



Lakes Town Council
PO Box 784
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“Where Nature Is Your
Neighbor”

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July 10, 2018

Regional Planning Commissioners
Mr. Jodie Sackett
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
Hall of Records, Room 1348
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Project No. 02-232 - Centennial Final Environmental Impact Review

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. Sackett,

The Lakes Town Council (LTC) is writing to oppose the Centennial Specific Plan which would create a new city at Tejon Ranch. The creation of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy does little to mitigate a planned city with nearly 20,000 new residences and additional industrial complexes.

In addition to obvious concerns about this biologically rich and diverse area being compromised or destroyed altogether, we have grave reservations about the impact of high-density housing and commercial/industrial developments with regard to fire. We have lived through mandatory fire evacuations and during the Powerhouse Fire of 2012 a number of people lost their homes. Subsequent flooding also occurred as a direct result of the fire. A planned city will only invite more fire events.

Traffic is another major concern. The communities of Three Points, Green Valley, Leona Valley, Lake Hughes and Elizabeth Lake will suffer as a result of commuters and others using Pine Canyon Road, Elizabeth Lake Road, Lake Hughes Road, Munz Ranch Road, Johnson Road, Bouquet Canyon Road, and San Francisquito Canyon Road. The Highway 138 Improvement Project does not guarantee that traffic will not be diverted through our areas due to various circumstances. As it stands, over the past ten years the number of non-resident commuters using San Francisquito Canyon Road, running through Green Valley, has increased dramatically and there have been numerous fatalities. Elizabeth Lake Road traverses through areas in Lake Hughes and Elizabeth Lake that are much more densely populated than Green Valley and the potential for loss of life must not be ignored.

What about water in the future? Surely considerations regarding drought and climate change are cause for concern. With so much construction comes the very real possibility of Valley Fever. Air, light, and noise pollution will all be new and most unwelcome.



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Why plan an entire new city, instead of using Smart Growth principles that expand and improve upon existing infrastructure? Why plan an area with industrial complexes and housing developments where wildlife and the people who enjoy a quiet, healthy, safe rural lifestyle will be marginalized, at best?

It is easy to imagine this area of scenic vistas with beautiful, tawny rolling hills the color of mountain lions become congested with traffic, crime, and all manner of pollution that are characteristic of such developments. There will be broken bottles and industrial plastic and cardboard packaging. The ubiquitous greasy fast food wrappers will be blown about by the area's gusty winds and garishly festoon what remains of our native plants.

Lastly, we have profound ethical concerns about the issues raised in the July 6, 2018 Mountain Enterprise article titled, "The Blacklist: Tejon Ranch Wages War on Science and Public Comment."

Respectfully,

Louisa Stephen
Secretary
Lakes Town Council

CC:

Los Angeles County 5th District Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Los Angeles County 5th District Deputy Supervisor Donna Termeer