project impacts.

## PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

A number of activities associated with implementation of the Countywide Plan appear to have the potential to impact waters of the State and, therefore, may require permits issued by either the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) or Lahontan Water Board. For example, enhancing the bridge in Helendale where Vista Road crosses the Mojave River may have potential impacts to the river during and after construction. The required permits may include:

1. Land disturbance of more than 1 acre may require a CWA, section 402(p) storm water permits, including a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Storm water Permit, obtained from the State

Water Board, or individual storm water permit obtained from the Lahontan Water Board;

2. Water diversion and/or dewatering activities may be subject to discharge and monitoring requirements under NPDES General Permit, Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Waters, Board Order R6T-2008-0023, issued by the Lahontan Water Board; and
3. Streambed alteration and/or discharge of fill material to a surface water may require a CWA, section 401 water quality certification for impacts to federal waters (waters of the U.S.), or dredge and fill waste discharge requirements for impacts to non-federal waters, both issued by the Lahontan Water Board.

Please be advised of the permits that may be required for individual projects that may be proposed to implement the Plan, as outlined above. Should Plan implementation result in activities that will trigger these permitting actions, the project proponent must consult with Water Board staff. Information regarding these permits, including application forms, can be downloaded from our web site at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/>.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the NOP of the DEIR. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (760) 241-7307 ([shelby.barker@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:shelby.barker@waterboards.ca.gov)) or Jan Zimmerman, Senior Engineering Geologist, at (760) 241-7376 ([jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov)). Please send all correspondence regarding this Project to the Water Board's email address at [Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov) and include the State Clearinghouse Number in the subject line.



Shelby Barker, PG, CHG  
Engineering Geologist

cc: State Clearinghouse (SCH 2017101033) ([state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov](mailto:state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov))  
Daniel Swenson, USACE, Los Angeles ([Daniel.P.Swenson@usace.army.mil](mailto:Daniel.P.Swenson@usace.army.mil))  
Ali Aghili, California Department of Fish and Wildlife ([Ali.Aghili@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Ali.Aghili@wildlife.ca.gov))  
Lauma Jurkevics-Willis, SARWQCB ([Lauma.Willis@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lauma.Willis@waterboards.ca.gov))  
Abdi Haile, CRBRWQCB ([Abdi.Haile@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Abdi.Haile@waterboards.ca.gov))



November 20, 2017

Mr. Jerry L. Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator  
County of San Bernardino  
Land Use Services Department  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
San Bernardino, California 92415  
E-mail: [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov)

**RE: SCAG Comments on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan [SCAG NO. IGR9434]**

Dear Mr. Blum,

Thank you for submitting the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan ("proposed project") to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for review and comment. SCAG is the authorized regional agency for Inter-Governmental Review (IGR) of programs proposed for Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development activities, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372. Additionally, SCAG reviews the Environmental Impact Reports of projects of regional significance for consistency with regional plans pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.

SCAG is also the designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency under state law, and is responsible for preparation of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) including the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 375. As the clearinghouse for regionally significant projects per Executive Order 12372, SCAG reviews the consistency of local plans, projects, and programs with regional plans.<sup>1</sup> SCAG's feedback is intended to assist local jurisdictions and project proponents to implement projects that have the potential to contribute to attainment of Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategies (RTP/SCS) goals and align with RTP/SCS policies.

SCAG staff has reviewed the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan. The proposed project includes a comprehensive plan driven by the Countywide Vision (2011) and meets California Code requirements for a general plan. The proposed General Plan designations include 9,462 acres of open space, 63,871 acres of residential space, 10,078 acres of commercial space, and 21,574 acres of industrial space.

**When available, please send environmental documentation to SCAG's office in Los Angeles or by email to [au@scag.ca.gov](mailto:au@scag.ca.gov) providing, at a minimum, the full public comment period for review.** If you have any questions regarding the attached comments, please contact the Inter-Governmental Review (IGR) Program, attn.: Anita Au, Associate Regional Planner, at (213) 236-1874 or [au@scag.ca.gov](mailto:au@scag.ca.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Ping Chang

Acting Manager, Compliance and Performance Monitoring

<sup>1</sup> Lead agencies such as local jurisdictions have the sole discretion in determining a local project's consistency with the 2016 RTP/SCS for the purpose of determining consistency for CEQA. Any "consistency" finding by SCAG pursuant to the IGR process should not be construed as a determination of consistency with the 2016 RTP/SCS for CEQA.

**COMMENTS ON THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE  
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTYWIDE PLAN [SCAG NO. IGR9434]**

**CONSISTENCY WITH RTP/SCS**

SCAG reviews environmental documents for regionally significant projects for their consistency with the adopted RTP/SCS. For the purpose of determining consistency with CEQA, lead agencies such as local jurisdictions have the sole discretion in determining a local project's consistency with the RTP/SCS.

**2016 RTP/SCS GOALS**

The SCAG Regional Council adopted the 2016 RTP/SCS in April 2016. The 2016 RTP/SCS seeks to improve mobility, promote sustainability, facilitate economic development and preserve the quality of life for the residents in the region. The long-range visioning plan balances future mobility and housing needs with goals for the environment, the regional economy, social equity and environmental justice, and public health (see <http://scagrtpscs.net/Pages/FINAL2016RTPSCS.aspx>). The goals included in the 2016 RTP/SCS may be pertinent to the proposed project. These goals are meant to provide guidance for considering the proposed project within the context of regional goals and policies. Among the relevant goals of the 2016 RTP/SCS are the following:

<b>SCAG 2016 RTP/SCS GOALS</b>	
RTP/SCS G1:	<i>Align the plan investments and policies with improving regional economic development and competitiveness</i>
RTP/SCS G2:	<i>Maximize mobility and accessibility for all people and goods in the region</i>
RTP/SCS G3:	<i>Ensure travel safety and reliability for all people and goods in the region</i>
RTP/SCS G4:	<i>Preserve and ensure a sustainable regional transportation system</i>
RTP/SCS G5:	<i>Maximize the productivity of our transportation system</i>
RTP/SCS G6:	<i>Protect the environment and health for our residents by improving air quality and encouraging active transportation (e.g., bicycling and walking)</i>
RTP/SCS G7:	<i>Actively encourage and create incentives for energy efficiency, where possible</i>
RTP/SCS G8:	<i>Encourage land use and growth patterns that facilitate transit and active transportation</i>
RTP/SCS G9:	<i>Maximize the security of the regional transportation system through improved system monitoring, rapid recovery planning, and coordination with other security agencies*</i>
<i>*SCAG does not yet have an agreed-upon security performance measure.</i>	

For ease of review, we encourage the use of a side-by-side comparison of SCAG goals with discussions of the consistency, non-consistency or non-applicability of the goals and supportive analysis in a table format. Suggested format is as follows:

SCAG 2016 RTP/SCS GOALS	
Goal	Analysis
RTP/SCS G1: <i>Align the plan investments and policies with improving regional economic development and competitiveness</i>	<i>Consistent: Statement as to why; Not-Consistent: Statement as to why; Or Not Applicable: Statement as to why; DEIR page number reference</i>
RTP/SCS G2: <i>Maximize mobility and accessibility for all people and goods in the region</i>	<i>Consistent: Statement as to why; Not-Consistent: Statement as to why; Or Not Applicable: Statement as to why; DEIR page number reference</i>
etc.	etc.

## 2016 RTP/SCS STRATEGIES

To achieve the goals of the 2016 RTP/SCS, a wide range of land use and transportation strategies are included in the 2016 RTP/SCS. Technical appendances of the 2016 RTP/SCS provide additional supporting information in detail. To view the 2016 RTP/SCS, please visit: <http://scagrtpscs.net/Pages/FINAL2016RTPSCS.aspx>. The 2016 RTP/SCS builds upon the progress from the 2012 RTP/SCS and continues to focus on integrated, coordinated, and balanced planning for land use and transportation that the SCAG region strives toward a more sustainable region, while the region meets and exceeds in meeting all of applicable statutory requirements pertinent to the 2016 RTP/SCS. These strategies within the regional context are provided as guidance for lead agencies such as local jurisdictions when the proposed project is under consideration.

## DEMOGRAPHICS AND GROWTH FORECASTS

Local input plays an important role in developing a reasonable growth forecast for the 2016 RTP/SCS. SCAG used a bottom-up local review and input process and engaged local jurisdictions in establishing the base geographic and socioeconomic projections including population, household and employment. At the time of this letter, the most recently adopted SCAG jurisdictional-level growth forecasts that were developed in accordance with the bottom-up local review and input process consist of the 2020, 2035, and 2040 population, households and employment forecasts. To view them, please visit <http://www.scag.ca.gov/Documents/2016GrowthForecastByJurisdiction.pdf>. The growth forecasts for the region and applicable jurisdictions are below.

	Adopted SCAG Region Wide Forecasts			Adopted San Bernardino County Forecasts		
	Year 2020	Year 2035	Year 2040	Year 2020	Year 2035	Year 2040
Population	19,663,000	22,091,000	22,138,800	2,197,400	2,637,400	2,731,300
Households	6,458,000	7,325,000	7,412,300	687,100	824,600	854,300
Employment	8,414,000	9,441,000	9,871,500	789,500	998,000	1,028,100

## MITIGATION MEASURES

SCAG staff recommends that you review the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (Final PEIR) for the 2016 RTP/SCS for guidance, as appropriate. SCAG's Regional Council certified the Final PEIR and adopted the associated Findings of Fact and a Statement of Overriding Considerations (FOF/SOC) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) on April 7, 2016 (please see: <http://scagrtpscs.net/Pages/FINAL2016PEIR.aspx>). The Final PEIR includes a list of project-level performance standards-based mitigation measures that may be considered for adoption and implementation by lead, responsible, or trustee agencies in the region, as applicable and feasible. Project-level mitigation measures are within responsibility, authority, and/or jurisdiction of project-implementing agency or other public agency serving as lead agency under CEQA in subsequent project- and site- specific design, CEQA review, and decision-making processes, to meet the performance standards for each of the CEQA resource categories.



**From:** [Colin Drukker](#)  
**To:** [Frances Yau](#); [JoAnn Hadfield](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: San Bernardino Countywide Plan NOP  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2017 6:37:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [DEIR- County of San Bernardino - General Plan Update- Oct 2006-MGA- V2.DOC](#)

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**From:** Blum, Jerry <Jerry.Blum@lus.sbcounty.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 6:32:38 PM  
**To:** Colin Drukker  
**Cc:** Peterson, Suzanne  
**Subject:** FW: San Bernardino Countywide Plan

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**From:** Robertson, Glenn@Waterboards [mailto:Glenn.Robertson@waterboards.ca.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 4:58 PM  
**To:** CountywidePlan <CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov>  
**Cc:** Blum, Jerry <Jerry.Blum@lus.sbcounty.gov>; Reeder, Terri@Waterboards <Terri.Reeder@waterboards.ca.gov>; Willis, Lauma@Waterboards <Lauma.Willis@Waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** San Bernardino Countywide Plan

Staff of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, have only minimal comments at this time to the Notice of Preparation stage for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan and Community Plans Environmental Impact Report. We will wait for the DEIR stage for likely detailed comments but have attached our letter from the County's 2006 iteration of this countywide and individual community planning, indicating the type of relevant topics that should be addressed in the new iteration.

Currently, our concerns for San Bernardino County are:

- The need for sewers to replace septic systems in Bloomington and otherwise, the County's area of the Jurupa Hills, and as needed, related pump stations to boost sewage to treatment plants.
- Implementation of preserves of alluvial fan area, including sites vegetated with alluvial fan scrub, to target protection of the endangered San Bernardino kangaroo rat. Regional Board staff have recognized this species to be dependent on sheetflow across the coalescing fans emanating from the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains, and



therefore warranting the concept of protection through the Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species (RARE) and Wildlife Habitat (WILD) beneficial uses of the Santa Ana Region Basin Plan. The Stephens kangaroo rat and related species, as well as listed species dependent on arroyo and streambed habitats, are considered to be covered by RARE as well.

- A review of the likely necessary flow volume for sustainability, and for connectivity between reaches of the Santa Ana River, for the endangered Santa Ana sucker fish.
- Watershed preservation possibilities for remaining wildlands within San Bernardino County, from the Chino Hills to Yucaipa to the Big Bear area, in harmony with urban, foothill, and mountain communities. The San Bernardino County portion of San Timoteo Canyon may be combined with the Riverside County portion for a sediment loss study and the means to prevent erosion into the San Timoteo Creek watershed.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Glenn S. Robertson

Engineering Geologist, M.S., PG

Basin Planning Coastal Waters Section, CEQA Coordinator

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

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# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Santa Ana Region



**Linda S. Adams**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

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**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
Governor

October 27, 2006

Jim Squire, Supervising Planner, Advance Planning  
County of San Bernardino Land Use Services Division  
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

### **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO GENERAL PLAN UPDATE, SCH# 2005101038**

Dear Mr. Squire:

Staff of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (RWQCB), have reviewed the County of San Bernardino's Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for its pending General Plan Update, Adoption of Community Plans, and a complete replacement of the County's Development Code with proposed County Code, Title 8 (collectively, "Project"). We are concerned with those aspects of the Project that address, or can address, water-quality related issues in the portion of San Bernardino County within the Santa Ana River watershed. We previously commented on the Project's Initial Study with a November 2, 2005 letter (enclosure). Our comments on the DEIR follow:

We believe that the DEIR's proposed policy of avoidance for portions of channels (Table 1-1 of Executive Summary, listing mitigation measures) provides an over-arching response to our earlier recommendations that the filling, alteration, and hydromodification of natural, naturalized, and ephemeral surface drainages (and loss of their associated water quality beneficial uses) be avoided (see portions of comments 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, and 15 in the November 2, 2005 letter). In the Executive Summary, mitigation of Impacts BIO-2, BIO-8, and BIO-16, or general adverse impacts to riparian habitat, will be provided by the proposed County policy to preserve 75% of each existing "natural water resource" on a project site (including ephemeral watercourses), with the remaining 25% of each water body developed and under appropriate permits. Further, the Project stipulates that the County will ensure that permanent loss of habitat will be mitigated by enhancement of the habitat in the conserved areas, and that the County will participate in regional plans to improve water quality and habitat downstream of a project, even outside of County jurisdiction. Pg. VIII-21 (Safety Element) urges preservation of unlined or natural channels as linear parks or similar designations whenever feasible.

We support the far-reaching possibilities for the protection of water quality beneficial uses if the above group of proposed policies is adopted and implemented. However, we are quite concerned with the policy contained in the Project whereby an apparently arbitrarily determined 25% of a site's natural surface water drainage features, and the water quality beneficial uses they support, will be allowed to be impacted by development, as the policies contained in the Project are applied. The 25% of a site's drainages (unclear as

whether assigned to channel length or area) designated for construction disturbance may not correspond to the surface area of the surface water drainage where protection of beneficial uses is most necessary, e.g., head waters areas, areas where water quality beneficial uses are currently well supported, previously disturbed drainages with significant potential for restoration of beneficial uses, etc. The policy appears to focus on downstream impacts while omitting discussion of possible impacts upstream of a project, depending on where the project is situated within a parcel. Impacts to natural surface water drainages must be limited to those areas that cannot be avoided, and if desirable, limited by policy to not exceed a scientifically derived, rationally developed maximum area of the natural drainage features a project site. Further, the arbitrary establishment of such criteria appears to be direct conflict with the policies of avoidance discussed above. The proposed policy appears well-intended but may invite, not encourage avoidance of, impacts to surface water drainages, up to some arbitrary percentage of site area. In addition, such a policy creates loopholes that could lead to obliteration of drainages that possess attributes favorable to support of water quality beneficial uses, and to elimination of stream restoration opportunities.

A Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, with appropriate mitigation, will continue to be required for the dredge, fill, or other disturbance to water bodies deemed jurisdictional by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and wherever possible the mitigation should be conducted within the same portion of the channel chosen for construction. We request that the DEIR's policy incorporate these caveats.

Pg. V-22 (Conservation Element) proposes the prohibition of streambed conversions except where necessary for public safety. The Project would "allow no development in designated flood plains, which would alter the alignment or direction or course of any blue line stream." This clause could be interpreted in two differing ways, depending on the inclusion of the comma, and therefore should be clarified. This clause should also be expanded to include not only "blue line streams," perennial or intermittent drainages shown on USGS quadrangle maps as solid blue lines, but also intermittent and ephemeral or streams shown on quad maps by broken blue lines. Consideration should be given to extending this prohibition to locally significant drainages not depicted on quad maps but that currently support water quality beneficial uses associated with surface waters, particularly in parts of watersheds where support of these beneficial uses is not widespread. Also, in the Executive Summary, the mitigation of Impact HWQ-2 (alteration of existing drainages) would be this prohibition of streambed conversions but without the qualifier about public safety. Pg. V-22 and the Executive Summary should be consistent.

Pg. X-8 (Stormwater) is too general with regard to the discussion of Best Management Practices and Hydrologic Conditions of Concern for stormwater runoff control, and the relationship of such non-point sources to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) (suggestions in November 2, 2005 letter). The text should describe NPDES Permit No. CAS618036 as Regional Water Quality Control Board Order No. R8-2002-0012, "Waste Discharge Requirements for the San Bernardino County Flood Control District, the County of San Bernardino, and the Incorporated Cities of San Bernardino County within the Santa Ana Region Area-Wide Urban Storm Water Runoff," also known as the San Bernardino County municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit, and generally summarize its goals, objectives and implementation. This summary should include the

model water quality management plan, developed by the County pursuant to the MS4 permit. We are in agreement with the Project's generalized goals for groundwater basin protection, sewer expansion, and removal of dairy waste (Section III, Circulation Element).

Most of our November 2, 2005 comments on the general text also apply to the 2006 Project's community plans: Bear Valley, Bloomington, Lytle Creek, Muscoy, and Oak Glen. We do wish that similar extrapolations of those community plans could be included for unincorporated portions of Upland (San Antonio Heights), Montclair, Redlands, Mentone, and Fontana.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (951) 782-3234, or Glenn Robertson of my staff at (951) 782-3259.

Sincerely,

-S-

Mark G. Adelson, Chief  
Regional Planning Programs Section

Enclosure

cc: Scott Morgan – State Clearinghouse

X:\Groberts on Magnolia\Data\ CEQA\DEIR- County of San Bernardino- General Plan Update Oct. 2006

## **LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (LVEDA)**

To: Jerry L. Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator - County of San Bernardino  
Land Use Services Department  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415    [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov)

From: Chuck Bell, Pres. 760 964 3118    [chuckb@sisp.net](mailto:chuckb@sisp.net)  
P. O. Box 193  
Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

Date: 11/20/17

### **RE: COUNTYWIDE PLAN EIR SCOPING**

Some of LVEDA's recently submitted comments on the Lucerne Valley Community Plan are relevant to the Countywide Plan EIR and we request they be incorporated by reference. Countywide Plan environmental impacts are global and generic in nature and thus difficult to assess. Most comments below focus more on mitigation than on the Plan's specific impacts – which will inherently and cumulatively increase due to more population with minimal County enforcement.

## **Aesthetics**

Maintain the natural view sheds of desert communities along roads designated "County Scenic" – and especially Hwy 247 being applied for as "State Scenic". Refer to Caltrans all project applications along roads listed by the State as "eligible" for scenic status for analysis of impacts and intrusions adversely affecting said status.

Use zoning and development standards to reduce the potential for aesthetic disruptions.

Beef up Code Enforcement's budget and staff to deal with abandoned structures, illegal dumps, etc.

## Agriculture/Forestry Resources

Continue current policy of 'no permit required' for general agricultural practices – except large-scale chicken/egg ranches – specified animal concentrations – marijuana farms, etc.

County EHS notify well drillers when they pull permits for locations in the adjudicated portion of the desert of the need to inform their clients to contact the Mojave Basin Watermaster (Mojave Water Agency) re: the requirement to obtain water rights if pump over 10 ac'/year – no matter the size of the parcel.

County adopt a 'soil amendment' ordinance requiring the sources and haulers of bio-solids/compost/green waste mulch to register with the County Dept. of Agriculture the locations and owners where said commodities are being deposited – to only be applied pursuant to Best Management Practices and agronomic applications included in the ordinance - and provided to the recipient parties.

County Dept. of Ag. work with the Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District and USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service re: Best Management Practices for starting a new farm to avoid blowing dirt – upset neighbors – etc.

Code Enforcement monitor/respond to complaints re: blowing dirt/dust off an agriculture field or other land disturbance – with beefed up regulations in the Development Code.

County and Cal Fire, etc. actively support and perform dead tree and biomass removal – and tree thinning in overgrown forests both on private and public lands to reduce fire potential and to maintain a healthier forest and protect watersheds.

## Air Quality

Work with MDAQMD to regulate and control stationary source emissions – but oppose any further State GHG onerous requirements – especially for mineral production.

Enforce current Development Code stipulations re: illegal and legal land scraping – brush removal – etc. to avoid blowing dirt/dust off parcels onto another – plus

reduce PM10 and smaller particles into the ambient air stream for miles downwind (major current problem the County is not dealing with).

## Biological Resources

Implement a County-wide HCP to simplify and expedite permitting where a project could result in a 'taking' of a listed species.

Maintain the integrity of biological/wildlife corridors by not allowing intrusive projects within them.

No removal or disturbance of native vegetation for RE projects.

Enforce existing Codes re: illegal grading and de-brushing not associated with agriculture or legal developments.

## Cultural Resources

Cultural resources aren't just related to historic Native American or pioneer artifacts and structures – but also community customs and cultures that need to be protected from intrusive developments that dilute their integrity and ruin community values. Each community plan needs to include lists provided by the residents of the features and elements they want preserved.

Avoid requiring cultural surveys where it is known no such resources exist.

## Geology/Soils

Important geological features need to be protected from certain developments that intrude on them and disrupt their scenic qualities.

The Plan and Dev. Code need to be updated re: what soil types can accommodate specific development types w/o creating wind-blown erosion – and which need specific mitigation measures. Soil disturbance from illegal land scraping and de-brushing – solar projects – fallowed agricultural fields - results in constant blowing dirt onto adjacent parcels and becomes ambient for long distances. PM 10 and finer particles are the most prevalent – a definite health impact and violations of both the current County Dev. Code and in some instances MDAQMD regulations. This is becoming one of the primary complaints from various communities that the County needs to deal with in the Plan and Code updates. No solar plant currently in place and operating has complied with even the projects' mitigation



requirements – none of which are adequate based on the extent of the disturbance – the fine/sandy soils – and the lack of suitable soil stabilization measures. Complaints to County Code Enf. and the MDAQMD have not been adequately dealt with or resolved – even when CE staff can get to the site and witness the problem. This will probably be one of the biggest impacts from the types and extent of land-uses and population increases that the Countywide Plan will allow.

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The County will obviously try to do what it is supposed to via State and Fed. regs. – some of which have marginal benefit related to the local, economic cost. This is a world-wide issue and problem and the County doesn't need to get too excited about thinking it can solve the problem alone. We need to factor in the long-term reductions of greenhouse gasses due to renewable energy projects in the County and throughout the southwest – but need to account for emissions from manufacture and installation of solar panels, etc. No free lunch. Desert soils and vegetation have high rates of carbon retention – which is released when disturbed – not restored in human timeframes – preservation of which is probably one of the County's best ways to participate in said GHS reductions.

## Hazards & Hazardous Materials

Years ago we started our volunteer Lucerne Valley household hazardous waste collection program. The County needs to help organize and support more such efforts in desert communities to help keep said materials out of the landfills – and of course reduce illegal dumping. County Fire (Haz. Mat. Division) does the best job it can – but needs more support.

## Hydrology/Water Quality

As politically difficult as it always is – the Plan needs to limit more population growth and certain land-uses (via zoning, etc.) to levels which can be sustained by the long-term availability of water supplies based on projected averages – with likely reduced imports and local supplies due to what experts believe to be caused by climate warming/change. And not just for the desert/mountain areas – but County wide. If their projects are approved - major new subdivisions and large water-consuming industries need to purchase water entitlements from holders of State Project Water rights in amounts equivalent to their usage – and transfer

them to their local State Water Contractors for import. Current residents should not have to subsidize new development with any future water use reductions.

The County needs to resume the allowance of hauled water to new single-family residential development in rural areas with no or non-potable groundwater exists – or where the cost of a well is beyond the ability of our residents in “Economically Disadvantaged Communities” to afford. The County EHS’s internal department policy was never codified in an ordinance or the Dev. Code. Parties are working on amending state legislation dealing with hauled water.

Water quality is primarily the jurisdictions of the State Water Boards. There was never any evidence of a water quality problem from hauled water from a licensed source and hauler.

County Flood Control and EHS? need to get better management and enforcement of urban storm water that pollutes local and Mojave River aquifers – in addition to our reservoirs.

## Land Use/Planning

This is obviously the core of the updated Countywide Plan – but the analysis of which will probably get shined on because it is so difficult to deal with. Not much we can say other than land-uses and zoning that do not conform to community standards, values, resource availability and all the other environmental elements of this Plan - will have a significant adverse impact. But projects inconsistent with all that will likely still be approved with overriding considerations that will probably not get contested. Just be honest about it and call it a “significant adverse impact that cannot be mitigated or compensated”.

No ‘Big Box’ stores in rural communities and any franchise store should be locally owned and operated to better conform to rural-based customs and cultures.

We have been advocating rural standards for unincorporated communities for years – a major policy in the 2007 community plans – yet we are still subject to urban requirements (ie: A left turn pocket that made a left turn in the other direction illegal – and a sidewalk to nowhere – for a Dollar Store in Lucerne Valley that we didn’t want and doesn’t comply with our 2007 C. Plan).

## Mineral Resources

The County needs to better understand that you can only mine where the minerals are – it's the stuff we all absolutely need and we can't lock it up or make it difficult to obtain a permit whether a SMARA project or not. We have minerals that can be efficiently and economically mined – obviously with short-term impacts – certainly need to require Best Management Practices for reclamation. Gold mines in the E. Mojave that were operated in the 70's and 80's have been reclaimed almost to the level of not even recognizing where they were.

County BOS needs to work with USFS and BLM to expedite mining projects on public lands – not let the Feds. derail valid projects or just stall because they don't like them. We cannot allow major dependency on critical minerals from foreign sources.

## NOISE

This is a land-use issue and problem – projects that create noisy stuff next to non-noisy stuff. With all the CNEL and DBA analyses normally required – need to include not only construction related noise – but long-term project noise – and not just for industrial/commercial projects. Highway/road traffic noise needs to be better reflected in approvals of residential subdivisions – with buffering land-uses in between them.

## Population and Housing

This is also a land-use issue – providing housing for the expected population. Housing that is relatively affordable and rent control ordinances can help our current and future residents – but what is too affordable (ie: in some of our rural communities) allows the influx of undesirable demographics – which in turn require significant amounts of government services – especially law and code enforcement. And what developer wants to build apartment units knowing that rent control might be implemented?

The County – mostly cities – need to come up with some level of housing for our homeless. Partnerships with the Salvation Army, churches, etc. might be the best option- they know what to do. Homeless in the Mojave River have started fires in the river's bottom lands that have caused significant damage to riparian vegetation and listed bird species – and will continue unless resolved.

## Public Services

There will never be enough tax revenue to fund public services as much as we need or want. If there was – we would be complaining about high taxes. However law and code enforcement are the most needed services for our desert communities – both lacking and need more focus and \$. Road maintenance is probably next in line based on what we hear.

## Recreation

Not sure how this fits into a Countywide Plan – but it's important to adequately fund County Regional Parks (Mojave Narrows needs a lot of weed work and removal of dead and down matter in the Mojave River bed) and County Service Area's community parks. The County needs to make more effort in working with USFS and BLM to keep trails open and maintain better public access.

## Transportation/Traffic

What used to be SANBAG – now called ?? – needs to compensate communities like Lucerne Valley for road repairs resulting from tremendous amounts of truck traffic that hauls cement, limestone, and aggregate to within and outside the County – even the State – which because said loads are considered raw products and not a final sale – don't qualify for Measure I road/sales tax. We produce goods for other areas that get a sales tax when the commodities are turned into a final product – but suffer the high truck volumes and road impacts – and need to get alternative funding to compensate. This is an 'Environmental Justice' issue – especially for a "Disadvantaged Community".

Desert rural road standards need to be implemented by both County and Caltrans (which requires County working with Caltrans).

## Tribal Cultural Resources

Tribal consultations are basic requirements – but the County needs to adopt stronger time limits for responses. Most projects have little or no effects on said resources.

## Utilities and Service Systems

The County needs to become a CCA (Community Choice Aggregate/Advocate) in order to facilitate local communities obtaining a 'community solar project' – strictly for its own use tied to its local transmission/substation systems.

County lobbyists need to engage more with the CPUC and CEC in their actions and decisions affecting our County.

County needs to work with SCE to lower the costs of power extensions – inhibiting the ability of land owners in rural areas to build a residence.

# MBCA



## morongo basin conservation association

P.O. Box 24, Joshua Tree, CA 92254  
[www.mbconservation.org](http://www.mbconservation.org)

Date: November 20, 2017

To: Jerry Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator

Sent via Email: [CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov)

Subject: Scoping Comments for 2017-2018 Countywide Plan EIR

Dear Mr. Blum,

MBCA thanks Land Use Services for this opportunity to comment on the preparation of the Programmatic EIR supporting the Countywide Plan in development. We understand that the scope of the Program will focus on proposed land use changes and policies in the Policy Plan that can have a physical impact on the environment. Since the Policy Plan and the EIR are being prepared in tandem and since we have not seen the changes to the Policy Plan we will base our comments on the 2007 General Plan EIR, the 2007 General Plan (GP) and Development Code (DC). In particular we will use our experiences with Project Initial Studies (IS) as they reflected the Goals and Policies in the Joshua Tree Community Plan (JTCP), and, for certain issues, the Desert Region in general. Our purpose is not to reargue projects but to suggest research and practices that would promote better alignment between CEQA and county planning. Because of time constraints we will confine our comments to the following topics: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Geology/Soils, Noise, and Recreation – firearms, OHV.

### Aesthetics

The 2007 Joshua Tree Community Plan (CP) states “*Maintain the value of Joshua Tree’s scenic and natural resources as the foundation of their community character and quality of life.*”<sup>1</sup> Within the CP the word *scenic* is referred to 23 times with the following modifiers: *opportunities, vistas, qualities, resources, routes, corridors, sensitivity, Highway, beauty*. The Morongo Basin, from which Joshua Tree cannot be extracted when discussing aesthetics, has four County Scenic Routes including SR 62 from the Riverside county line on the west end to the state line on the east end.<sup>2</sup> Scenic routes are dedicated because of “their significant scenic vistas”<sup>3</sup>. The basin and range topography provides the traveler and residents with continuous scenic routes.<sup>4</sup> These routes, tracing Joshua Tree National Park, the Mojave Preserve, the new Sand-to-Snow and Mojave Trails National Monuments, and tens of mountain ranges and intervening basins, are the basis of a thriving tourism economy with an economic output of over \$200 million.<sup>5</sup> And it is not just tourism that is thriving. From a Desert Sun article on economic impacts we

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<sup>1</sup> Page 14

<sup>2</sup> Open Space Overlay Map for the 2007 GP

<sup>3</sup> 2007 GP III Circulation and Infrastructure 3. Scenic Routes

<sup>4</sup> “The County has determined, however, that the primary goal of scenic routes is to conserve the scenic qualities of those routes and has therefore included the goals and policies for scenic routes into the Conservation Element. (III-5)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>


learn that “What’s on fire is the 400 –square-foot homestead on five acres in the middle of nowhere on a dirt road. That’s what people want...home prices are on the march up in the High Desert, with sale prices up to 30.3 % in Joshua Tree compared to the same time last year.”<sup>6</sup> So, scenic opportunities, vistas, qualities and beauty are key to the economy and quality-of-life for Joshua Tree and all the gateway communities in the Morongo Basin. The 2007 EIR, General Plan and Development Code all guide the County to preserve the scenic qualities of the desert, mountain, and valley regions.

Yet, that intent is often undermined for high profile projects. A good example is the aesthetic analyses in the Initial Studies (IS) for Joshua Tree Solar Farm project with 115 acres of PV panels on the historic Roy Williams Airport site less than 1 mile north of County Scenic Route SR-62. The IS found that impacts to the scenic vistas, scenic resources, and the existing visual character would be less that significant.


**Comments based on Visual Impact Report (VIR)**

Initial Study Finding based on VIR : *“Visual simulations from nearby locations towards the more scenic views of the mountains show that the project will be barely visible in the foreground.”*

Looking south from JT Airport toward Park



Same view through Cascade Solar



*“In addition, the muted gray color of the solar panels helps to blend the facility in with the surrounding grayish-green vegetation minimizing contrast.” Appendix C, Page 33*

Obvious to the community, the analysis was a desk jobs without a site visit, and was challenged. For example the 115 acre solar field in the historic airport “*will be barely visible in the foreground*” and the gray color of the panels will blend in with the vegetation. MBCA, in their comments on the project, demonstrated the absurdity of the comparisons with the paired images to the left.



Google Earth image of the Joshua Tree basin with JT National Park to the south. Copper Mountain is the east boundary and there are several smaller mountains to the west.

And “*The project would alter the existing view of the project site from adjacent uses and roadways by developing 115 acres of vacant land with solar panels, ancillary equipment, and distribution line improvements. However, the project site is flat and contains no significant geological or vegetation features that could be considered scenic.*” (Underline for emphasis)<sup>7</sup>

Further on we find the “sparse vegetation” is “not unique in the immediate area and therefore not a scenic resource.” True, it is the native vegetation functionally able to stabilize the ‘flat’ linear dune on the site (more on dunes in the air quality section). Aside from that, what do these finding mean? The community understood the descriptions were intended to diminish the scenic value of the viewshed for residents and travelers on Scenic Route SR 62, thereby justifying the solar project.

The intent of the County in its land use documents is to protect scenic vistas, resources, and character. In the example that intent was not translated into the CEQA documents mandated to disclose project impacts to the public for comment and to the planning commissioners and supervisors for decisions of approval or denial. This

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.desertsun.com/story/news/national-parks/2016/04/26/joshua-tree-national-park-economic-impact/83512084/>

<sup>7</sup> Joshua Tree solar Farm IS, Page 20



costs the defending community members enormous amounts of time for commenting, appearances before the commissioners and supervisors, and money for CEQA lawsuits.

What can be done to clarify the aesthetics issue in Joshua, the Morongo Basin, and the Mojave Desert in general to avoid costly delays and litigation?

1. For the Morongo Basin, the EIR must evaluate the findings and maps of the Morongo Basin Conservation Priorities Report – a strategy for preserving conservation values – 2012<sup>8</sup> and the web based conservation priorities mapping tool searchable by parcel APN number or address. The parcel features identify priority areas for Joshua tree National Park and Marine Corps Base missions, wildlife connectivity and habitat, maintenance of community identity, and the preservation of community views and treasures.<sup>9</sup> This website is supported by the Morongo Basin Conservation Association and the Mojave Desert Land Trust. The County has the ability to update the parcel information on a regular basis. The County was provided the Report's GIS shape files in 2012 and the files were recently provided to Mike Howard at Dudek for the RCIS.
2. Analysis of comments from desert communities over the past decade will show that significant projects, such as the one mentioned above, should be presented for scoping at a monthly MAC meeting or a separate special meeting to avoid costly delays. At least the developer will know what they are in for.
3. The County must develop guidelines for project visualizations that provide images that are truthful and useful. Visualization must reflect what the human eye would see from a travelers or residents viewpoint relative to the project. I realize aesthetic analysis can be subjective but visualizations are frequently used to present a false impression, as MBCA noted in their Joshua Tree Solar Project Comment Letter.
4. Use Google Earth, including the historical feature, to verify applicant's claim that a site is disturbed or cleared or that "Development of the subject property will not substantially degrade the visual character or quality of the site or area."
5. County Scenic Highway 247 is eligible for California status and is in the application process. The purpose of the County program mirrors the California program, *"to preserve and protect scenic highway corridors from changes and development that would diminish the aesthetic value of lands adjacent to highways. A highway's designation as "scenic" depends upon the amount of natural landscape that can be seen by individuals traveling along its route and the extent to which development intrudes upon this view. The boundaries of a scenic corridor generally encompass the land adjacent to and visible from the highway, using a motorist's line of sight. A reasonable boundary is selected when the view extends to the distant horizon."* (underline is for emphasis)

Depending on the document the County applies measurements anywhere from 200 feet of centerline to 1 mile out. California does not specify a distance for line of site and the County should also allow a 'reasonable boundary' to be determined by the location. The basins that the County Scenic Routes follow are not wide but usually wider than a mile. And all disturbance is not the same and can also reasonably be determined. The County refers to "undeveloped tracts of land that offer significant scenic vistas." We suggest modifying the phrase, wherever it occurs to "lightly developed". Light development, including our homesteading history, has an imprint without destroying scenic qualities.

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<sup>8</sup><https://sonoraninstitute.org/files/pdf/morongo-basin-conservation-priorities-report-a-strategy-for-preserving-conservation-values-07112012.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <http://websites.greeninfo.org/morongo/mbcv/live/>

Aesthetics rests in the eye of the beholder. In defense of our desert and its economy, recreation, and quality-of-life for full and part time residents, I offer support for our suggestions from the National Geographic and the Special Editions from 2013 and 2017 - "The World's Most Beautiful Places – 100 Unforgettable Destinations" affirms The Mojave Desert (#90) under the category Stark and Wild; and "100 Best Destinations Around the World in Four Seasons" affirms Joshua Tree National Park (#23) under the category Spring Adventures.

#### **Air Quality – Geology and Soils – Biological Resources**

MBCA has commented on the presence of the Sand Transport Path that extends east from Joshua Tree Basin for approximately 134 miles toward Blythe. There are multiple STPs in the County east of Victorville.<sup>10</sup> For certain projects<sup>11</sup> the STPs have been studied for sand movement when the stabilizing vegetation is removed. Threatened species such as the fringe-toed lizard and tortoise drive the studies. These published studies do not account for fugitive dust or PM10. There are several problems that have not been addressed either by the County or by MDAQMD at the time of this letter.

1. The Mojave Desert is out of compliance with PM10 and CEQA and NEPA require baseline data, anticipated project emissions, and approved dust control plans.
2. There are no PM10 monitors west of Victorville in the County placed to give accurate baseline background information. Victorville does not share the meteorological conditions or soils on the desert to the east. The monitor is on asphalt.
3. The AQMD Fugitive Dust Rule 403.2 is out of date and the top 10 dust control techniques have been shown not to work on large projects (solar) with 30 year plus lifetimes. At most watering the surface works for three or four hours and uses water from declining aquifers and palliative measures that bind the surface particles are ineffective beyond three or four months.<sup>12</sup>
4. The STP is a geologic feature that must be acknowledged for its soils and hazard of blowing dust.
5. The According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service sand sheets are stabilized by the roots of Galleta Grass--Creosote Bush Plant Community.<sup>13</sup> Neither of these plants are special status species; it is the plant community function that must be maintained to preserve air quality. The function of plant communities should be addressed as a biological resource.
6. The County does not, at this time, require a detailed soil analysis with a project application for approval. I should. The analysis must address soil units (types) with the hazard of blowing dust. The soil data must be provided to AQMD if they are to certify a Dust Control Plan. See points above.
7. A discussion of the 6 points in this section is provided in the referenced PowerPoint.<sup>14</sup> This presentation was delivered to the Lucerne Valley MAC, attended by Brad Poirier, the Executive Director of MDAQMD and Bret Banks, MDAQMD Compliance. Pat Flanagan, Morongo Basin MAC, has been appointed to the AQMD Technical Advisory Council.

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<sup>10</sup> Sand Transport Paths in the Mojave Desert, Southwestern United States. James R. Zimbelman et. al. Pdf available <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/8659/019534c2b1a2192e83458381b86a43b443b3.pdf> Accessed 11/20/17.

<sup>11</sup> Palen Solar Project on BLM land in a Development Focus Area adjacent to the I-10

<sup>12</sup> Personal communication with Earl Withycombe, Air Resources Engineer, California ARB 11/20/17. Contact [earl.withycombe@arb.ca.gov](mailto:earl.withycombe@arb.ca.gov) or 916-322-8487. In addition, this statement rests on personal experience since I live on the STP (Desert Heights) and am breathing dust from solar projects that completed construction in 2013.

<sup>13</sup> <https://esis.sc.egov.usda.gov/ESDReport/fsReport.aspx?id=R030XB148CA&rptLevel=communities&approved=yes&repType=regular&scrns=&comm=> Accessed 11/20/17

<sup>14</sup> [https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/mbca/pages/907/attachments/original/1501211030/LV\\_MAC\\_Presentation.pdf?1501211030](https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/mbca/pages/907/attachments/original/1501211030/LV_MAC_Presentation.pdf?1501211030)

## Biological Resources

Since 2007, San Bernardino County's population and economy have grown substantially. In 2007, the estimated population of the County was 2,026,325<sup>15</sup> while by 2016 the estimated population was 2,140,096<sup>16</sup>. Importantly San Bernardino County's population is projected to reach 2,407,209 by 2027, ostensibly the year of the next Countywide Policy Plan update<sup>17</sup>.

Increased population and development, as well as a growing economy is placing increasing pressure on our natural resources and will continue to do so in the coming years. This makes crafting a strong and comprehensive Conservation Element for the Countywide Policy Plan of paramount importance.

The San Bernardino County government has jurisdictional control over nearly 2 million acres of land representing 15% of total land within the county boundary, exclusive of incorporated cities and public land under the control of state or federal agencies<sup>18</sup>. In fact, more than 80% of San Bernardino County is federal land<sup>19</sup>.

This means the goals and policies in the 2017 Countywide Policy Plan, as well as the analysis conducted and alternatives drafted for the current 2017 EIR process, must consider the complimentary conservation role that San Bernardino County's public lands play in ensuring that there are genetically viable populations of species; healthy ecosystems; and functioning natural process. To put it succinctly, the tapestry of public and private lands in San Bernardino County are irrevocably intertwined and the EIR analysis and the related Countywide Policy Plan Conservation Element must consider them as such.

Specifically, San Bernardino County should analyze current and foreseeable land use, projects and policy on both County lands and federal lands in order to craft strong goals and policies for the conservation element. What's needed is a Conservation Element that reflects natural boundaries and ecosystems, not arbitrary political ones.

Moreover, when crafting conservation goals and policies for the Countywide Policy Plan that impact a broad range of natural resource issues, the County should make sure they support and compliment policies on federal land in order to best protect air quality, water resources, wildlife corridors, critical habitat, dark skies, sensitive species and landscape level ecosystems.

A good example of this approach can be seen when one considers that protected federal lands form core refuges for a wide variety of plant and animal species, but it is equally important to protect and connect these blocks of public lands by preserving wildlife corridors on San Bernardino County managed lands throughout the Valley, Desert and Mountain Regions. Without the protection of these corridors, species won't be able to maintain sufficient genetic diversity and animals won't have room to roam to find food, water, shelter and mates.

The 2017 General Plan EIR should:

- 1) An analysis of how San Bernardino County's project population increase, growth and development will impact natural resources on both public and lands under the County's jurisdiction. Craft a suite of policies

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<sup>15</sup> Fresno Library Archive. California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit. Available online at <http://www.fresnolibrary.org/ref/pop/caldof.html>

<sup>16</sup> United States Census Bureau. San Bernardino County. Available online at [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml?src=bkmk](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml?src=bkmk)

<sup>17</sup> California State Department of Finance. Population by County- 1-year increments. Available online at <http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/projections/>

<sup>18</sup> San Bernardino County Conservation and Renewable Energy Element. (August 8, 2017).

<sup>19</sup> County of San Bernardino. Public Lands at a Glance. Available online at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/CAO/LegislativeAffairs/LegislativeMaterials/PublicLands-1.pdf>

that utilize the concept of landscape level conservation to protect habitat, wildlife corridors, ecosystems and species.

2) Wildlife Corridors-

- A) Land Use Services staff should conduct research examining the current best practices of Counties for protecting wildlife corridors across the nation. Subsequently craft a suite of model goals, policies, ordinances and code for preserving wildlife corridors, species and habitats to update the 2017 General Plan.
- B) The County must update their Open Space and Biotic Overlay Maps to include wildlife corridors and linkages that are identified in the following documents:
  - 1. SC Wildlands Report, "A Linkage Network for the California Deserts."<sup>20</sup>
  - 2. SC Wildlands Report, "A Joshua Tree-Twenty-nine Palms Connection."<sup>21</sup>
  - 3. SC Wildlands Report, South Coast Missing Linkages."<sup>22</sup>
  - 4. Morongo Basin Conservation Priorities Report.<sup>23</sup>
- C) The County should develop a suite of goals and policies- to be included either in the Countywide Policy Plan or the subsequent Implementation Plan- to protect the integrity of these wildlife corridors and linkages. Suggestions that should be analyzed should include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. Identifying opportunities to downzone wildlife corridors and linkages.
  - 2. Partnering with Caltrans, other agencies and organizations to identify opportunities to protect wildlife linkages from impediments like roads, recreation, development and impediments to stream flow, as well as a timeline and implementation plan to do so.
  - 3. Developing wildlife corridor management plans, including a data base that has information about current and foreseeable development, biological data and physical science data.
  - 4. Collaborate with other jurisdictions and federal, state and local agencies to identify regional, long term funding for wildlife corridor enhancement projects.
  - 5. Support the acquisition of or easements on tracts of land that contain wildlife corridors and also contain multiple preservation benefits such as biology, hydrology, cultural, aesthetics and rare species.
  - 6. Develop a suite of site design policies that require developers to minimize the loss of habitat in wildlife corridors.
- D) Analyze the mitigations that are associated with Biological Resources in the 2007 General Plan to see if they have been successful at protecting species, habitats and wildlife corridors over a ten-year period. Some of these mitigations include consultations with other agencies, coordination with stakeholders and the development of maps. While these are all helpful supportive actions in preserving species, the case can be made that they don't always result in the actual preservation of species, habitat and wildlife corridors. Moreover, it can be argued that consultation and coordination with agencies and stakeholders is not a mitigation, but is a requirement of the law.

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<sup>20</sup> SC Wildlands. (2012). A Linkage for the California Desert. Available online at <http://www.scwildlands.org/>

<sup>21</sup> SC Wildlands. (2008). A Joshua Tree-Twenty-nine Palms Connection. Available online at <http://www.scwildlands.org/>

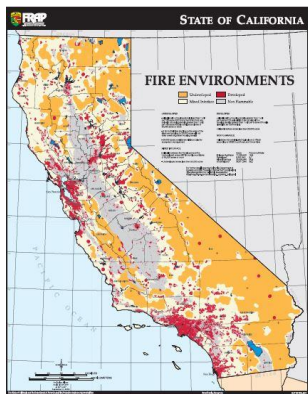
<sup>22</sup> SC Wildlands. (2008). South Coast Missing Linkages. Available online at <http://www.scwildlands.org/>

<sup>23</sup> Morongo Basin Conservation Priorities Report. (2012). Sonoran Institute. Available online at <https://sonoraninstitute.org/files/pdf/morongo-basin-conservation-priorities-report-a-strategy-for-preserving-conservation-values-07112012.pdf>

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Climate Change, and Hazards

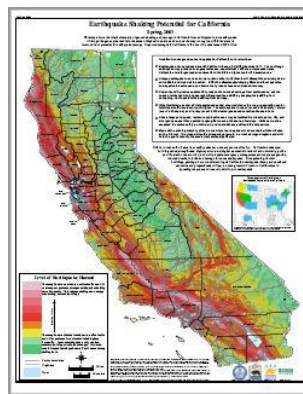
Much has been learned in the past decade about carbon sequestration by desert plants and soil microorganisms.<sup>24</sup> The EIR should research this thoroughly so that it can be applied to the factors considered when weighing the pros and cons, including necessity, of new solar projects in the desert.

Coupled with this consideration is the knowledge that as our temperatures warm there is a longer and more intense fire season. Much of the solar power produced in the desert is transmitted across the mountains to populated coastal regions. On occasion the transmission towers have been the cause of fires. Now is the time to assess this threat and add it into the equation when point of use would avoid this problem. While calculating, add the threat of fire from downed transmission crossing the San Andreas Fault System.



### Fire Threat Map

Yellow = undeveloped  
Red = developed  
White = mixed interface  
Gray = nonflammable  
(irrigated agriculture)  
Even at this size it is obvious that transmission lines crossing the desert travel through vulnerable country.



### Earthquake Potential

Red = Highest intensity zones  
Red indicated the highest intensity zones.

## Noise and Recreation

The EIR should research the disconnect between the residential noise limits and enforced noise limits for Off Highway Vehicles riding in residential areas. By law OHVs cannot exceed 96dBA at the tailpipe from the manufacturer. This is a DMV regulation without reference to where the vehicles are driven. In neighborhoods, sheriffs enforce the 96 dBA noise level even though the County Development Code mandates a noise level not to exceed 65dBA. This disconnect between code enforcement and the sheriff should be clarified and codified.

### 85.18.030 Development Noise Standards

(c) Exterior Noise Standards Exterior noise levels in all single-family residential land use areas and multi-family residential land use areas should not exceed 65dBA Ldn. Exterior noise levels shall not exceed 70dBA Ldn for any residential use areas. Ability to mitigate exterior noises to the levels of 65dBA Ldn and 70dBA Ldn shall be considered by the review authority when determining the actual Ldn level with which the land uses must comply.

## Recreation and Firearms



Target shooting has long been a favorite weekender's recreational pastime in the county and Ordinance 4117 (adopted in 2110) regulates use. The areas in blue are closed to all shooting except shotgun firing. Since 2010 there has been a change in population in rural areas such as Wonder Valley, which has both an older population and is becoming a popular place for artists to relocate. Guns of choice have also changed from shotguns to automatic weapons with cheap ammunition from China. Is this still a safe area for recreational shooting or is it time to put it off limits? Now is the time to find out. Contacts would include Mark Lundquist, Morongo Basin representative for Supervisor Ramos and Chair of the MAC and the Joshua Tree Sheriff's Office. The issue has been heating up for decades and has come to a boil.

<sup>24</sup> [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/10/deserts-carbon-dioxide-sink\\_n\\_5127891.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/10/deserts-carbon-dioxide-sink_n_5127891.html)

In closing, the EIR for the 2018 Countywide Plan creates the opportunity to address many critical issues that have become apparent subsequent to the 2007 EIR and associated County General Plan. The Morongo Basin Conservation Association is poised to contribute to achieving the Countywide Vision for a thriving healthy environment that supports appropriate developments to sustain our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Flanagan".

Pat Flanagan, Director

Morongo Basin Conservation Association [mbconservation.org](http://mbconservation.org)

## Newberry Springs Community Alliance

P.O. Box 11  
Newberry Springs, CA 92365  
newberrysprings@mail.com

November 20, 2017

Jerry L. Blum, Countywide Plan Coordinator  
County of San Bernardino  
Land Use Services Department  
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Sent via e-mail: CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov

Dear Mr. Blum,

Re: Countywide Plan Comments - For the Record

The County of San Bernardino at over 20,000-square miles is larger than the combination of some states. The streamlining attempt by the Countywide Plan is creating a discriminating injustice to the less populated desert regions. Urban and rural areas are vastly different in their needs and one streamlined Countywide Plan (General Plan) can not justly serve two masters.

The draft Countywide Plan is representing a disservice to the residents of the unincorporated Mojave Desert regions. This is an example of why *The Verdict*, a publication of the Washington, D.C. good government nonprofit Judicial Watch, has listed the County of San Bernardino as one of the top three most corrupt governments in the United States.

Communities, like Newberry Springs, have not been asking for short-term planning focus as the county staff suggests. Newberry Springs is seeking a Community Plan for long-term planning for economic development with the county contributing support. The county's existing policies, regulations, practices, and development fees have been damaging rural progress. County staff's recognition and long-term support as a partner in rural community planning and development are needed for meaningful teamwork.

Despite a number of public meetings being held in the desert regions where rural residents have overwhelmingly voiced their desire not to have utility-scale solar developments sited in or adjacent their communities, the county Board of



Supervisors on August 8, 2017, quashed the residents best hope for protection from solar developments by excluding Policy 4.10 from the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element (REC Element).

The supervisors' exclusion of Policy 4.10 is deeply flawed as the supervisors have failed to properly address the environmentally devastating impacts of allowing utility-scale alternative energy facilities that under CEQA are environmentally inferior to that of Distribution Solar (rooftop solar).

Distribution Solar according to an unbiased UCLA study for the Los Angeles area can meet the mandatory power requirements without any of the negative impacts to residents, the desert environment, tourism and general businesses, or the county. Distribution Solar is a no-brainer win-win for county residents, their communities, and the environment. Distribution Solar creates long-term installation jobs for local county residents whereas utility-scale attract workers from other states.

The stated goals and policies of the REC Element are to focus on encouraging the responsible and sustainable use of renewable energy. Distribution Solar is the solution, but it was not been properly considered to date.

The county government policies continue to disrespect the environment and the will of the rural residents by not allowing the residents to develop their communities the way they want. Residents want their existing environment and current zoning respected. Any broad changes to zoning in Newberry Springs are strongly opposed.

Most of the county's rural residents live within the current 591,577 acres that comprise the Rural Living zoning in the North and East Desert regions. The adaptation of the REC Element without Policy 4.10 and the proposed Countywide Plan's updating measures as a General Plan will adversely impact the environmental Character and Heritage of the desert's sensitive unincorporated communities.

By opening-up vast areas in communities with utility-scale solar development, the county is introducing significant land use changes and policies against environmentally sensitive Open Spaces, Viewsheds, Aesthetics, Wildlife, Population and Housing, Desert Vegetation, and general Biological Resources

Page 3.

that will be negatively impacted. The county is interfering with the rural residents' Stewardship and Community Capacity to protect and economically develop the environmentally friendly communities that residents want.

The proposed modifications and expansions by the REC Element will environmentally blemish the desert and negatively impact the growing tourism trade that the county economically depends upon. Furthermore, the negative impacts of utility-scale alternative energy development upon the viewshed of Historic Route 66, a Scenic Route corridor, has not been addressed and the historic route will be negatively impacted by such visual alternative energy sites as the Amboy proposal.

Therefore, with the withdrawal of Policy 4.10 from the REC Element, we request an addition to the Countywide Plan of a ban on all future utility-scale alternative energy developments. This can be done through zoning description for Rural Living and through policies enforcing CEQA. Under CEQA, the environmentally superior alternative of Distribution Solar to that of damaging utility-scale alternative energy developments is mandated.

Respectfully submitted,

/Ted Stimpfel/

Ted Stimpfel, President  
Newberry Springs Community Alliance

**From:** [Colin Drukker](#)  
**To:** [JoAnn Hadfield](#); [Frances Yau](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Amendment to Comment made at October meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 9:17:11 AM  
**Attachments:** [EIR meeting Oct 26.docx](#)

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**From:** Peterson, Suzanne [mailto:Suzanne.Peterson@lus.sbcounty.gov] **On Behalf Of** CountywidePlan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 9:12 AM  
**To:** Colin Drukker <cdrukker@placeworks.com>; Blum, Jerry <Jerry.Blum@lus.sbcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Amendment to Comment made at October meeting

**From:** Vickie Paulsen [<mailto:words4fun@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 18, 2017 7:56 AM  
**To:** CountywidePlan <[CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Amendment to Comment made at October meeting

November 18, 2017

### **Amendment to my October 26 comment on the EIR.**

In that Comment, I made it sound as if I was speaking for the Newberry Springs community. I was not. It was a personal comment, but reflected the feelings of a *part* of the community.

The ending paragraph is of great concern to me now. It was written with a naiveté that could prove harmful if you pay attention to it.

*"In Newberry, we are not opposed to solar energy. We've got plenty of sun and land to spare. [italics added] But we want each proposed project to be subjected to a strict EIR that will address the tender desert environment that is so easily disrupted by any change in the understory. And that the EIR will respect the desire of residents to preserve their quality of life and viewscape from fields of solar panels the height of 4- to 6-story buildings."*

I was picturing one or two 10-20 acre sites with low panels, which I would not find objectionable. Since then I have become aware of the problems faced by Lucerne Valley in protecting their scenic Highway 247 against extensive industrial solar installations and realize that the same could happen here. There would be no barrier to the number of sites, and that would endanger the fragile desert flora and fauna to an un-recoverable

extent, meaning forever, or as close to forever as human minds can imagine.

Please – Environmental Impact Reports should consider the rural lifestyle, the land, the animals, before considering the so-called economic benefit to the County of large-scale solar installations.

My full October 26 Comment is attached.

--

Vickie Paulsen  
43843 Valley Center, Newberry Springs 92365

**From:** [Colin Drukker](#)  
**To:** [Frances Yau](#); [JoAnn Hadfield](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Scoping for San Bernardino Countywide General Plan Update (GPU)/ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 12:56:13 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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See below

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**From:** Peterson, Suzanne [mailto:Suzanne.Peterson@lus.sbcounty.gov] **On Behalf Of** CountywidePlan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 12:31 PM  
**To:** Stephen Rogers <swr.engineer@gmail.com>; CountywidePlan <CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov>  
**Cc:** Gabe De La Rosa <MACA501@aol.com>; Dr. George Everett <pastorfrog@verizon.net>; Wendy Rea <wendy@protectgreenspot.com>; Amanda Frye <amandafrye6@gmail.com>; Anthony 2 <anthonyaserrano@gmail.com>; Steve Loe <steveloe01@gmail.com>; Al Kelley <flow.ak@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping for San Bernardino Countywide General Plan Update (GPU)/ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Hi Stephen,

Thank you for your comments, they have been added to our record.

-Suzanne

Please take a moment to complete our 1 Minute Satisfaction Survey  
[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LUS\\_Email](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LUS_Email)

**Suzanne Peterson**  
Planner  
**Land Use Services Department**  
Phone: 909-387-4739  
Fax: 909-387-3223  
385 N. Arrowhead Ave  
San Bernardino, CA, 92415-0187



***Our job is to create a county in which those who reside and invest can prosper and achieve well-being.***  
[www.SBCounty.gov](http://www.SBCounty.gov)

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**From:** Stephen Rogers [mailto:swr.engineer@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 2:50 PM

**To:** CountywidePlan <[CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov)>

**Cc:** Gabe De La Rosa <[MACA501@aol.com](mailto:MACA501@aol.com)>; Dr. George Everett <[pastorfrog@verizon.net](mailto:pastorfrog@verizon.net)>; Wendy Rea <[wendy@protectgreenspot.com](mailto:wendy@protectgreenspot.com)>; Amanda Frye <[amandafrye6@gmail.com](mailto:amandafrye6@gmail.com)>; Anthony 2 <[anthonyaserrano@gmail.com](mailto:anthonyaserrano@gmail.com)>; Steve Loe <[steveloe01@gmail.com](mailto:steveloe01@gmail.com)>; Al Kelley <[flow.ak@hotmail.com](mailto:flow.ak@hotmail.com)>

**Subject:** Scoping for San Bernardino Countywide General Plan Update (GPU)/ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Dear Mr Blum (Jerry)- Thank you for this opportunity to make comment on the scoping for the ongoing Countywide General Plan Update (GPU) and associated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process, which includes preparation of the Community (Action) Plans for many of the unincorporated County pocket areas.

I have previously provided public comments during recent San Bernardino County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings requesting consideration be given to allocating significant additional resources in order to expand the scope of the current GPU efforts to result in the preparation of a Countywide Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

Additionally, County Land Use Services (LUS) has publicly stated that an Initial Study was not prepared for the County GPU because it was always anticipated that an EIR would be required. However, it was then suggested that due to budgetary shortfalls, both the Habitat Conservation element as well as a new Energy element would not be included within the scope of the Countywide GPU/ EIR documents. If this remains the case, I believe that County LUS should be required to prepare an Initial Study to reflect these anticipated shortcomings of the Project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

It has simultaneously been suggested that a separate, unrelated and non-regulatory planning effort to the Countywide HCP is being conducted by the County and the Countywide transportation planning agency SanBAG or San Bernardino Association of Governments now known as the San Bernardino Transportation Authority (sbcta) under a State program known as the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS), the project being championed by the County's Vision Environment Element Group.

In addition to requesting that the scope of the Countywide GPU/EIR be modified to include a proper Habitat Conservation and Mitigation element, I believe that the Public Utilities section of the documents should be expanded to include an Energy element and that the scope of the Countywide GPU/EIR should be similarly expanded to include this additional level of review and analysis under CEQA/ NEPA.

Lastly, additional comments will be provided at a later date pertaining to the Community (Action) Plans which are currently being drafted by the County's GPU/ EIR consultants PlaceWorks and Dudek, with comments being requested by December 15, 2017 for the communities of interest: Mentone, Lytle Creek, Bloomington and Muscoy (Westside San Bernardino).

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on this important project to update the Countywide General Plan and associated review and analysis efforts contemplated under the environmental documents which will accompany the effort and serve as the County's

vision for the future (YR 2040).

Sincerely,  
Steve Rogers  
Stephen W. Rogers, PE Consulting  
cell(909)556-1988



**From:** [Colin Drukker](#)  
**To:** [JoAnn Hadfield](#); [Frances Yau](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on EIR scoping  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 12:58:11 PM

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See below

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**From:** Peterson, Suzanne [mailto:Suzanne.Peterson@lus.sbcounty.gov] **On Behalf Of** CountywidePlan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** Blum, Jerry <Jerry.Blum@lus.sbcounty.gov>; Colin Drukker <cdrukker@placeworks.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on EIR scoping

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**From:** Janet Johnston [mailto:janetjohnstn@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 4:31 PM  
**To:** CountywidePlan <[CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:CountywidePlan@lus.sbcounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments on EIR scoping

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on scoping for the 2017 Draft EIR. I live in the area covered by the 2007 Joshua Tree Community Plan. My main point is at the bottom.

Some items that I feel should be reviewed in the EIR:

Alta Loma Rd should be considered as a scenic highway, as it is now becoming one of the main routes to the national park, and connects scenic Hwy62 to scenic Park Boulevard/Quail Springs Rd. The EIR should address this.

Flooding from the mountains is a major concern here. The flooding has serious life safety issues, as well as the likelihood of causing catastrophic property damage. There should be an analysis of existing stream beds, washes, blue-line streams, flood plains, and alluvial fan "action", so that there is an understanding for new development. The County may want to consider turning some of these streams into county floodway, to avoid unsafe development.

Wildlife corridors, native plant habitat and the linkages between the National Park, and National Monuments, as well as other natural preserves and open space needs careful analysis and mapping. There are many resources, including extensive mapping, available from the Morongo Basin Conservation Association, and the Mojave Desert Land Trust to tap into.

"Buildout" (cumulative zoning -allowed population) should be limited to available and affordable waters sources. Please contact Joshua Basin Water District for that information.

Native Plants need better mapping and protections, and there needs to be greater consequences for projects (and the County) when ignoring their protection. The native plants also protect the native soil which is imperative for dust control, as well as carbon sequestration.

There needs to be a study of projected jobs, the needed educational facilities for these workers' families, as well as the educational facilities to train for these jobs. Jobs are tied to the environment in that the jobs happen in structures, and have waste, energy and transportation impacts. The required educational facilities also have these land use and environmental impacts. The educational facilities by their own right, are significant job creators. Like-wise for medical and hospital facilities. Essentially there is a cumulative environmental effect from each job created.

Transportation and traffic: The EIR should look at an alternative access to the Morongo Basin, and/or from Yucca Valley to the Marine Base. Traffic issues change with week-usage and weekend-usage. We are a tourist town. Traffic issues should also be looked at with bicycle and pedestrian access, especially between towns, and to the National Park, as well as to/from schools and parks, and shops.

Main point:

The 2017 EIR should specifically address why the 2007 community plans, some of which were in place since at least 1989 and addressed the unique nature of each community, are being abandoned in favor of rolling everything into a theoretically comprehensive Policy Plan.

The 2017 Draft Community Plans should not be titled "Community Plans" as they do not follow State General Plan Guidelines, and are not land use documents. They are better titled: "Suggested Action Plans". The proposed Community Plans need to be re-titled, or they will not be accepted by the communities, and may end up being challenged in court.

The 2017 EIR, like the excerpt from the 2007 EIR, needs to clearly specify how these unique, unincorporated communities, often separated by mountains, or many miles of desert, will be represented in the proposed Policy Plan. The EIR needs to analyze whether this burying of policies, goals, and objectives in a giant document will possibly lead to environmental impacts, rather than the protections provided by the individual 2007 Community Plans.

Here is the how the 2007 EIR treated the importance of these Community Plans of 2007:

*Page I-1*

## *2. Adopt New Community Plans*

*Community Plans focus on a particular region or community within the overall County's General Plan. As an integral part of the overall General Plan, Community Plans must be consistent with the General Plan. To facilitate consistency, the Community Plans build upon the goals and policies of each element of the General Plan. In addition, policies that are included within the Community Plans are regarded as refinements of the broader General Plan goals and policies that have been customized to meet the specific needs or unique circumstances raised by the individual communities. Eleven Community Plans that existed prior to the 1989 General Plan have been incorporated into the County General Plan program. The Community Plans have been updated and revised in a policy-oriented format consistent with the format of the Countywide and Regional Goals and Policies. Two new Community Plans, Lucerne Valley and Muscoy, have been prepared where none existed previously. The Oak Hills Community Plan, because of its relatively recent adoption in 2003, has merely been converted to the current format consistent with the other 13 community plans.*

*The following is a listing of each of the 14 Community Plans that are included in the update program:*

*Bear Valley   Lucerne Valley   Bloomington   Lytle Creek   Crest Forest  
Morongo Valley   Hilltop   Muscoy   Homestead Valley   Oak Glen   Joshua Tree  
Phelan/Pinon Hills   Lake Arrowhead   Oak Hills*

## COMMUNITY PLANS

*Community Plans focus on individual, distinct communities within the overall County's General Plan. As an integral part of the overall program, Community Plans must be consistent with the General Plan. To facilitate consistency, the Community Plans build upon the goals and policies of each element of the General Plan. In addition, policies that are included within the Community Plans are regarded as refinements of the broader General*

### CHAPTER III Project Description

*County of San Bernardino Final Program Environmental Impact Report 2007 General Plan Program III-6*

*Plan goals and policies that have been adapted to meet the specific needs or unique circumstances raised by the individual communities.*

*The Community Plan provides an opportunity to address unique issues facing the individual communities and to establish priorities to guide future development. Common priorities were established for each of the individual plan areas within the regions that:*

*Maintain a mix of land uses; Protect the plan area's natural resources and open spaces; and Ensure the availability of adequate services and infrastructure to serve the needs of existing and future residents. As a result, the land use elements within each of the Community Plans are often the core around which other elements develop, do not propose significant land use changes. Instead, goals and policies guide development in a manner that maintains the existing mix of land uses, preserves the character of the community, and complements existing development. To preserve the existing community character, many of the land use goals and policies in the Community Plan direct the location and concentration of future development areas consistent with the land use map and the scale and arrangement of future development such that it complements the existing community character. The Community Plans also include the same "elements" that are required by the state to be addressed in the County's General Plan: Circulation and Infrastructure, Open Space, Conservation, Safety and Economic Development elements. Within each of these elements, goals and policies have been developed to further support preservation of the existing character of the Community Plan area.*

## CHAPTER IV Project Analysis

### CommunityPlans

Community plans are policy instruments focusing on a particular region or community within the overall County's General Plan. The land use elements within each of the Community Plans, often the core around which other elements are developed, do not propose significant land use changes. Instead, goals and policies are included to guide development in a manner that maintains the existing mix of land uses, preserves the character of the community, and complements existing development. To preserve existing community character, many of the land use goals and policies in the Community Plans direct the location and concentration of future development areas consistent with the countywide land use map, and the scale and

County of San Bernardino Final Program Environmental Impact Report 2007 General Plan Program IV-104

arrangement of future development such that it complements the existing community character. Community Plans are prepared for the following communities...

Thank you,  
Janet Johnston of Joshua Tree

County of San Bernardino, Land Use Services  
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0187

Re: Countywide Plan 1/4

To Whom it May Concern,

November 18, 2017

Unable to attend the few meetings held regarding the San Bernardino Countywide Plan, I tried to find a copy of the draft. When I asked for one from the County office in Joshua Tree I was told I had to look online as it was too lengthy to print out. At the J.T. Library there was no paper copy to reference either. I do not have a computer nor a printer. Vision problems make it difficult for me to read the screen. Each person has a right to this information and by making it available only electronically leaves some of us out.

The information I could access, with some help from a librarian, was only regarding draft plans for various communities, including ours for J.T.. Neither she nor I could find the whole Countywide draft plan, only basic information about it. This is unacceptable.

How will this countywide plan, which has a vision for the County as a whole, is interested in streamlining options for future development, and will use a regional context to inform local decisions honor individual community plans?

San Bernardino County is the largest county in the nation encompassing mountains and deserts, cities and rural unincorporated

towns. There are so many differing geographic areas with issues unique to each they should not be folded into one blanket plan. Representatives for some regions often don't understand or acknowledge concerns of importance to others. Victorville, Fontana, Lake Arrowhead, Needles, Baker, and Joshua Tree can only be covered by some aspects of a general plan. The region of the Morongo Basin is made up of towns, each with its own character and values. Communities must have their plans upheld and as needed discussed until agreements are reached by all concerned.

The residents of Joshua Tree worked hard on our Community Plan of 2007. Although parts of it need updating to address current concerns, it should still stand.

With regard to the Joshua Tree Community Focus Statements and Action Plans for the current J.T. Draft Plan:

FISCAL ADMIN

2017 NOV 22 AM 8:36

2/4

- A5 - Any growth should be of low impact and sustainable, - Yes
- (pg 30) B1 - Welcome Program, - Yes
- B-2 - Landscaping and Lighting guides, - Yes. Both most definitely needed. A strong lighting ordinance (please use IDA guidelines) for both residents and businesses countywide - including county buildings - would be beneficial. Proper shielding and lower lumens output does not decrease safety. A landscaping guide should be very specific with regards to each town, especially in rural areas and buffer zones to National Parks and monuments. There is an increasing problem with landscaping plants and non-natives that are invasive and out-competing the natives spreading into Joshua Tree National Park and other areas. Add a requirement for landscaping and gardening company employees as well as those in the construction business who clear lots to learn about our native plants and their importance to the environment.
- B3 Maintaining the rural desert lifestyle and character, - Yes. What is right in another community isn't necessarily right in Joshua Tree. Creating rules for streamlining processes which could impact proper community input and environmental concerns, allowing building designs that don't fit in here, housing tracts, gated communities, subdivisions and denser housing, big box stores, shopping centers, strip malls, fast food, car lots, industrial buildings and businesses, more solar fields and other inappropriate developments. ~~should not be~~ <sup>allowed.</sup> These types of businesses are not wanted here by most residents. We are here because we like it the way it is. We don't need more sidewalks, curbs, gutters, cement, asphalt, noise, traffic, loss of natural desert vegetation to scraping bare, generic landscaping, and ignorance. We treasure our biological resources, night sky, clean air, open space, beauty, and small town atmosphere as a natural transition to Joshua Tree National Park as a gateway community.

Re: San Bernardino Countywide Plan

3/4

- C1 There's no need to spend a lot of money to enhance Joshua Tree's Gateway identity. It's very well-known already. The suggestion for a consistent and compatible design for the downtown area is contrary to the uniqueness of each business and building there. It goes together as is, but it should be decided by the businesses affected.
- C4 Disagree with establishing a BID. The cost is too high. We already have a cleanteam for trash pickup. Many businesses already have interesting facades and plants and interesting furniture set out which is all the better. Piano Bob's piano was a hit while it lasted. Impromptu installation art in brief appearances is fun. Once again, why the need for an overall sameness? We certainly don't need increased lighting. J.T. already has many festivals and events. We don't need any more marketing campaigns — nor any more distracted drivers in downtown J.T. which brings me to disagree with all of the potential traffic calming measures. The cost is enormous and won't solve any problems. Instead, cite drivers exceeding the speed limit and those who are texting, looking at their smart phone screens, etc. Regarding installation of raised islands on Hwy. 62, especially by the intersection of Park Blvd., may cause problems during storms when it floods there which was why the previous one was removed.
- C8 Discourage Caltrans from widening 29 Palms Hwy. — Agree with for reasons stated.
- E5 Manage OHV use ... Would be helpful if even some of the OHV riders listened and learned.
- H1 Reestablish the Joshua Tree MAC. Yes. Please do. It should never have been downsized and merged.
- H2 Don't agree with incorporation nor CSA 20 into CSD. Besides it is very costly and how much of the costs must the residents bear?



Re: San Bernardino Countywide Plan

4/4

It appears that nearly all of the actions taken by the focus statements can be very costly. Since our town consists of many retired, disabled, and lower income residents, it is not wise to burden us with costs for these ideas.

If there is any available money, instead of using it for expensive, questionable and not necessarily needed projects how about redirecting for J.T.'s real needs, like fixing the ageing, leaking, breaking water pipes.

There should be more specific building guidelines for Joshua Tree included in the Plan. For example, grading and clearing of entire lots, including those of less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre should not be allowed; only an area for the building - which should not be disproportionately large for the lot. There should be no clearing along, building in, or redirection of natural washes. Outdoor lighting needs to be addressed. Stronger laws to protect our biological resources are needed.

I ask that San Bernardino County honor Joshua Tree's previous community plan (2007) with some of the aforementioned updates. Our community members' recommendations and guidelines set forth must be taken into account by the Countywide Plan.

Sincerely,  
Jean McLaughlin  
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

CC: Supervisor James Ramos

## Countywide Plan NOP EIR

Att. Mr. Jerry Blum:

I was unable to attend the NOP and Scoping meeting for the Countywide Plan EIR, I have a few concerns about the Program EIR Scope and Process that is being prepared for the Countywide Plan. 1) The Countywide Plan ~~only~~ only addresses policy issues like land use in the unincorporated areas of the county not in the incorporated cities' General Plans. 2) Under Topics To be analyzed in the EIR I noticed there were nine Technical project-related studies that are being prepared for the EIR. Why are these topics / Technical studies, supporting other planning documents / projects within the County being referenced and utilized in the EIR, including: Countywide Vision, 2011 G-HG Reduction Plan, 2016 DRECP, 2016-17 Hazard Mitigation Plans. Why wasn't the Countywide Habitat Preservation / Conservation Plan included? 3) The scope of the Program EIR will focus on the proposed land use changes and policies in the Policy Plan. The proposed Project is a comprehensive plan that is driven by the Countywide Vision, concerns me that current development projects in the County and the cities which have conflicts with land use policies which already have had EIRs done - like The Lytle Creek Ranch Project - City of Rialto - and some portions are still in the County. Will the Program EIR take into account already existing

EIRs on one large project or analyze new  
 \*criteria such as potential impacts, cumulative  
 impacts and alternatives & mitigation measures  
 for a large area on current Project EIRs for  
 the new EIR? 4) Will <sup>the</sup> Program EIR identify the  
 "Environmentally Superior Alternative or will the County  
 choose an unreasonable alternative like Overriding  
 Economic Considerations which not good for the  
 environment and the well-being of its citizens.  
 I want the County to really implement the  
 Community Plans according to the residents input  
 I consider all the goals, policies and the 4 primary  
 elements in the Countywide Plan to ~~be interrelated~~ be  
 inter related especially on environmental issues. I  
 want the Noise Element to include more sources  
 than currently exist. Noise pollution is a big problem  
 in our ~~community~~ community. A big sources of noise  
 pollution are sound systems both cars and inside homes,  
 and offroad vehicles. The Noise pollution is a big  
 environmental issue and should be more ~~aggressively~~  
 aggressively addressed in the EIR for the health  
 and well-being of our County. There are more issues  
 that should be raised, but for now this will ~~do~~ do.  
 Thankyou for letting me make these comments.

Sincerely

Jane Hunt-Ruble