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July 8, 2019

Francisco Avila
Contra Costa County, Dept. of Conservation and Development
Community Development Division
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

Re: Laurel Ranch IV Subdivision (SD18-9495, RZ18-3244) Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Dear Mr. Avila,

Thank you for the opportunity to express the position of the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District (the District) regarding the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Laurel Ranch IV Subdivision located at 5175 Laurel Drive in the unincorporated Concord area.

As a bit of background, the District is tasked with reducing the risk of diseases spread through vectors in Contra Costa County by controlling them in a responsible, environmentally-conscious manner. A “vector” means any animal capable of transmitting the causative agent of human disease or capable of producing human discomfort or injury, including, but not limited to, mosquitoes, flies, mites, ticks, other arthropods, and rodents and other vertebrates. Under the California Health and Safety Code, property owners retain the responsibility to ensure that the structure(s), device(s), other project elements, and all additional facets of their property do not produce or harbor vectors, or otherwise create a nuisance. Owners are required to take measures to abate any nuisance caused by activities undertaken and/or by the structure(s), device(s), or other feature(s) of their property. Failure by the property owner to adequately address a nuisance may lead to abatement by the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District and civil penalties up to \$1,000 per day pursuant to California Health & Safety Code §2060-2067.

Potential impacts to human health by disease vectors is not properly addressed under CEQA—an oversight that has created problems for mosquito abatement and vector control agencies throughout California. The analysis for a project should consider evidence of potential environmental impacts, even if such impacts are not specifically listed on the Appendix G checklist. [State CEQA Guidelines, § 15063(f)]. To determine whether Public Health & Safety may be significantly impacted, lead agencies should refer to the California Health & Safety Code § 2000-2093 for definitions and liabilities associated with the creation of habitat conducive to vector production and to guidance provided by local mosquito and vector control districts/agencies in their determination of environmental impacts. Would the project:

- a) Increase the potential exposure of the public to disease vectors (e.g., mosquitoes, flies, ticks, and rats)?
- b) Increase potential mosquito/vector breeding habitat (i.e., areas of prolonged standing/ponded water like wetlands or stormwater treatment control BMPs and LID features)?

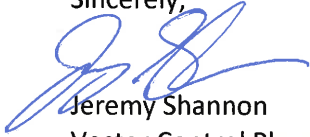
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Addressing these concerns in the environmental review and project planning phases can not only better protect public health and reduce the need for pesticide applications for vector control efforts, but avoid costly retrofits and fines for property owners in the future. Please don't hesitate to contact the District should you have any questions or need anything further.

Sincerely,



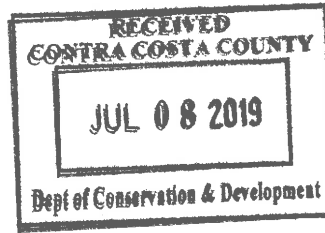
Jeremy Shannon

Vector Control Planner

925-771-6119

jshannon@contracostamosquito.com

Dear Francisoco Avila, Senior Planner
CCCC Department of Conservation and Development.



7/2/2019

I live next door to the property at 5175 Laurel Drive. I oppose redeveloping this into an 8 unit housing development. I purposely purchased my property at 9902 Malu Lane and built a home in the back of the lot. I plan to possibly one day develop the front ½ acre into a second home for my family. This area of concord is very rural and continues to have large lots. I have an unobstructed view of Mt Diablo from my yard and home. I would be very disappointed to see large scale (8 homes, small lots, added to this community). I hope my wishes can be considered and the neighbors could possible build a much smaller more intimate community of 4 homes, all single story as to not Ruin the ascetics of the area. If people want to live in track homes, there are many in other parts of the city.

In addition, I left many of the original Walnut Trees on my property to preserve the rural affect of the original orchards that once populated this area. It would be negligent for the city to simply bulldoze the entire area to make way for yet another housing project. If we need more housing in Concord, we should look to infill in the downtown core.

Thank you

A very concerned neighbor

Michele Iseri

Michele Iseri