



December 2nd, 2014

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Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
651 Pine St.
Room 107
Martinez, CA 94553

RE: Request that Consent Item C.60 be removed from the December 2nd Board of Supervisors Meeting Consent Calendar and Continued to a Later Date

Dear Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors (Board),

Save Mount Diablo (SMD) is a non-profit conservation organization founded in 1971 which acquires land for addition to parks on and around Mount Diablo and monitors land use planning which might affect protected lands. We build trails, restore habitat, and are involved in environmental education. In 1971 there was just one park on Mount Diablo totaling 6,778 acres; today there are almost 50 parks and preserves around Mount Diablo totaling 110,000 acres. We include more than 8,000 donors and supporters.

We respectfully request that Consent Item C.60 on the Board's agenda for its December 2nd meeting be removed from the Consent Item list and continued for discussion to a later date.

This project is subject to CEQA, and the CEQA exemption proposed doesn't apply, because there are numerous potentially significant environmental impacts. Additional CEQA review is required.

According to the documents attached to the lease the county has decided that the lease is not subject to CEQA, pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines. However that exemption doesn't apply here where there are numerous potentially significant environmental effects that could be caused by oil and gas exploration on the property.

The purpose of this potential execution of a subsurface oil and gas lease with Sunset Explorations Inc. is to allow oil and gas drilling. A number of environmental impacts could result from this including, but not limited to:

1. Loss of potential habitat for threatened species including California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, and San Joaquin kit fox.
2. Contamination of groundwater and Sand Creek.
3. Changing the hydrology of Sand Creek.
4. Contamination of the air and potential impacts to nearby sensitive receptors (the area that would be subject to the lease is near a hospital).
5. Emission of greenhouse gases.
6. Cumulative impacts when considered together with the approved neighboring Aviano development and proposed Antioch Promenade development.
7. Compliance with the Antioch General Plan should be examined.
8. The potential for impacts to soil stability and seismicity.
9. Aesthetic impacts of drilling infrastructure in this generally flat area.

Even though the lease is simply a real property transaction, the purpose of the lease is to allow for oil and gas extraction, and so that is a reasonably foreseeable result of the lease. Additional CEQA review is required.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this item.

Regards,

Juan Pablo Galván
Land Use Planner