

Amy Ow

From: Dave Michaels <dm94402@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 1:03 PM
To: Camille Leung; Steve Monowitz; Dave Pine; David Canepa; Amy Ow
Subject: Request for additional 15 days for review of EIR Addendum under CEQA
Attachments: ADA P&P_2015 exec council approved_v2_1-1.pdf

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Dear Ms. Lueng
Mr. Monowitz
Staff
Honorable Supervisors
and neighbors, commenters and concerned parties BCC'd on this email

Re: Highlands EIR addendum provided 5/3/21

I am writing to respectfully request a 15 day extension to the deadline for the comment period review, from Thursday 5/17 to Friday July 2nd as permitted under CEQA.

This 45 day comment period is not sufficient for the following reasons:

- In the course of review it has become apparent that the breadth of data presented in the EIR addendum is too vast to be addressed in this time frame.
- Two weeks into the comment period, there were 400 or more additional pages of technical data added to the original addendum link (<https://planning.smcgov.org/documents/highland-estates-eir-addendum>) without notice, for submission to the State Clearinghouse. This brings the document count to upwards of 700. Most neighbors did not know, and could not have known, that these documents had been added retroactively.
- Most commenters were not notified until Monday May 24th that the comment period had been extended, a full seven days after the first comment period ended, effectively shortening the extension by 7 days for those commenters.
- CEQA allows up to 60 days for comments. Staff has called the comment period a courtesy, but commenters' expectation is that this is a CEQA-informed process and as such commenters should be granted sufficient time to review and comment relative to the breadth of claims and documents.
- According to the project record, this has been in the works by the county and builder since 2015, and actively for about a year. It would be improper not to allow the maximum 60 days allowed under CEQA, when the complexity of the matters at hand and the technical documents are already so well understood by the County.
- The project website is incomplete and not compliant with San Mateo County's own ADA Policy X (see attached ADA Doc) or the Americans with Disabilities Act in terms of website accessibility and text searchability.
- Many in the community may be left out of the process due to reasons above

I have personally spoken to several neighbors, including seniors and caregivers, who are reporting feeling afraid, anxious and overwhelmed as a result of this process playing out so quickly, the complexity of documents, and lack of navigability of the project website.

The above request is based on hours of good-faith and diligent effort already being made by taxpayers, who also have day jobs and families etc, to participate in a transparent process granted to us. I hope the

community's good faith is evident in the relevant questions and requests for clarification that have been made so far during the comment period. The request is neither trivial nor a delay tactic

A 60-day (vs 45 day) comment period will be a show of good faith on the part of the county and allow the community reasonable time to participate more appropriately.

My belief is that not to grant this two-week extension for the comment period would be a mistake. It would deprive the public of a reasonable window and would taint the approval process moving forward, if it were to do so on the basis of this EIR Addendum.

So as to allow neighbors maximum ability to utilize this extension and participate in the process, I respectfully request a response no later than 1pm Thursday 5/17 if possible.

Very truly yours,
Dave