

Response to Comment Letter I54

**Enrico Ferro
September 19, 2017**

Letter
I54

From: Enrico Ferro
To: CAP
Subject: comments on plan
Date: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 9:31:13 AM

Hi, my name is Enrico Ferro and I am a farmer in Valley Center. I am writing because I have heard about the plan from the county and Farm Bureau and wanted to make a comment based on the little I know. To be perfectly honest I have not read the CAP, only parts of it.

I54-1

That being said, I think the county would greatly benefit and exceed target goals if they work with local farmers. One part of the plan states that there is a goal to plant 3500 urban trees per year. I have planted over 5000 trees on my own property without any funding. At the same time I have seen many of my neighbors shut their water off and cut their trees down. This is a result of years of water price hikes and drought. I think this trend could be reversed with the help of the county and could save the county a lot of money as a result.

I54-2

It takes a lot of investment to operate a farm from water, fertilizer, weed control, maintenance and repairs. If the county plants trees it has to maintain those trees into perpetuity. That comes at a great expense. If a farmer plants those trees that has a positive impact on the economy and costs the county nothing. It would make more sense to invest in areas that are struggling to keep farming operations going, or encourage new investment in those areas than to let them become urbanized. If that were to happen in my community that would just greatly increase the largest piece of the greenhouse gas pie (housing development) and reduce our open spaces.

I54-3

Please consider incentivizing farming so that we can exceed the targets set by the county by leaps and bounds. If I can do that with 5000 trees on my property imagine what my community could do. And imagine the savings to any CAP programs that would come with that. Resources that could be used on the bigger piece of the pie. Thank you for listening.

I54-4

Enrico Ferro

I54-1 The comment is an introduction to comments that follow. No further response is required.

I54-2 The comment states that the County could benefit by working with farmers on the tree planting program to reduce the cost of maintenance. The County appreciates the support and will continue to coordinate with interested stakeholders if and when the CAP is adopted and implemented. This comment does not address the adequacy of the Draft SEIR. However, the comment will be included in the Final EIR and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the project.

I54-3 The comment states that the County should invest in agricultural areas to prevent them from being urbanized to decrease future GHG emissions. The County acknowledges the importance of preserving agriculture. The CAP includes GHG Reduction Measure T-1.2 which would expand the Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easement (PACE) program and give willing agriculture property owners an opportunity to be compensated for placing an easement on their property that would ensure the agricultural use remains in perpetuity.

I54-4 The comment requests that the County consider incentivizing farming. The County acknowledges this comment. The comment does not address the adequacy of the Draft SEIR and no further response is required. However, the comment will be included in the Final EIR and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the project.