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Diana Delgadillo, Associate Planner  
City of Escondido Department of Public Works  
201 North Broadway  
Escondido, CA 92025-2798

May 8, 2007

Dear Ms. Delgadillo,

The Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed Citracado Parkway Extension and Annexation Project. We will address both the road extension and the property annexation in this letter.

***Citracado Extension***

We note that the county-approved Village Road that will intersect with the proposed segment of Citracado Parkway is not shown on any NOP maps nor mentioned in any associated literature. This oversight should be corrected in the EIR, and traffic to and from this source should be included in any analyses.

All of the alternatives with either a raised berm or a bridge at the intersection of the proposed Citracado Parkway extension and the current Harmony Grove Rd./Kauana Loa Dr. require a re-alignment of Kauana Loa Drive and Harmony Grove Road. The proposed road re-alignment impinges on residential properties in Harmony Grove and will require acquisition via eminent domain. The re-alignment can be expected to increase traffic and vehicle speeds near a pedestrian/equestrian/bicycle pathway planned for Kauana Loa Drive as shown on the San Diego County Master Trails Plan Map. This trail will provide a vital connection with the ERTC perimeter trail and leads ultimately to Harmony Grove Village. We ask that impacts of the proposed re-alignment to the surrounding rural community and to the county network of linking trails be studied in the EIR.

The impacts of the bridge over the Escondido Creek upon native flora and fauna should be carefully analyzed.

The impacts of this road extension and related construction activities on native American artifacts and possible ancient burial sites known to be in this area should be evaluated.

The surrounding unincorporated community is rural in nature with many private and several large commercial equestrian ranches located nearby. The impacts of this construction, especially during grading and blasting, and of the resultant changes in traffic patterns from the alternate road alignments on large animal keeping and equestrian activities such as horse training and trail riding should be studied.

We suggest two additional alternatives be studied in the EIR:

1) A raised berm at the intersection of Citracado Parkway and the current Harmony Grove Rd./Kauana Loa Dr. and a termination of both road segments at either side of the parkway berm. Because Village Road will connect Harmony Grove Road with Citracado Parkway a few hundred feet to the south, the intersection of Harmony Grove Road and Citracado parkway is redundant. Traffic on Kauana Loa Drive can continue to either County Club Drive to the north or Village Road to the south to access Citracado Parkway. This alternative avoids the need for property acquisition by eminent domain. It also avoids the expense and adverse environmental impacts of construction of a second bridge and of roadway re-alignment. It may allow a safer public access to the ERTC trail. Lastly, it will reduce traffic near the neighboring rural properties and the multiuse trail.

2) A bridge at the intersection of Citracado Parkway and the current Harmony Grove Rd./Kauana Loa Dr. as shown in the current NOP but with no modifications or re-alignment of the existing Harmony Grove Road and Kauana Loa Drive. This alternative will also address most of the concerns associated with increased traffic and property acquisition noted in number 1 above.

### ***Annexation of Harmony Grove Properties***

The three properties being considered for annexation to Escondido in this NOP are within the area that was recently removed from the Escondido Sphere of Influence (SOI) by LAFCO at the request of the local residents of unincorporated Harmony Grove, Eden Valley, and Elfin Forest. At that time, LAFCO expressed the wish to protect established rural communities. The properties are part of a 111-year-old community and form a critical buffer area between rural and urban lifestyles and habitat. The impacts of removal of this buffer area on the erosion of the formal development model accepted for this rural community, the Village Development Pattern, should be carefully and thoughtfully analyzed.

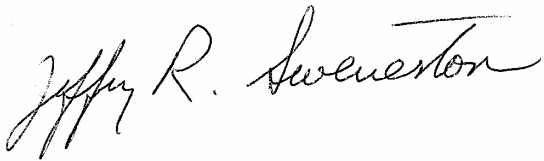
Annexation of this area is to be followed by industrial development. Prevention of this intensive land use is precisely the reason that county residents petitioned LAFCO to remove this area from the Escondido SOI. The impacts of this intensive land use immediately adjacent to an established rural residential community should be analyzed, with special attention to noise, pollution, traffic, aesthetics, community character, and environmental aspects.

The Escondido Creek courses directly through the two largest of the three parcels. Local and downstream impacts of industrial land use so close to a year-round freshwater route and surrounding riparian area should be carefully and thoughtfully analyzed.

The parcels are within the floodplain of the Escondido Creek. Adverse environmental and other effects of any efforts to raise construction sites above the floodplain should be analyzed.

We hope that the City of Escondido will work cooperatively with the County of San Diego and the residents of Harmony Grove and Elfin Forest while pursuing City goals so that neighboring communities can continue to enjoy their established lifestyles while supporting smart growth in our area. We ask that information regarding this project be sent to Mid Hoppenrath, Chair, Citracado Extension/Annexation Committee, 1962 Country Club Drive, Harmony Grove, CA 92029 (Tel: 760-747-1145) and that information of general concern to our area be sent in a timely manner to the Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council, care of Chairman Jeff Swenerton, 20223 Elfin Forest Rd., Elfin Forest, CA 92029.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff R. Swenerton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jeff Swenerton  
Chair, Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council

Cc: Mike Ott, Executive Director, LAFCO; County Supervisor 5<sup>th</sup> District Bill Horn; County Supervisor 3<sup>rd</sup> District Pam Slater; San Diego County Planner Stephanie Gaines; San Dieguito Planning Group Vice Chair Doug Dill