

I-6 Lisa Amantea (4)

I-6-1 The comment asks for an explanation of the statement made in the DEIR on page S.0-3 regarding wildlife movement being generally confined to existing dirt roads due to the dense nature of the chaparral covering most of the project site. The commenter states that they hike in the surrounding mountains and they see wildlife cross the dirt paths and travel into the same type of dense chaparral found on the project site.

As stated on page 2.4-52 in Section 2.4 Biological Resources,

“the majority of habitat on Site is chaparral (91 percent), is relatively dense, and can support a variety of chaparral species. Of 37 mammal species known to regularly occur in California chaparral communities (Quinn 1990), 10 with a potential to occur on Site are found primarily in mature chaparral,²⁰⁶ and are uncommon or absent in other habitat types. Although many species are known to use mature chaparral, some chaparral may be very dense and difficult for medium to larger wildlife, such as mule deer, to maneuver through. As such, dirt access roads and trails may serve as a primary route for medium to larger wildlife movement.”

The County will include the comment as part of the Final EIR for review and consideration by the decision-makers prior to a final decision on the project. No further response is required or necessary.

²⁰⁶ Mature chaparral is characterized by shrubs approximately 3 to 10 feet in height and dense vegetation cover of 50 to 100 percent (Quinn 1990).

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