

October 1, 2015

Jay Petrek Assistant Planning Director
201 N. Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025



Re: Safari Highlands Ranch Project

Dear Mr. Petrek,

For 55 years we have lived on the section of Rockwood Road that is currently accessed through the Safari Park's Zoo Road. Our proximity to the Safari Highlands Ranch project presently being considered by the City of Escondido has raised a number of concerns.

ACCESS TO HIGHWAY 78 . (1) Would our access to Highway 78 continue to be through the Park's Zoo Road? If so, would the narrow, curved road from the Park's employee gate to the end of its Rockwood Road property be improved by the Project? to accommodate increased traffic from routine use by Project personnel? Also, if the Project were to provide access to that portion of Rockwood Road to people evacuating during a wild fire, the current Zoo Road would be impossibly clogged, preventing home owners like ourselves from reaching Highway 78. (2) If our access to Highway 78 would no longer be via Zoo Road, what alternative access would the Project provide?

INCREASED TRAFFIC TO ESCONDIDO AND I-15. The huge increase in traffic resulting from the hundreds of homes proposed to be built by the Project would inevitably result in significant delays and safety hazards on Highway 78, Bear Valley Parkway, and particularly on narrow, curved San Pasqual Road. How does the Project plan to address this problem?

FIRE HAZARDS. Any time areas where the risk of wild fires is great are developed, the likelihood of such fires is bound to increase. Two dreadful fires in our area in recent years caused extensive damage not only to people but to native wildlife and vegetation. The ongoing drought has also exacerbated the danger. We therefore have grave reservations concerning this issue and specifically what protection would be provided to property on our section of Rockwood Road.

THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT. The proposed Project would disrupt a beautiful unspoiled area, depriving diverse native wildlife of its habitat and destroying native vegetation.. Such areas are rapidly decreasing and should be preserved with development instead being concentrated in urban areas . The City of Escondido has previously been in agreement with this approach to increasing population and we hope it will continue to act accordingly.

We would appreciate receiving e-mail regarding the Project.

Thank you.

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is "Stan Yalof" and the second is "Gloria Yalof".

Stan & Gloria Yalof

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