

COMMENTS

RESPONSES

Ehsan, Beth

**From:** jim E <jlrbrock@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2015 12:03 PM  
**To:** Sibbet, David; Ehsan, Beth; Loy, Maggie A; Blackson, Kristin; Wardlaw, Mark  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Lisa; Cox, Greg; dianne.jacobs@sdcounty.ca.gov; Roberts, Dave; Ron-Roberts; Horn, Bill; bruce.bettyliska@gmail.com; douglas.dill@att.net; efhgtc  
**Subject:** Opposition to Valiano Draft EIR (PDS203-SP-13-001, PDS2013-GPA-13-001, PDS2013-REZ-13-001, PDS2013-TM-5575, PDS2014-MUP-14-019, PDS2013-STP-13-003, PDS2013-13-08-002)

AM-1

I'd like to take a moment of your time to express my strong opposition to the Valiano project referred to above in the subject line. I am a homeowner in Elfin Forest who has lived in this beautiful area for 3 years. My wife and I moved to the area to get away from the crowded, densely packed track homes which pervade the entire La Costa area where we previously lived. We chose the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove area to move to because it had a Community Plan which managed population density so that we could live a rural lifestyle.

AM-1

Thank you for your introductory comments. This comment is hereby included as part of the record and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the Proposed Project.

AM-2

My main opposition to the Valiano project is based on the impact it will have on evacuating the valley in case of a wildfire. Last May I was working in my barn when I noticed a plume of smoke in the air to the northeast. That plume of smoke was the start of the Coco's Fire. Recognizing the danger of staying put, my wife and I loaded our three horses into a trailer, gathered our other animals and some important papers and started north on Elfin Forest Rd. As we neared San Elijo Middle School it became obvious that the traffic wanting to go down San Elijo Rd was in a state of gridlock. Everyone in the San Elijo Hills development wanted to go west to get away from the oncoming fire. Had the fire maintained it's southwest course, the tragedy of the Coco's fire would have been much worse than it ended up being.

AM-2

See Topical Response: Fire/Evacuations regarding fire evacuation. The Project includes measures to ensure that it would not create or add to dangerous conditions in a fire situation (refer to Subchapter 2.9 of the EIR).

I decided not to wait in the gridlock of San Elijo Hills. Instead, I made a u-turn (try that sometime with a horse trailer), and headed south and then east on Elfin Forest Rd toward Escondido. Fortunately the traffic this way was much lighter. We were able to pass through Escondido, get our horses to safety, stay with a friend for a few days, and hope and pray that our home and neighborhood were safe. I remember thinking as we passed the area of the new Harmony Grove development that the traffic would likely have been just as bad as the San Elijo traffic if those houses had been built and occupied at the time of the fire.

It's not a question of if another wildfire will occur in this area, all of the fire experts say it's merely a question of when. The population density at San Elijo Hills effectively prevented the folks of Elfin Forest from using that direction as an escape route from the Coco's Fire. Increasing the population density in Harmony Grove, will effectively prevent the folks of Elfin Forest from using the only other direction available to them when the next fire comes. We will be stranded, subject to the vagaries of the fire and the bravery of the consolidated Fire Departments. You can prevent this danger. I urge you to err on the side of safety and not increase the population density in Harmony Grove with the Valiano project.

Regards,  
 James R Ellerbrock  
 7102 Circa de Media  
 Elfin Forest, CA 92029  
 760-761-0581