

I-282 Jack B. Miller, Sr.

Comment Letter I-282

July 31, 2017

Ashley Smith
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RE: Newland-Sierra project
(formerly known as Merriam Mountain project).

Urban sprawl is urban sprawl regardless of who does it. In 2000 the residents of North County, with the guidance of the Board of Supervisors, created a Master plan that prohibited urban sprawl which is leapfrogging across populated areas and building another settlement where it is sparsely populated. What has happened to our Master Plan? Why did we create it and now ignore it? The Newland-Sierra project is another attempt to ignore our Master Plan, and in doing so, exacerbating an existing problem -- traffic.

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Automobile traffic is almost indescribable on Deer Springs Road from 3:30 pm to 5:00 p.m., 5 days a week, all trying to access I-15 north as a shortcut from State Highway 78.

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Increasing Deer Springs Road to 4 lanes (with turn lanes) will only help lighten the existing traffic load, but making Deer Springs to four lanes will require tons of explosives for thousands of cubic yards of rock and debris in clearing the rights of ways and including many months of dust and noise, night and day. Also, flag-controlled traffic caravans on the current heavy traffic on Deer Springs when blasting is occurring

Adding 4,000 autos or more from Newland-Sierra's development twice a day will put us right back where we are today. Having said all of this, even now I-15 slows to 30-40 mph or less in sections as traffic merges. I-15 has problems of its own without the influence of the Newland-Sierra project.

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We have discussed traffic, before Newland-Sierra, as it is today. Now let's add 10 years of construction, heavy equipment, rock crushers and screening equipment, gravel trucks, dump trucks, truck cranes, bulldozers,

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cement trucks, delivery semis and I am sure some that I'm not aware of. Then there are all the construction workers and their personal cars or pickups. Maybe 1,000 to 2,000 daily over the course of the project phases. Also, we must consider day shift and night shift and all the noise, dust, truck exhaust fumes of heavy equipment, etc., etc., etc. And dust? What are they going to use for dust control?

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Cont.

WATER!

Now lets talk about water. We live in a desert here in San Diego County at large. We buy (at their price) water from Metroplitan Water District who gets a share of California's share of the Colorado River and we also get water from the California Aquaduct if it's available. We are close to our limit of availability. The local water company say they can supply all the water the local contractor will need? And from where? How about upon completion of the project when there will be 2000 homes, plus parks. Also, about fire suppression. Fire suppression will require a sustained supply of water forever!

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FIRE!

In this county you can plan on it and should plan for it. Two thousand homes with 2 cars each and these people and their cars are trying to get out as fire equipment is trying to get in. Some people may say "shelter in place". I say "Bull" ! Hot, dense fire uses all the oxygen leaving only smoke and ashes. If you do say "sheltered in place", you probably will not survive. There are only two access roads to this project.

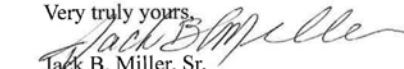
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I have covered only a few critical concerns up to this point, but there are many others: We don't want or need a shopping center
We don't want or need low-cost apartments
We don't want or need a strip mall.

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I moved to Deer Springs Oaks to live away from town -- in the country -- Please don't ruin the country's quiet life.

Very truly yours,


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