

JUNE 7, 1999

ATTENTION: KERRY MC CANTS
DEVELOPMENT SERVICE MANAGER
FAX 262-4893

FROM: BARBARA FERGUSON
10550 MILLERTON ROAD
CLOVIS, CA 93611

Dear Mr. McCants

I have the following comments regarding the scope and content of the Draft EIR for the Fresno County General Plan Update.

1. I assume that the table labeled "Geographic Allocation of Population and Employment" is a reflection of the changes in the Department of Finance population projections for Fresno County. I suggest that the population projection (2,211 increase) for 2020 for the Sierra Foothills are exceedingly low. The projections for just the Millerton New Town Specific Plan Area are for 10,000 people at build out. There are many other projects on the books for the Sierra North Regional Area. Why not tally all the projects in work and use that as a base line for the population projection?
2. This same table projects a 54% increase in employment by 2020. Are these living wage jobs or are they based on the inevitable increase in employment due to minimum wage jobs (service sector jobs)? What actions by the County could possibly generate 1,200 more jobs in the foothills? See pt. 5 below)
3. The consultants indicated that the draft EIR and the draft General Plan documents will be developed concurrently. The appears from the General Plan Update Work Program that the draft General Plan document (Task 10) would be prepared first, followed by the draft EIS (Task 11). Is this a change in the Work Program? How is this going to work? My concern is the amount of time that the public will have to evaluate two complex documents.
4. The Work Program identified two additional areas to be addressed in Task 12 (Public Facilities Financing Strategy and School Facilities Mitigation Program) and a draft Fiscal and Financial Analysis document. These documents along with the draft General Plan and the draft EIS were to be discussed during Open Houses conducted by the Consultant. Task 12 was not addressed at the Scoping Meeting. Given that Task 12 is still part of the Work Program, the public will now have three complex documents to evaluate.
5. During the Supervisors meeting on December 15, the consultants were asked if an assessment of public permit process and fees (to reduce the cost of establishing and doing business) and zoning ordinances (to allow for more mixed use) would be addressed. The answer was in the affirmative. However, during the May 12 meeting, I asked if changes would be made to the zoning ordinances that would result in attracting more businesses to Fresno County by reducing the cost to businesses. I was told that if I had specific suggestions I should submit them. I believe that the Consultant agreed to address these

issues on December 15 and that the General Plan should have a specific section that evaluates these issues and makes specific suggestions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Barbara J. Ferguson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara", written over the printed name.

cc: Stan Oken, District 5 Supervisor
Mid Mountain Community Council