



April 27, 2005
Placer County Agricultural Commission
11477 E. Avenue
Auburn, CA. 95603

Dear Commissioners,

The Vista Del Lagos project will soon be before the Planning Commission to request an extension of time for the map which expires in May 29, 2005. Livestock is currently prohibited in this proposed project.

We are requesting the Agricultural Commission support the keeping of livestock in this subdivision.

The project is located near Folsom Lake and the Pioneer/Tevis trail system to the south, 200+ undeveloped acres to the west and a 50 acre horse ranch to the north. The Vista Del Lagos project consists of 20.25 acres of common open space and 14 lots ranging in size from 1.5 to 2.7 acres. The area is zoned residential/agricultural and is located in the rural residential land use district of the Granite Bay Community Plan. (pages 26 and 27 attached)

An earlier *approved* 12 lot version of this project *allowed* livestock in 10,000 sq.ft. areas on each lot. When the project came back requesting an additional 2 lots, staff concluded, "The generation of livestock waste from this activity poses a significant threat to Folsom Lake water quality." and prohibited the keeping of livestock throughout the entire project. No basis for this conclusion was provided and this significant change to the earlier approved project was made *without indicating this change in the revised project description, addressing it in the staff memo, nor mentioning it in the public hearings*. (See the attached Environmental Health memo and page 10 of the negative declaration)

Since livestock are allowed currently on this undeveloped parcel without any permits, and the 14 lot proposed project actually limits the number of livestock currently allowed and reduces the area in which they can be located, the impacts of livestock are actually reduced by the approval of the Vista Del Lagos project.

Unless compelling evidence of unmitigatable significant impacts from livestock is presented in the public hearing we request the Agricultural Commission support this modification to the Vista Del Lagos project:

Livestock, no more than 2 horses or equivalent animal units, be allowed in a maximum 10,000 sq. ft. area on each lot. All livestock areas shall be located outside of drainage swales and maintained to prevent the accumulation of animal wastes.

We believe this project can honor the intention of the Community Plan with respect to the keeping of livestock in this rural residential land use district and at the same time protect the Folsom Lake watershed.

Sincerely,

Loomis Basin Horsemen's Association

Cc: Planning Dept.
Placer County Board of Supervisors
Attachments, 4 pages

