

2.7.301 LETTER I301

Letter I301

Shirlee Herrington

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 5:13 PM

To: Andrea Dashiell <ADashiell@placer.ca.gov>; Kara Conklin <KConklin@placer.ca.gov>; George Rosasco <GRosasco@placer.ca.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Debbie Murphy
Email Address (Optional)	Equuspassage@aol.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Expansion
I301-1 Comments	I support the Hidden Falls Expansion for Placer County. Recreation is vital to our existence and so many places we are having to give up beautiful land. Please support this action. Equestrians, bikers(non motorized), hikers, walkers need safe open space! We love Placer County for all the beauty of our area.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

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RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I301: DEBBIE MURPHY

Response to Comment I301-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 2:37 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Grace Murphy
Email Address (Optional)	graceemurphy@me.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion
Comments	When I was a freshman in high school I signed up for my local mountain bike team. Through my team I discovered a love for the outdoors and an immense passion for riding my bike. Now, as a senior, I want to see more kids find joy in nature and getting out and exploring. I may live in Sacramento but I find myself riding in the New Castle/Auburn area quite a bit. The trails are just that good! Would love to see more built out there.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I302-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I302: GRACE MURPHY

Response to Comment I302-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.303 LETTER I303

Letter I303

Date: May 16, 2020

To: Community Development Resource Agency, Placer County Board of Supervisors,
Planning Commission, and Parks Division

From: Teresa and Mike Muscarella
11400 Cramer Road
Auburn, CA 95602

Regarding: Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion DSEIR

I303-1 As a longtime resident of North Auburn/Lincoln and member of *Protect Rural Placer*, I am writing to you today to refute the above referenced document. This DSEIR, as with the previous HFRP EIR, makes weak assumptions and does not take into consideration the full impact that this project will have upon the residents, roads, environment, habitat, agriculture, and fire danger of the nearby community. Specific issues raised are:

I303-2 Transportation and Circulation:

When the Twilight Ride parking lot address is entered into google maps the directions given are Hwy 49 to Cramer Road to Bell Road. (this would be directions from anywhere on I80 north and south of Hwy49) Given most people use google maps it is likely that Cramer Road will bear the brunt of the traffic for this park. It will see a weekday increase of 600% according to the DSEIR. Cramer Road is not a safe two-lane road as there is no lane marker. There is also no shoulder or bike lane. The road is full of blind turns, hills, and limited visibility. This road is shared with tractors, pedestrians, delivery trucks, mail carriers, equestrians..etc.. We walk on this road to get our mail, to visit neighbors, to check our fences and livestock, to turn on and off our NID water, to exercise, to live. With increased traffic our daily routines will become much more dangerous and most likely have to drastically change. No more horse riding or jogging on our neighborhood streets. A quick walk to the neighbors or our mailbox becomes a driving excursion. Although we are near the proposed park, we would need to trailer our horses to get there for fear of being hit by vehicle traffic. None of this was covered in the DSEIR.

I303-3 Two thirds of the visitors will likely be from outside of our county, as is now the case at Hidden Falls, and inexperienced with driving on these tight, rural roads.
How will this be addressed and who will pay for the road improvements? I can foresee the road needing to be widened. Fence, gates and utility poles will need to be relocated, driveway approaches will need to be repaired, new drainage ditches will need to be installed, NID piping will need to be rerouted and hundreds of oak trees will need to be removed. This will drastically change the landscape of our beautiful country road. And who are these changes for? Again, two thirds of the visitors are from outside of our county. Will my taxes increase to pay for this park and the infrastructure? This is a county park which mean county wide taxation for the benefit of non-county visitors.

I303-4 The intersection of Cramer Road and Hwy 49 is daunting at best but introduce 600 more vehicles including horse trailer rigs in the mix and it becomes out right terrifying! The DSEIR fails to identify Hwy 49 as an extremely dangerous stretch of highway.

I303-5 Wildfire:

The DSEIR does not adequately address evacuation in the case of a wildfire, It does not identify and quantify the number of residents egressing and the implications of the narrow, winding rural roads being congested and overwhelmed. It also fails to mention the homeowner's insurance policies that will in all likelihood go up because of the close proximity to a public park.

Agriculture and Environment:

I303-6 I am a farmer who sells quality organic produce. I am concerned that the pollution generated with the huge increase in traffic will impact the quality of my produce and the nutrients in my soil. I am also concerned for our local creeks, ponds and waterways. Pollution generated from automobiles is America's biggest carbon dioxide source. According to the EPA one gallon of gas creates 20 pounds of CO₂! This pollutant not only goes into our atmosphere it also settles into our waterways, fields, pastures, and even makes it into our homes. Let's do some math: one car driving the 2 miles from Hwy 49 to the proposed park at 28 miles per gallon will emit 1.4 pounds of CO₂. 600 cars will emit 857 pounds!

I303-7 We have an abundance of native wildlife all of whom may be affected by this increase of pollution. Otters, tortoises, mountain lions, coyote, geese, foxes, deer, birds, amphibians and even fish all rely on our planet's natural resources. Some of these animals are listed as threatened under the endangered species act. These animals also rely on the pond and the land that will be paved over to build the proposed parking lot.

I303-8 The proposed land is currently zoned agriculture and is used as grazing ground by several local cattle ranchers. They pay for this right and it helps keep the grasses to a minimum reducing the threaten of fire. A win/win situation for us all. The ranchers have been using this land for years. If the zoning is changed and a park is erected what happens to our local ranchers? Our locally sourced beef? Our natural fire prevention? I understand that goats can be brought in to manage the weed control but at whose expense.

Hydrology:

I303-9 The water source in this area is provided by inground wells. Our wells reach down deep into the underground granite pools fed by snow melt and rain. Sometime the pool is shared by multiple homes, sometimes it is not....one never knows, so we conserve. But what we do know is the amount of water is not indefinite. I certainly would not want to share the same water source with the park, as park patrons who have no knowledge of this conservation may carelessly leave the water running compromising the well. It may be easy for our parks department to dig a new or deeper well but for the homeowner it is an extremely expensive burden that may be unsurmountable.

Final comments:

I303-10 I keep hearing the argument that we need more trails and less houses. This is simply not true. Placer county has hundreds of miles of trails. In fact, our county has a trail system that, if laid out straight, would reach all the way to LA and back! There is simply no NEED.

People who claim that this property will end up as a housing development do not understand that Placer Land Trust owns this property and is therefore it is permanently protected. The docent lead tours are working and make the nature trail visit a more personal, informational experience.

Regarding the survey that was taken. In 2017 when the survey was given our county population was 386k and only 3000 surveys were issued; of those only 2400 were returned. About 18% (434) of those who responded do not even LIVE in this county! A disproportional amount of surveys were given to incorporated cities with less given to the unincorporated areas. Why? The areas with so much more to lose seemed to have no voice.

When trails was suggested on the survey the exact locations were not included and if the good people of Placer County would have known how disruptive and destructive this project was going to be to their neighbors, they would NOT have suggested new trails as a recreation option. It was a very deceitful way to sway the facts to provide (false) positive feedback for your pet project. In fact, according to the survey scores, trails were not an option that the populous even wanted. They wanted recreation centers with multiple recreation offerings such as ice hokey and ice skating, paved shared paths for pedestrians and cyclists and an aquatic center. They were relatively happy with the natural pedestrian, equestrian and mountain biking trails.

I303-10
Cont'd

Shouldn't we be making parks closer to people? To the children? Walking distance from schools and homes. The area of North Auburn has taken the brunt of a long list of social injustices. We have lost our public pool, our little theater, our charm. We have endured the development of Hwy 49 being an endless strip mall with a continuous stream of traffic for the sake of tax revenue. One can find at least 13 fast food restaurants in a mere one mile stretch of Hwy 49. This for a town of 13,500 people. I find despicable.

I303-11

We need you to help us. You are our elected representatives. Say no to the proposed park. Say no to more traffic, more pollution, higher fire risk. Say yes to the citizens of North Auburn and other rural, unincorporated areas of Placer County!! Please, be our voice.

Based upon the information in the DSEIR, the assumptions it has made, and the negative impacts to the very communities who were not included in any of the 15-year planning, I request that you reject this project.

Please include my letter as part of the public comment permanent record.

Thank you,

Teresa and Mike Muscarella
Protect Rural Placer

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I303: TERESA AND MIKE MUSCARELLA

Response to Comment I303-1

The commenter refutes the Draft SEIR, stating it makes weak assumptions.

The Draft SEIR has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, the potential impacts have been thoroughly analyzed, and appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed. No further response is required.

Response to Comment I303-2

The commenter claims that the Draft SEIR states that Cramer Road will see a 600% increase in weekday traffic.

This statement is inaccurate. Per the traffic study, Table 12, Cramer Road currently has an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) level of 558 vehicles. The project would add 177 weekday trips, resulting in a 31.7% increase. Table 8-21 includes cumulative and project related daily volumes and shows a 16% increase (217/1388).

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

Response to Comment I303-3

The commenter states that 2/3 of the visitors will likely be from outside the County, like with HFRP.

Table 8-7 on page 8-18 of the Draft SEIR estimates the percent of weekend visitors from various area, based upon the data from the reservation system. Since the reservation system is only effective on weekends, holidays and other peak usage days, the information in Table 8-7 is not indicative of the normal Monday through Friday visitation habits. As stated on page 8-18, trip distribution during the week has indicated that the majority of visitors are from local areas.

The commenter expresses concerns about visitors from outside of the county visiting the park as well as funding for the project.

The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that “An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required.

Response to Comment I303-4

Please see Response to Comment I303-2.

Response to Comment I303-5

The commenter expresses concern about evacuation in case of wildfires. Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response.

The commenter states that the Draft SEIR fails to address homeowner’s insurance policies.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety and Emergency Response

Response to Comment I303-6

The commenter expresses concern regarding pollution generated from increased traffic.

Please see the Draft SEIR Section 9.4 “Impacts” in Chapter 9.0 “Air Quality” for an analysis of impacts to air quality.

Response to Comment I303-7

The commenter expresses concerns regarding impacts to wildlife.

Please see the Draft SEIR Section 12.4 “Impacts” in Chapter 12.0 “Biological Resources” for a discussion of impacts to wildlife and habitat, and 12.5 “Mitigation Measures” for measures to avoid and minimize impacts.

The commenter suggests that the ponds on the Twilight Ride parcels would be removed with the proposed project.

The existing ponds on the Twilight Ride parcels will not be removed or disturbed with the proposed project. Of the 50 acres, less than 5 acres would be permanently disturbed by the entrance road and parking area. Additionally, the ponds and area of oak woodland on 40-acre parcel are part of the “oak tree preservation area” and have been designated a no-development zone.

Response to Comment I303-8

The commenter expresses concern about a change in zoning from agriculture to other uses.

Please see the Draft SEIR Chapter 4.0 “Land Use” Impact 4-3 below, which states rezoning would not be required (p. 4-14 of Draft SEIR).

Impact 4-3 Land Use and Agricultural Resources—Potential for Conflicts with Land Use or Agricultural Resource Plans, Policies, or Regulations. *The County determines allowable land uses at a parcel-level according to the zoning code. The zoning district applicable to the project area is Farm and Building Site ranging from 10 to 160-acre minimums. According to the Placer County zoning code, the proposed project would be allowed in the entire project area with approval of a minor use permit (MUP) and would not require rezoning. Further, use of the property for trail expansion is considered compatible with grazing and agricultural use, with grazing activities and agricultural use continuing after the project is implemented and maintaining the natural state of the area. Therefore, proposed project is consistent with existing plans, policies, and regulations.*

Please also see Response to Comment I205-II-205 and Master Response 5 – Agriculture.

Response to Comment I303-9

The commenter expresses concern about water supply.

Please see the Draft SEIR Section 13.4.3 “Impact Analysis” in Chapter 13.0 “Public Services and Utilities” for a discussion of water supply. This issue is specifically addressed in Impact 13-1: Public Services and Utilities – Potential for project operation to require construction or relocation of new facilities for provision of water or

wastewater (p. 13-11 Draft SEIR). Additionally, all new restroom facilities would include the installation of low water use fixtures, with touch-free, auto-shut off sink fixtures, so there would not be an opportunity for the public to “carelessly leave the water running” as the commenter stated.

Response to Comment I303-10

The commenter refutes the need for additional trails in Placer County.

This comment is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration. No further response is required.

Response to Comment I303-11

The commenter expresses opposition to the project.

The opposition is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:30 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Rob Myers
Email Address (Optional)	robertmyers365@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Expansion
Comments	Hi, I moved to Auburn 12 years ago for the fantastic outdoor access, mainly as a trail runner and mountain biker. I would love to see an expansion of the Hidden Falls trails and parking access. I think it would be a huge asset to our area as it would open up more this beautiful area that we get to call home, and preserve it for our children and future generations. Thank you!
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I304-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I304: ROB MYERS

Response to Comment I304-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.305 LETTER I305

Letter I305

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 9:11 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Dave Nash
Email Address (Optional)	nashda1@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
Comments	I support the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project Because it's good for our communities wellness. Our loca trail systems are growing more crowded and it would help to have additional trails available. I live in Lincoln and am in Auburn riding my mountain bike 3-4 times a week. Thank you! Dave
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I305-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I305: DAVE NASH

Response to Comment I305-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: Sabrina Nash <sabrina.nash@ymail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 2:12 PM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion DSEIR

Date: May 18, 2020

To: Community Development Resource Agency, Placer County Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and Parks Division

From: Sabrina & David Nash
6770 Estates Court, Auburn CA 95602

Regarding: Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion DSEIR

I306-1 As new residents of North Auburn/Auburn Valley, I am writing to you today to refute the above referenced document. This DSEIR, as with the previous HFRP EIR, makes weak assumptions and does not take into consideration the full impact that this project will have upon the residents, roads, environment, habitat, agriculture, security, and fire danger of the nearby community. Specific issues raised are:

I306-2 **Wildfire and Wildlife:**

- We purchased our home during fire season in 2019 and paid very expensive homeowners premiums. This project will increase our fire hazard rating and result in rising costs of premiums and narrow our insurance carrier options if we are cancelled.
- We are one of a handful of homes that are at the very end of the roadway in Auburn Valley. When a wildfire occurs, we have only ONE WAY OUT. Even one more car will delay our escape. With a proposed 570+ more cars using the access to Hidden Falls/Harvego Parking Lot, this impact feels like a death sentence.
- Included in the disclosures upon the sale of our home was an entry specifying that our home is located in an area with protected species, habitats as outlined in the Placer County Conservation Plan/NCCP /HCP Phase I. The DSEIR does not address the potential effects of any protected species or habitats.

I306-5 **Transportation and Circulation:**

- The three roads that we use to access our home are all narrow, winding and have blind turns. It took us several months of daily driving to navigate them with any amount of confidence. The general public will only access these roads occasionally and will bring inevitable collisions due to unfamiliarity.
- The roads are maintained by our HOA dues and we do not feel that we should be paying for the public's use.

I306-6 **Noise, Privacy and Security:**

- One of the proposed access points to the expansion project is literally in our backyard. The traffic to the golf course and to Harvego cattle ranch is already heavy and noisy (especially on the weekends). The introduction of hundreds of more cars/trucks/trailers is unthinkable - not only can we hear them - we can SEE them as the backyard is not fenced.
- We experience trespassers on a daily basis as they fish our private pond. This would introduce many more calls to the sheriff's office for remediation
- When an incident occurs due to the public being on and around our property, what kind of public protection and security will there be for the residents of Auburn Valley?
- When the public litters on our private roads and yards, who will be held responsible and pay for the clean up?

I306-8 Based upon the information in the DSEIR, the assumptions it has made, and the negative impacts to the very communities who were not included in any of the 15-year planning, I request that you reject this project.

Please include my letter as part of the public comment permanent record.

Thank you,
Sabrina & David Nash

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I306: SABRINA AND DAVID NASH

Response to Comment I306-1

The commenter states his opposition to the Project and criticizes the Draft SEIR.

The Draft SEIR has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, the potential impacts have been thoroughly analyzed, and appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed. No further response is required.

Response to Comment I306-2

The commenter expresses concern about homeowner's insurance.

The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that "An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment" (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). Please also refer to Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety and Emergency Response. No further response is required.

Response to Comment I306-3

The commenter expresses concerns about wildfire and evacuation.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response. Additionally, please refer to Tables 8-5 and 8-6, which estimate that traffic trips to/from the Harvego Bear River parking area at full build-out would be 295 trips (equating to about 148 autos in/out daily) on weekdays and 573 trips on weekends (about 287 cars in/out).

Response to Comment I306-4

The commenter expresses concern about protected species and habitats and states that the Draft SEIR does not address the potential effects.

The Draft SEIR analyzes potential impacts to special-status species and habitat in Section 12.4 "Impacts" in Chapter 12.0 "Biological Resources."

Response to Comment I306-5

The commenter expresses concern about road safety and states that HOA fees are paying for private roads.

Please see the Draft SEIR Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking. If the proposed project is approved, the County would either accept the Irrevocable Offer of Dedication on Auburn Valley Road and the road would then be incorporated into the County's maintained mileage program, or the County would pay for its fair share of the maintenance costs as a benefitting property owner.

Response to Comment I306-6

The commenter expresses concern regarding noise due to increased traffic.

Please see the Draft SEIR Section 10.4 “Impacts” in Chapter 10.0 “Noise” for an analysis of noise impacts.

Response to Comment I306-7

Please see Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility for a discussion of law enforcement, trespassing, and trash/littering.

Response to Comment I306-8

The commenter expresses opposition to the project.

The opposition is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: jkneft@earthlink.net
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:07 PM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hidden Falls Regional Park

Completing the Vision for Hidden Falls Regional Park

In 1998, the Placer County Supervisors appointed a Citizen’s Committee for the “Placer Legacy Program”, which I chaired. Following a year of stakeholder meetings and public workshops, a first priority we recommended was: *“a large regional park in the Garden Bar/Bear River area coupled with the conservation of oak woodland and riparian habitat.”* The answer is Hidden Falls Regional Park combined with the proposed Hidden Falls Trail Expansion. The current Park has 30 miles of multi-use trails, gorgeous waterfalls, and one trailhead with parking. Use of the Park grew rapidly and parking was so congested during holidays and weekends that visitors were sometimes turned away. The popularity of the Park has exceeded all expectations!

I307-1

For over 15 years, the County has been working with the Placer Land Trust(PLT), State, foundations, and willing landowners to acquire more than 2,500 acres of natural open space and rangeland north of Hidden Falls Park for the Trail Expansion. Thanks to PLT and funding partners, the County has achieved this conservation of oak woodlands and trail access while contributing less than 40 percent of the funding. The shared vision is an expansive preserve of oak woodlands, riparian habitat and rangeland, with 30 miles of new public trails and trailhead facilities that will enable our community to experience this iconic foothill landscape.

The Environmental Impact Report(EIR) shows that impacts of the Trail Expansion project can be reasonably managed and will be more than offset by the economic and health benefits of new public trails. The County should move ahead with the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion, certify the EIR, and work with PLT to ensure that the Trail Expansion provides promised public access while protecting the conservation and agricultural values of the preserves.

Joanne K. Neft, Past Chair, Placer Legacy Citizen’s Advisory Committee

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I307: JOANNE NEFT

Response to Comment I307-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.308 LETTER I308

Letter I308

Shirlee Herrington

From: Natalie Nelson <nnelson@nelsontrade.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 2:45 PM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL] hidden falls
Attachments: Hidden Falls Expansion Letter (1).pdf

I308-1

Greetings! We have recently moved from Truckee to Higgins Corner and have joined the Gold Trails Council, because of our love for the trails and great outdoors in the area.

We would like to add our request for the expansion of hidden falls. I am not in any way able to improve on Jaede's letter, so I have attached it here with our agreement to each of her points.

With Kind Thanks for your consideration.

Natalie Nelson

Placer County Planning Commission
Environmental Coordination Services
3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190
Auburn, Ca. 95603

RE: Hidden Falls trail expansion DSEIR supporting a full buildout option, in coordination with the Placer Land Trust.

Dear Planning Commission,

Without reservation, my family and I support the Hidden Falls Trail expansion project. Because we live within a few miles of the park, for the past several years, we have hiked and ridden horses on the trails there at least once a week.

Full Buildout Option: We support the full buildout option, including 30 miles of trails, three additional parking areas, and other park and safety amenities as discussed in the DSEIR.

Equestrian Parking: because equestrians have only 8 spaces in the current parking area, we especially want the county to include the additional planned horse trailer parking in the first build. There is plenty of room and a demonstrated need.

Traffic: Issues with traffic for the most part are less than significant and can be mitigated. The improvement of two intersections on Highway 49 has been planned for some time and will be fixed whether or not Hidden Falls is expanded.

Wildfire: because of the successful wildfire suppression work in the existing Hidden Falls, we are confident wildfire will not be an issue in the new expansion. The DSEIR adequately addressed the concerns about wildfire as being less than significant.

Open Space, Recreation and Legacy: Hidden Falls trail expansion is a desired and much-needed project. It provides preservation of open space and rangeland that will be maintained and accessible to the public for healthy outdoor recreation in perpetuity and fulfills "Placers Legacy."

The full buildout option should be the only option, no alternatives, with the understanding that Placer Land Trust will work with Placer County to ensure that trail design, and construction are compatible with conservation objectives.

Sincerely,

Jaede Miloslavich

Gregory S. Parsons

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I308: NATALIE NELSON

Response to Comment I308-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.309 LETTER I309

Letter I309

Each addressed item identified in the Public Services and Utilities section of the SEIR conclude that the impact on the described service is less than significant.

I309-1 Fire issues: Section 13. Per the report, the addition of 3 trail heads for HIDDEN FALLS REGIONAL PARK will likely increase fire services. Per the report, 51 calls for fire service to Hidden Falls Regional Park were reported between July 2018 and July 2019. Increasing trail heads by 3 and those calls for fire service are now 200. The report does not see this as a significant issue. Really. Additionally, the report cites the purchase of one fire vehicle for county use, 12,000 gallon water tanks at each new trail head along with helicopter landing pads. Also, additional civilian park rangers maybe hired, along with caretakers who reside at the trail head. The report also speaks to fire breaks. Based on these claims, the report leads one to believe one fire vehicle, along with the water tanks and helicopter pads prove the increased trail heads have less than significant impact. Really. Who will maintain the fire breaks? What will the cost be? What will be the cost to fill and refill a 12,000 gallon water tank? 12,000 gallons of water will be gone in ½ hour fighting a fire. That is assuming the fire is at the water tank, not in the back country. If water is sought via drilling, what will the cost be? The tank at the current Hidden Falls Regional Park has been empty for sometime. Bathrooms are closed and there is no water available. The report states these items have a less than significant impact. Why? The County has not brought Hidden Falls Regional Park to standards this report claims will be met as yet.

I309-2 Police issues: Section 13. Per the report, the additional trail heads for HIDDEN FALLS REGIONAL PARK could increase demand for police services. The report says this would not be the case because of operating hours, visitor control, increase in private ranger staff and County Park maintenance staff. Nothing about these solutions make sense, operating hours, visitor control and ranger staff have always been there. Additionally, County Park maintenance staff should not be included in a strategy to combat demand for police service. The report cites the entire Placer County Sheriff's Office as the law enforcement agency handling Hidden Falls. Placer County Sheriff's Office has 2 deputies working day shift in North Auburn. The report states Placer County Sheriffs responded to Hidden Falls once between January 2019 through August 2019. The report also states that two additional calls were handled within one mile of park borders during the same time frame. The report does not address the 29 calls for service around the park entrance, nor does the report speak to self initiated activity by Placer County Sheriffs. Most importantly, the report fails to mention the heartache residents near Hidden Falls have dealt with. Crime has increased, living standards have fallen, most importantly, the report failed to note the pleas made by these residents at assorted county meetings not to complete further trail heads for fear those neighborhoods would suffer the same fate as they have. Yet, the report states this would have less than a significant impact. As Board of Supervisors, I find it deplorable you have abandoned those same residents.

- I309-3 Issues not covered: Auburn Valley Road is a private road maintained by Auburn Valley residents and Auburn Valley Golf Club. Why should this community and golf course be subjected to unlimited liability? People will use this road to access the additional park entrance, restricting residents and course attendees from egress/ingress. Additionally, the cost of maintaining Auburn Valley Road will be an additional burden to the Auburn Valley residents and Auburn Valley Golf Club. The road is not designed for the projected increase in traffic. Auburn Valley Road per agreement with Placer County 60 years ago identifies the road to be used for Auburn Valley residents, their respective guests, patrons of Auburn Valley Gold Club and utility vehicles. No where is there evidence the road is to be used by visitors to any park. There is no detail within the report documenting the County's belief they can take a private road and open it to public traffic for which the usage was never intended.
- The report does not even mention the aforementioned paragraph.
- Curtola Road is a driveway, whose width does not comply with standards established by the State of California. The projected traffic will occupy this driveway impacting the residents who reside on Curtola Road. The report does not address this issue either. How can this be omitted from this report.
- Nothing in the study speaks to evacuation from any points of interest. There are many roads and driveways within the area defined by Placer County. On these roads and driveways are hundreds of people who, if need be, will be hampered to evacuate safely due to the additional people trying to flee the additional access points. Not only is the additional people an issue, but the roads maintained by the county are insufficient to effectively allow people the ability to flee a pending disaster. There was a vehicular crash (roll over) on Bell Road between west of Auburn Valley Road. The road was closed for sometime. Traffic had to be turned around to proceed. During the 49 fire, people fleeing Auburn Valley were met at the junction of Auburn Valley Road, Bell Road and Lone Star by emergency personnel and advised to go back home as it was unsafe to proceed. Though some got through, it took over an hour to get to Joeger and Bell Road. How can this be overlooked in the study? Does the County even have a plan for evacuation?
- I309-4 That leads me to believe there are many other issues not covered. This report does not reflect how items are going to me mitigated. Where are the funds to correct the numerous issues identified? Where are the funds to pay for these entrances? This report has no significant detail to inform the public about the County's intention nor responsibility. The County has not met the identified changes to the original Hidden Falls entrance. My question is why. Who benefits from leaving out such important information?
- I309-5 This report has no detail and every issue noted is less than significant. This report is shameful. It is a direct reflection on County Staff and Board of Supervisors.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I309: NOEY

Response to Comment I309-1

The commenter expresses concerns related to wildfire and emergency services.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response.

The commenter questions the costs associated with the project.

The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that “An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required.

Response to Comment I309-2

The commenter expresses concern regarding crime and police services.

Please see Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility.

Response to Comment I309-3

The commenter expresses concerns about use of private roads and evacuations.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking Response to Comment I73-3 regarding private roads and improvements to Curtola Road. Also, please see Response to Comment I309-1 regarding wildfire, safety, and emergency response.

Response to Comment I309-4

The commenter expresses concerns regarding funding.

Please see Response to Comment I309-1 regarding economic impacts.

Response to Comment I309-5

The commenter states criticism about the Draft SEIR.

The Draft SEIR has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, the potential impacts have been thoroughly analyzed, and appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed. No further response is required.

2.7.310 LETTER I310

Letter I310

Shirlee Herrington

From: Alison Nygard <morganna124@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 4:18 PM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services; Darrell Nygard
Subject: Hidden Falls Regional Park Trail Expansion

To the Members of the Placer County Community Development Resource Agency,

The purpose of this email is to address the concerns my husband and I have about the proposed additional Garden Bar parking for the Hidden Falls expansion project: PLN19-00187

I310-1

We reside on Mt. Pleasant Rd. As such, our home is located along the route which many visitors to the park would travel should the expansion plan go into effect. We have observed with alarm that the plan anticipates an increase of an average of 600 trips per day with the creation of the additional parking spaces. Our stretch of Mt. Pleasant Rd. is one of two pathways for visitors to reach this location, given that it runs parallel to Garden Bar. My family and neighbors will be directly affected by this exponential increase in traffic.

Over the past few years, we have seen an increase in reckless speeding along our road. One of our family dogs was killed by one such speeder. There is little to no police presence, and traffic is ever increasing with the expansion of the winery/brewery trail.

I310-2

An additional concern that comes with increased traffic is that of fire safety. As was recently discussed by local residents at a MAC meeting, increased traffic also increases the risk of motorists tossing cigarettes from their vehicles. For residents who have faced repeated power shutdowns from PG&E and who are constantly monitoring their property for fire hazards, this risk is significant. We have already seen an increase in litter in recent years along where our property adjoins Mt. Pleasant Rd. not to mention an increase in other petty crimes such as theft. It appears that CHP does not have sufficient resources to patrol our area to help mitigate these risks.

I hope that you will take our family's concerns and those of our neighbors seriously. As a lifelong resident of this area, I have noted with concern numerous

I310-2 ↑ development projects Placer County has underway which threaten the rural
Cont'd ↓ tranquility that we value.

I310-3 ↑ While we continue to endeavor to have our voices heard, the impression I have
↓ received from recent communications and attendance of a MAC meeting is that
resident feedback may not be considered if residents are not able to attend relevant
county meetings. I am sure you can understand that the hard working people of this
area are often not available to leave their jobs to attend such meetings during
regular work hours. Considering this along with the minimal notice given to residents
about pending projects in their area, I strongly urge you to consider that the
feedback you are seeing at such meetings does not accurately reflect the
unpopularity of these projects among the people who live here.

Thank you for your time.

--

Alison Nygard

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I310: ALISON NYGARD

Response to Comment I310-1

The commenter expresses concern regarding increased traffic and enforcement of speed limits.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

The commenter states that the Project anticipates an average of 600 trips per day to the Garden Bar parking area.

This statement is inaccurate. Tables 8-5 and 8-6 of the Draft SEIR estimate that the daily trips on *weekends* (based upon Saturday being the peak usage day) would be 331 trips (or 166 cars going in/out), and 154 trips (77 cars traveling in/out) during the week.

Response to Comment I310-2

The commenter expresses concerns about wildfire, crime and litter.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response; and Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility.

Response to Comment I310-3

The commenter expresses concern over the public comment process.

Please see Master Response 1 – Public Comment Process.

2.7.311 LETTER I311

Letter I311

Shirlee Herrington

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 2:11 PM

To: Andrea Dashiell <ADashiell@placer.ca.gov>; Kara Conklin <KConklin@placer.ca.gov>; George Rosasco <GRosasco@placer.ca.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name Teresa Oakes

Email Address (Optional) taroakes@gmail.com

Agenda Item (Optional) Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project - Vote NO

I311-1	Comments	I do NOT support the expansion of Hidden Falls trails and consider the project to be both a nuisance and detrimental to the residents who live in the surrounding area. I speak as someone who loves to hike in Hidden Falls, and who does not live within the area that would be impacted by the proposed expansion. I just treasure the rural aspects of the Auburn area and think this should be protected as the gem that it is within Placer County. I hike and ride bikes on trails all over Placer County and just do not see any need to expand what we already have, especially at the expense of the Auburn area's current quality of life. The costs necessary to complete the expansion would be much better used in increasing the fire safety of the Auburn community.
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Attach a document *Field not completed.*

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RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I311: TERESA OAKES

Response to Comment I311-1

The commenter expresses opposition to the project related to quality of life issues and costs.

Please see Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility. The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that “An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required.

2.7.312 LETTER I312

Letter I312

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 7:35 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Patrick O'Connor
Email Address (Optional)	poconnor17@hotmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project"
I312-1 Comments	I support the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project. More parking and more trails will promote healthy lifestyles and can allow more activity with more distancing with all that's going on. I am strongly in favor of expansion. Thank you for your time.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

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RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I312: PATRICK O'CONNOR

Response to Comment I312-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.313 LETTER I313

Letter I313

Shirlee Herrington

From: Tim OLeary <toleary69@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Cindy Gustafson; Kelly McCaughna
Subject: Virtual meetings

- I313-1 Cindy and Kelly: The notion of a virtual meeting is disturbing news. Public comment will have "no impact" and will be a waste of time and money.
- I313-2 Maybe you've noticed we have secured a Certified Traffic Engineer that will surely produce "honest and unbiased" information on the roads leading to the proposed expansion areas.
- Rest assured it will not end with that report. Our continuing efforts are planning some other moves to further prevent this travesty on continuing.
- Not leaving out Dr. Aimee's plan to shut down golf courses but leave out closing Hidden Falls in Placer CO is frightening. By the way there is NO water for anything but a "brief fire"!
- We all know too well fires are not brief.... The insurance co's are monitoring the decisions that have been made. Is Placer Co. self insured? Premiums will reflect that for everybody.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Sincerely,

Tim OLeary
6720 Estates Ct.
Auburn, CA 95602



RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I313: TIM O'LEARY

Response to Comment I313-1

The commenter expresses opposition to a virtual public meeting.

Please see Master Response 1 – Public Comment Process.

Response to Comment I313-2

The commenter expresses opposition to the Project.

This comment is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration.

The Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that “An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required.

2.7.314 LETTER I314

Letter I314

May 20, 2020

Dear Board of Supervisors, Placer County Environmental Services and Sue Colbert:

My name is Tim O’Leary and I reside at 6720 Estates Ct. in Auburn. In conjunction with my speech on the Hydrology issue of the Hidden Falls Expansion, there were supplemental facts that need to be taken into consideration that surrounded the May 14th meeting, as follows:

I314-1

1. Lisa Carnaha was not prepared to answer many questions concerning water, fire danger, budget issues, traffic issues and lastly insurance issues. This level of preparedness speaks to the amount of due diligence and factual evidence they have to support the expansion.
2. Of the 13 pro-expansion speakers, none adhered to the guidelines set forth by the Planning Commissioner to stay within the SDEIR pages for their points. It seemed the PLT was attempting to sway opinions by placating their quest.
3. It was clearly apparent that some of the planner’s wanted to study all the facts to make informed decisions before sending it on to the BOS.
4. Andy Fisher and Lisa Carnaha are not taxpayers in Placer County and therefore should not be allowed to expedite or push through plans that have such an enormous effect on Placer County residents, especially for plans as ill-conceived and thoughtless as those presented in the current plan.

I314-2

5. The report from Prism Engineering gives an alternate location to access HFRP via Overhill Drive. Lisa Carnaha failed to mention that this alternate location would have a significantly less impact on traffic, have decreased costs for maintenance and improvements than the proposed Auburn Valley Development site, and to which the County already has dedication rights! The Overhill site would affect a handfull of residences; the Auburn

I314-2
Cont'd

Valley site affects hundreds of residents. Once again, this speaks to the lack of due diligence on the pro-expansion team.

6. From the planner's questions the PLT's plan proves to be fatally flawed. Because of the poor planning and execution, the Mears Place entrance has had issues since it first opened. Those issues should be fixed prior to any expansions. The Mears Place residents were not allowed to speak as there were no public comments allotted after the reservation times were complete.

I314-3

In an effort to satisfy the needs of all Placer Co. taxpayers, future expansion plans should be added to a ballot. Let the voters decide how their tax dollars are spent. A Roseville resident spoke how there were better opportunities for such plans in parks near Roseville – which were promised and not received.

Several residents in that area were not able to speak because of technical difficulties during the virtual meeting. Not only were there technical difficulties, but three minutes is too short of a timeframe to communicate layers of facts and data in a concise manner. As a result, you will find my full version attached. I spoke on #11 Hydrology and Water. My three-minute presentation is attached in the email as well.

I314-4

Please read the traffic study prepared by Prism Engineering carefully. This report was sent to you earlier today. It was privately funded by Placer Co. taxpayers. Many of the taxpayers appreciate and would like to continue to enjoy the amenities that Placer Co. provides us. We do not want to be driven away due to increased fire danger, insurance cancellations and traffic gridlock issues that would result from this expansion.

Considering our current economy and the unpredictable future effects of Covid-19, Placer Co. will need a larger budget to battle the upcoming crisis. Now is not the time or place to approve park expansion projects when Placer Co. taxpayers need those funds to support their families during this crisis.

Hydrology

Mitigation Measure 11-2 Implement groundwater protection through a Transient Non-Community Water System Permit

Since June of 2018 the current well at Hidden Falls has been deemed "dry" or closed because of "low yield". HFRP is searching for a future source according to the sign on the restrooms. A 12000 gal. Storage tank is dedicated to fire suppression only. So there is no drinking water or water based bathrooms anywhere in the park. This is in violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act . Any expansion plans need to be shelved until Mears Place is brought into compliance.

I314-5

Mitigation Measure 11-3 Calculate water demands for fire suppression

A 12000 gal. Water tank can serve a 2" fire hose 24 minutes before it's depleted. This is what is planned for the Twilight and Auburn Valley sites according to the 2019 HFRP Trails Expansion Plan Project Impact Report Analysis. In every instance under the "residual significance" heading it lists "Less than Significant". No supporting data and the assumption was made by a "county employee" basically who is "paid to play". Perhaps an insurance underwriter could give HFRP some background on the liability and costs to protect life and property surrounding the park.

Placer Co and Land Trust should be held accountable for the costs associated with any damage to neighboring communities.

On Page 11-21 it talks about filling storage tanks during off-peak periods when use is limited, When there is a fire how do you get a water truck to refill the storage tank. This is truly a "significant" issue not honestly shown in the SDEIR.

Placer Land Trust is well aware where there are potable water

I314-5
Cont'd

↑ sources nearby. It has mostly relied on a 2010 EIR coupled with 2019 report to attempt a haphazard, non-factual and waste of Placer County taxpayer money. It will put our homes and life in jeopardy.

Placer Land Trust has not managed the water resources in HFRP to date, Why should any expansion be allowed?

It's clear to me that the 22 pages of #11 Hydrology and Water section of the SDEIR is mostly non-factual, biased and dated information that does not reflect the current conditions of HFRP.

In closing the Harvego Bear River Preserve does not have suitable water, questionable access and enviornmentally dangerous for the concepts written in the SDEIR.

Thank you for your time to listen to the taxpayers of Placer Co. We know you will make a logical decision that will benefit all of its residents.

Regards,
Tim O'Leary
(530) 537-4659

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I314: TIM O'LEARY

Response to Comment I314-1

The commenter states his observations from the May 14 public meeting.

This comment is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration. No further response is required.

Response to Comment I314-2

The commenter expresses concerns regarding traffic and circulation.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking. Use of the Overhill Drive scenario proposed by the commenter would require a public entrance onto a private road that the County has no legal rights to for public use.

Response to Comment I314-3

The commenter expresses concern about the public meeting.

Please see Master Response 1 – Public Comment Process. The commenter incorrectly states that Mears Place residents were not allowed to speak at the public meeting held on May 14, 2020. The meeting was open to anyone from the public and commenters could either reserve a spot in advance or call while the meeting was in progress. Members of the public used both methods to speak at the public meeting.

Response to Comment I314-4

The commenter asks the County to consider the Prism Engineering study and future economic conditions.

The Prism Engineering study is included within the Final SEIR as comment letter I428. Please refer to the response provided to comment I428-1.

With regards to future economic condition, the purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that “An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required.

Response to Comment I314-5

The commenter expresses concerns regarding hydrology.

Please see Draft SEIR Chapter 11.0 “Hydrology and Water Quality” and Section 11.4 “Impacts” for an analysis of hydrology and water quality impacts. Please also see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response.

The commenter states that the current lack of potable water for park guests at HFRP is in Violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

The SDWA authorizes the United States Environmental Protection Agency to set national health-based standards for drinking water to protect against both naturally occurring and man-made contaminants that may be found in drinking water. It does not mandate that all parks and recreational areas supply potable water. There are many recreational areas which require patrons to bring in their own supply of water when visiting. Although some wells in the Auburn area (including the one at HFRP) were closed because of low yields during the drought years, a number of those wells have been brought back online after the past several years of higher rainfall. Recent testing of the well at HFRP has indicated that it will likely be able to be placed back into operation in the near future as well.

2.7.315 LETTER I315

Letter I315

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 1:46 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Alex Olsen
Email Address (Optional)	Alexolsen44@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
Comments	I fully support the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project. We need more parking and more trailheads to spread out crowds and create healthy, family activities that will benefit everyone. Alex Olsen
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I315-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I315: ALEX OLSEN

Response to Comment I315-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.316 LETTER I316

Letter I316

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Eric Olsen
Email Address (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Agenda Item (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
I316-1 Comments	We need these trails!
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I316: ERIC OLSEN

Response to Comment I316-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.317 LETTER I317

Letter I317

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 12:31 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Andrew Olsen
Email Address (Optional)	andrewolsen55@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
Comments	I adamantly support the hidden falls trail expansion. My two sons (8 and 6) are just getting into trail riding and it would be a great opportunity for them. More trails and trail access would be a wonderful addition to the area. Please approve this and make it happen! We just bought a house in the area and are really looking forward to moving there.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I317-1

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RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I317: ANDREW OLSEN

Response to Comment I317-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.318 LETTER I318

Letter I318-1

Shirlee Herrington

From: Thomas Orgain <thomasorgain@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:39 PM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Cc: Diana Orgain; travis.eichhorn@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hidden Falls Trail Expansion - AGAINST

Dear Sir or Madam:

My family is relatively new to the area and we do our level best to maintain 5 acres of land at our Bell Road/Joeger Road area residence to reduce the fuel load and risk of fire calamity.

We have repositioned ourselves to maintain a new fire insurance policy after being denied for renewal by Farmers Insurance Co. last October, 2019

I318-1

We are adamantly opposed to this project buildout and have been looking to connect with neighbors to do so in an organized fashion. Bell Road is already a speedway in mid-day traffic. This project will only exacerbate this and myriad other impacts to our locale, the most severe of these is fire risk.

Admittedly – and appropriately this meeting and this item has taken a place on our back-burner in 2020. With the overwhelming circumstances pursuant to COVID pandemic and the related shutdown – which is ongoing, I implore you to **TAKE NO ACTION** but to postpone this Hidden Falls Expansion meeting in the interest of best serving the public both for and against the project.

Very Truly Yours,

Tom Orgain
TKO Management Associates
P.O. Box 4148
Auburn, CA 95604
(707)477-4008

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I318: TOM ORGAIN

Response to Comment I318-1

The commenter expresses opposition to the project.

The opposition is noted. No further response is required

The commenter expresses concerns about the public comment process.

Please see Master Response 1 – Public Comment Process.

The commenter expresses concerns about wildfire and emergency services.

Please see the Draft SEIR Section 16.4 “Impacts” in Chapter 16.0 “Wildfire” for an analysis of wildfire impacts. Please also see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response.

The commenter expresses concerns about traffic.

Please see the Draft SEIR Section 8.4 “Impacts” in Chapter 8.0 “Transportation and Circulation” for an analysis of transportation and circulation impacts.

Please also see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

2.7.319 LETTER I319

Letter I319

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 9:47 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Christina Otello
Email Address (Optional)	Phoenix.ny@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls expansion
Comments	I am delighted to hear more trails for horses, bikes, walkers and dogs are possible. Please continue to have paid parking at all entries. I strongly feel this helps keep the park from overcrowding and over use. Thank you.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I319-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I319: CHRISTINA OTELLO

Response to Comment I319-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

May 19, 2020

To: Community Development Resource Agency,
Placer County Board of Supervision,
Planning Commission and Parks Division

From: Jim & Sally Otto
6800 Estates Drive
Auburn, Ca. 95602

Re: Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails
Expansion DSEIR

I320-1

We have been longtime residents of Auburn Valley Country Club. We selected the area in 1982 to build our home in a quiet country atmosphere. Many homes have been built here since 1982, and it still remains a beautiful place to live.

Hidden Falls came into the picture a few years ago, and has caused a tremendous negativity on our property and the entire community.

Auburn Valley Road is right outside our bedroom window. Curtola Road is in our backyard. We have remained somewhat

I320-1
Cont'd

private and still love living here. My husband has had several surgeries, is an amputee, but still feels safe to take a ride in his wheel chair on the side of the road, when he has assistance.

I320-2

Opening up Auburn Valley Road to additional Hidden Falls traffic would be like a highway on the corner of our home. More cars and traffic will cause a lot of noise and possibly danger. Most all of our residents go out walking every day for health reasons, exercise, or walking their dogs. We feel like we live in a safe, quiet neighborhood.

I320-3

We also are almost at the end of Auburn Valley Road which could be very dangerous in case of any wildfires. A lot of extra cars could prohibit some of our residents from getting out of their homes. Additional traffic would definitely impair our safety.

I320-4

The roads in Auburn Valley are maintained by our Homeowner's dues. We do not feel we should be paying for hundreds of cars for public use.

I320-5

Based on the information in the DSEIR, the assumptions it has made and the negative impacts to our community, we request that you reject this project.

Please include my letter as part of the public comment permanent record.

Thank you.

Sally & Jim Otto

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I320: SALLY AND JIM OTTO

Response to Comment I320-1

The commenters provide background information on their living situation.

This comment is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration. No further response is required.

Response to Comment I320-2

The commenter expresses concern about increased traffic.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

The commenter also expressed concerns about noise related to an increase in traffic.

Please see Chapter 10 on Noise. Per Impact 10-3, “Increase in Transportation Noises”, noise from increased traffic would be mitigated to less-than-significant through limiting the hours of operation and hard surfacing of entrance roads and automobile parking areas.

Response to Comment I320-3

The commenter expresses concerns about wildfire and safety.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response.

Response to Comment I320-4

The commenter feels they should not have to pay for hundreds of cars using roads maintained by their homeowner’s dues.

The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that “An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required.

Response to Comment I320-5

The commenter expresses opposition to the project.

The opposition is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.321 LETTER I321

Letter I321

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 6:40 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Tim Owen
Email Address (Optional)	lonepine87@comcast.net
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden falls expansion project
I321-1 Comments	I support the hidden falls expansion project . By further spreading out parking locations and creating better access for our families to enjoy the out doors in our community.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I321: TIM OWEN

Response to Comment I321-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 1:36 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Josh Owens
Email Address (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
Comments	I support the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project because mountain bike trails bring together a community that care's about the environment and it's surroundings. The user's of these trails are there to admire the area's natural beauty and seek a fun way to stay healthy. With more parking and trails to ride, more like-minded individuals will use these trails and will seek local food and drink for post-activity fun as well. It's a win-win for all!
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I322-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I322: JOSH OWENS

Response to Comment I322-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 2:13 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Melissa Padilla
Email Address (Optional)	Jmbhpadilla@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls expansion
Comments	Hello! I am writing today to let you know that I feel the Hidden Falls expansion would be something absolutely terrific for Placer County. Hidden falls is an awesome spot for hikers, bikers and equestrians alike. The way things are run there is a great example for everyone. The parking is very impacted but once you get out on the trails it is very serene. We are really hoping you can expand on that great piece of property. I have to say that I feel safest at that trail system then any of the others.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I323-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I323: MELISSA PADILLA

Response to Comment I323-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 10:58 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Elizabeth Painter
Email Address (Optional)	Eajpainter@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project

I324-1

Comments	<p>Agenda Item: "Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project" I greatly support the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project because it will help strengthen our community, bring families together, help boost economy by bring mountain bikers, hikers and equestrians to rural areas. The mountain bike community gives back to maintain trails which will help reduce brush and maintain fire breaks for wild fires. In addition by adding more trails in the area these trails will strengthens high school mtb teams, family dynamics, and the health of our community. Due to Covid 19 gyms have closed, It's important we expand our outdoor areas outside auburn and folsom. These local trails have become impacted by more of the population needing to get out.</p> <p>With more visitors to the area trails will also need more parking and trailheads access. More trail head location will also spread out crowds.</p> <p>Please approve the expansion to help improve the health of our community both physically and economically.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Elizabeth Painter (Hikers, Mtb'er, volunteer for women's beginner mtb'ing rides) Fair Oaks, CA</p>
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I've added photos of the mountain bike communities accomplishments and who we are.

Attach a document

[4F9219B8-1622-4DEF-8BDD-373B733272DD.jpeg](#)

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I324: ELIZABETH PAINTER

Response to Comment I324-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.325 LETTER I325

Letter I325

INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED AS EVIDENCE

TO: Placer County Board of Supervisors, Placer County Planning Commission, Community Resource Development Agency, Placer County Parks Division
FROM: Joe Parisi, 8860 Auburn Valley Road, Auburn, CA 95602 (jpari5@aol.com)
SUBJ: HIDDEN FALLS REGIONAL PARK EXPANSION DSEIR

The subject documents state that "County access via Auburn Valley Road is provided by an offer of public dedication that the County has not accepted to date".

This belief is based on a County staff document, dated November 2016, that "indicates that Auburn Valley Road and two other roads, are privately owned, with the title of said roads reserved to the undersigned, its assigns and successors to be held until such time as the County of Placer may permit, require, or request that said roads be dedicated to the County, at which time the undersigned or the successors in interest shall so dedicate the same". "By this statement, fee title to Auburn Valley Road was held by Auburn Valley Corporation", and "clearly identifies the intention to dedicate the road to Placer County".

Title Right and Access to Auburn Valley Road

- November 2016: County staff documented in two documents that the County believes delineate our easement rights over Auburn Valley Road and Curtola Ranch Road. Easements #1998-0047099 and #1998-0047100.
- Current 2020: The DSEIR documents "the County access via Auburn Valley Road is provided by an offer of public dedication that the County has not accepted to date".

The above County document is accurate in that said roads be dedicated to the County, and fee title to Auburn Valley Road was held by Auburn Valley Corporation, HOWEVER, the statements were taken from a contract, the PLAT, between Auburn Valley Corporation, Lawrence Curtola and Placer County dated April 1961.

- The DSEIR states, as fact, that access via Auburn Valley Road is provided by an offer of public dedication. That dedication was fact in April 1961 and founded on the belief of Auburn Valley Corporation, Lawrence Curtola and the County working together in the late 1950's to create a Golf Course and Subdivision Golf Community, and that the Subdivision would hook up its water, sewer and roads to the County water, sewer and roads.
- In April 1961, the Auburn Valley Corporation, Lawrence Curtola and the County entered into a contract, the PLAT, to accomplish building the golf course and developing the subdivision, however, the County chose not to participate in the water, sewer or road projects.
- The Auburn Valley Corporation and the undersigned had NO involvement with the County related to the PLAT after an advisory committee, consisting of the County of Placer, Auburn Valley Corporation, Subdivision Developers, AVG,

INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED AS EVIDENCE

I325-1
Cont'd

Auburn Valley Service Corporation and Community Members, that had monthly meetings for five (5) years to connect the Subdivision to water, sewer and roads, was terminated in the early 1990's. The County was paid for their Committee work. The committee was authorized by the Board of Supervisors in 1988.

- After at least ten (10) years of no related involvement with the County and repeated refusals to have any commitment to subdivision road projects, the Auburn Valley Corporation, at the request of Auburn Valley Property Owners Association, in 2005, QUITCLAIMED Auburn Valley Road to the Auburn Valley Property Owners Association – the only other and current title holder of the land described as Auburn Valley Road – as shown on that certain map entitled "Auburn Valley Subdivision Unit No. 1".

It appears that in 2005 the county was no longer an Auburn Valley Corporation, Lawrence Curtola presumed beneficiary, and the Auburn Valley Property Owner's Association, Inc. has not entered into any agreement with the County related to **Wedge Way** (currently Estates Drive/Estates Court), **Fairway Court** or **Auburn Valley Road**.

- The DSEIR does NOT address what obligations, necessary and required, to bring the roads up to County standards; e.g. the costs of normal maintenance and repairs caused by winter storms, road flooding and erosion, {through a designed water controlled system designed for a golf course and 145 residential lots}. NOT for an additional 560 vehicles per day and the obligations the County would have if WEDGE WAY, FAIRWAY COURT and AUBURN VALLEY ROAD were dedicated to the County.

I325-2

Private Auburn Valley Road and Public Use

- In the PLAT documents the County and Auburn Valley Corporation agreed that *"this map and subdivision does NOT dedicate any portion of this tract for street or highway purposes and the parcels of land laying within the boundaries of WEDGE WAY, FAIRWAY COURT and AUBURN VALLEY ROAD and are so designated upon the map within the title of said roads reserved to the undersigned, its assigns and successors"*.

NOTE: The California Vehicle Code documents that:

- "Street or highway are publicly maintained and for use by the public. Road or Driveway are privately maintained and or use by property owner or persons approved by the property owner".
- privately owned and maintained roads "include roads owned and maintained by a city, county or district that are NOT dedicated to use by the public for purposes of vehicular traffic

- Rights of ingress and egress over the above roads are hereby granted to the future lot owners of the subdivision, their licensees, visitors, tenants, and servants".

INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED AS EVIDENCE

I325-2
Cont'd

- "Rights of way and easements are hereby granted as follows: (A), (B), (C), D), (E), to the appropriate company, corporation, association of Public Body for the installation of maintenance and for anchorage of poles for overhead wires, cables or conduits with the right to trim or remove trees therein necessary".

NOTE:

- The years of the Auburn Valley Corporation, Lawrence Curtola and the County working together to create a Subdivision and Golf Course, and then entering into a contract, the PLAT, to assure it would be a Golfing community with private roads for the Lot Owners and not for street or highway public use.
- The above excerpts from the California Vehicle Code and the PLAT, combined with the county refusing to participate with Subdivision developers to work on Unit No. 1, Unit No. 2 and Unit #3 road projects, as was the intent of Lawrence Curtola, and the QUITCLAIM DEED, establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that the County has **NO** claim for public use of WEDGE WAY, FAIRWAY COURT or AUBURN VALLEY ROAD.

I325-3

WHY does the DSEIR not disclose the improvements necessary and required to bring the three roads up to Placer County standards, the costs of maintenance and repairs of the roads caused by only 145 residential lots and the golf course that will be burdened by an additional 560 vehicles per day. Seven days a week!

The 2018-19 winter storms caused the Homeowner's Association to spend ~ \$87,829 on flooding of Auburn Valley Road, the common areas, Auburn Valley lot owner's property as well as repairing the continuing erosion of Auburn Valley Road.

I325-4

WHY does the DSEIR not disclose the critical geographic and physical limitations of Auburn Valley Road and the associated costs and actions necessary to remedy them:

- Few shoulder or emergency pull over areas; its narrow, winding and has many blind spots, a deep and wide normal and winter storm runoff ditch at the pavements edge running all the way from Upper Valley Road to the beginning of the Otto pond
- No adequate lighting for night travel conditions
- No cell phone service to summon emergency responders
- No double stripes
- No shoulders for bike lanes for the 3' clearance required by law (and for which motorists are obligated to give to bikes)
- Extremely rare presence of police personnel (sheriff or CHP)

I325-4
Cont'd

↑ WHY does the DSEIR not disclose the projected impact of an additional 560 vehicles (including truck and horse trailers) trips on a single busy day, and additionally the man made Otto pond and dam that was designed to accept normal water flow from the subdivision and golf course north/east down through, into and under, the manmade dam that borders the edge of Curtola Ranch Driveway, the damage to private property on Curtola Ranch Driveway and the dam when construction to bring the driveway to County standards – and to a dam not designated to withstand street or highway public use of 560 vehicles per day?

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Parisi

/jp

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I325: JOE PARISI

Response to Comment I325-1

The commenter expresses concerns over private roads and title rights.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

Response to Comment I325-2

The commenter expresses concern over the public use of private Auburn Valley Road.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

Response to Comment I325-3

The commenter expresses concern about the costs of maintenance and repairs of the roads and past Homeowner's Association costs.

The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that "An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment" (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). However, it is important to note that if the Curtola Ranch parking expansion is constructed, the County would either accept the Irrevocable Offer of Dedication on Auburn Valley Road and the road would then be incorporated into the County's maintained mileage program, or the County would pay for its fair share of the maintenance costs as a benefitting property owner.

No further response is required.

Response to Comment I325-4

The commenter expresses concern about increased traffic, safety and emergency response, including concerns about the dam on Curtola Ranch Road.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking; and Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response. With regards to the concern about the dam on Curtola Ranch road, please see Response to Comment I73-3.

2.7.326 LETTER I326

Letter I326

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 8:17 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

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First and Last Name	Sarah park
Email Address (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Agenda Item (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
I326-1 Comments	Please expand hidden falls park. We need additional trails to maintain as endurance capital of the world!
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I326: SARAH PARK

Response to Comment I326-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.327 LETTER I327

Letter I327

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 6:22 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Paul A
Email Address (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
I327-1 Comments	I support the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project!
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I327: A. PAUL

Response to Comment I327-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.328 LETTER I328

Letter I328

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 8:13 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

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First and Last Name	Brian Pease
Email Address (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
Comments	"I am in support of the hidden Falls Trail expansion project. The health and well-being of all of us that live in this community depend on being able to do outdoor activities. Auburn is regarded as the endurance Capitol and it's part of the allure of this community. Trails I run and ride on are becoming fewer and fewer as they get fenced off by private landowners. Recent one being the canal that runs along Placer Hills Road. So I think it's important for the planning commission to consider new trails for the Health and vitality of our community. Thanks for considering my comments! Best Regards,
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I328-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I328: BRIAN PEASE

Response to Comment I328-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 7:03 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Julie Perdue
Email Address (Optional)	Julperdue@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden falls trail expansion project
Comments	"I support the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project From el dorado hills. We need this for the health of my family. Please Consider more parking and more trails. Hopefully we will all finally be able to enjoy these trails! The Placer Board of Supervisors vote tomorrow! The biggest reason we and others aren't already enjoying this area is local residents are STRONGLY opposed to making it open to the public. are STRONGLY opposed to making it open to the public.
Attach a document	Field not completed.

I329-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I329: JULIE PERDUE

Response to Comment I329-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.330 LETTER I330

Letter I330

Shirlee Herrington

From: Roger Perkins <roger.f.perkins@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 16, 2020 12:13 AM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hidden Trail Expansion

I330-1

The expansion of Hidden Falls Is totally unnecessary. The parking is already bad and this will just make it worse as well as surrounding homes and private property. We went to the park when it was dedicated and it was perfect then, but has become too crowded since then and the parking is not good.

Please don't expand.

Roger Perkins
11493 Sherwood Way
Long time Auburn resident



Virus-free. www.avast.com

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I330: ROGER PERKINS

Response to Comment I330-1

The commenter expresses opposition to the project and states that parking problems will increase.

The opposition is noted. Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation and Parking. No further response is required.

2.7.331 LETTER I331

Letter I331

-----Original Message-----

From: Jaya Perryman <seejaya@mac.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 1:42 PM

To: Placer County Board of Supervisors <BOS@placer.ca.gov>

Subject: Hidden Falls

I331-1

Please postpone the hearing on the Bell Road access to Hidden Falls until we can meet in person.

There is no reason to rush this process. There are certainly more important things to focus on right now.

Thank you

Jaya Perryman

4360 Burt Ln

Auburn Ca

District 5

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I331: JAYA PERRYMAN

Response to Comment I331-1

The commenter expresses concern about the public comment process.

Please see Master Response 1 – Public Comment Process.

Shirlee Herrington

Subject: FW: Favoring Hidden Falls expansion

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Perry <percorsomaestro@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 9:22 AM

To: Andy Fisher <AFisher@placer.ca.gov>

Subject: Favoring Hidden Falls expansion

Hello Mr Fisher—

I'm writing in enthusiastic support of the proposed expansion of Hidden Falls Regional Park, including all trails development and intended access for equestrians, hikers, and cyclists; also in support of all facilities development. I am a direct patrilineal descendant of Placer County pioneer Michael Kelly, who emigrated to Rattlesnake Bar in 1848. My family has lived continuously in Placer County since my ancestor came to Placer. I have been and continue to be involved in community development of natural lands preservation and encouragement of outdoor recreation, specifically bicycling. For several years I served as a director of Placer Land Trust during its growth from startup status. Subsequently I was instrumental in creating Victory Velo Racing, a qualified nonprofit currently hosting over 70 community members dedicated to encouraging bicycling as healthy outdoor recreation in Placer County.

I332-1

I have a deep affinity for Placer County, its natural beauty and the Auburn area's potential for outdoor trails-based recreation in natural environments. I treasure Placer's natural beauty and potential for hosting outdoor enthusiasts and venues for outdoor recreation on natural lands such as Hidden Falls, expansion of which will continue to attract both recreational tourism dollars and high paying businesses such as corporate offices and technological development companies wishing to provide proximity to such amenities for their highly skilled and well compensated employees. Hidden Falls Regional Park's expansion would encourage and enhance Placer's potential for recreational tourism and for attracting high-paid professional and semiprofessional job centers, not to mention corollary industries and development associated with outdoor recreational tourism.

Placer stands at a crossroads defining its future, and Hidden Falls Regional Park can and should be developed to encourage our county's future, setting it apart from other areas of California and of the U.S as a whole. With Hidden Falls Regional Park's full and complete expansion and development as planned, Placer County can and surely will become one of the most desirable area's for concomitant business development and general economic vitality, Very truly yours— Mark Perry

376 Aeolia Drive

Auburn 95603

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I332: MARK PERRY

Response to Comment I332-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.333 LETTER I333

Letter I333

Placer County Community Development Resource Agency
Environmental Coordination Services
3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190
Auburn, Ca. 95603

RE: Response to Hidden Falls trail expansion DSEIR, supporting a full buildout options in concert with the Placer Land Trust and their conservation requirements.

Dear Planning Commission,

I333-1 I support the Hidden Falls Trail expansion project.

I support the full buildout option, including 30 miles of trails, three additional parking areas, including horse trailer parking and other park and safety amenities as discussed in the DSEIR.

Issues with traffic for the most part are less than significant and can be mitigated. The two intersections on Highway 49 were shown to be significant. However, these intersections will be improved over time whether or not Hidden Falls is expanded. The DSEIR adequately addressed the concerns about wildfire as being less than significant.

Hidden Falls trail expansion is a great and much-needed project. It provides preservation of open space and rangeland that will be maintained and accessible to the public for healthy outdoor recreation in perpetuity and fulfills "Placers Legacy."

The full buildout option should be the only option, no alternatives, with the understanding that Placer Land Trust will work with Placer County to ensure that trail design, and construction are compatible with conservation objectives.

Sincerely,

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I333: TERI PERSONENI

Response to Comment I333-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.334 LETTER I334

Letter I334

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:36 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Craig Petersen
Email Address (Optional)	twofunclub@aol.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project

I334-1 ↓	<p>Comments</p> <p>To the Placer County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors:</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Hidden Falls Expansion Project. The current Hidden Falls trail system is a fantastic asset to the residents of the county and the greater community at large. It serves not only as a recreational gem, but also acts to promote the health of our citizens by making available a variety of exercise options in a beautiful setting. As you know, Hidden Falls has become so popular that it has become necessary to require parking reservations on the busiest days. In spite of the cost of such reservations, the parking lots are full on these days, further demonstrating the value the public places on this marvelous resource.</p> <p>The purposed expansion project would reduce parking issues and spread users out over a much greater area, thus reducing the density of users on the most frequently used trails. It would also expand the range for those users looking for a longer trail experience on a greater variety of trails. Additionally, by creating additional access and parking, many users will have shorter driving mileage to reach the trailhead, reducing traffic miles and reducing air pollution.</p> <p>I know that there is some opposition to this project, but in discussions with dozens of community members, this opposition group is relatively small and their concerns are primarily based upon the proximity of the parking lot to their homes. In attending numerous public meetings regarding this issue, emotions appear to be inflating the actual potential of a</p>
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I334-1
Cont'd

negative impact upon the safety or quality of life of these individuals, which is often the case with any many new additions to a community. I support this expansion project because I truly believe that a careful and thoughtful weighing of the true benefits and detriments of the project will also support moving forward with the project and adequate mitigation of neighboring residents concerns can ultimately be achieved to the benefit of all and future generations.

Attach a document *Field not completed.*

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I334: CRAIG PETERSEN

Response to Comment I334-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.335 LETTER I335

Letter I335

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 7:46 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Zach Petersen
Email Address (Optional)	petersenzd@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Expansion
Comments	I support the expansion of hidden falls. Trails in auburn are a huge economic resource that greatly support the local economy. More trail access will benefit the economy more. In addition, current trails in Auburn are becoming very congested. More trail access will help relieve this congestion.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I335-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I335: ZACH PETERSEN

Response to Comment I335-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.336 LETTER I336

Letter I336

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 2:47 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Jenna Peterson
Email Address (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
Comments	I support the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project because it would spread out crowds, provide more multi-use trails, and more parking for the community to access beautiful trails close to home.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I336-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I336: JENNA PETERSON

Response to Comment I336-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.337 LETTER I337

Letter I337

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 8:50 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Christine Pieper
Email Address (Optional)	seepipe@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Expansion
Comments	As a Placer County resident, I support this effort to expand recreational opportunities in our county. The popularity of Hidden Falls, enjoyed by county residents and guests alike, demonstrates that there's a hunger for more non-motorized, multi-use trails. The county has invested my tax dollars in preserving open space and agricultural values compatible with recreation, and this expansion is an ideal opportunity advance those goals. Christine Pieper A voter from unincorporated Placer Co, Auburn, CA
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I337-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I337: CHRISTINE PIEPER

Response to Comment I337-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.338 LETTER I338

Letter I338

April 15, 2020

To: Placer County Supervisors Gore, Uhler, Weygandt, Holmes, Gustafson and

To: Mr. Todd Leopold, County CEO

Re: Public Hearing for the HFRP Expansion Project

Prior to the COVID 19 Pandemic we were going to the Library to read and study the Draft SEIR in preparation for the rapidly approaching March Public Hearing. Before we could make much progress the disaster was upon all of us and we learned, those of us in our 80's were seriously at risk. Now we know we are all at risk. As a result, we are no longer leaving our home except for essential needs.

We are now learning that you are planning to hold a "Public Hearing" by "Remote Access" on May 14th. This poses significant challenges to us. First, we cannot be adequately prepared based on the fact that we are not in a situation where we can consistently access the report on our computer since we are in a location and have a system that does not provide reliable service. You must be aware of the fact that we are in a rural area that is being impacted by the subject we reference. That, along with our limited tech skills, present a problem.

I338-1

Second, we question your purpose and reasoning by expecting those in the communities you represent to benefit from a meeting that clearly is not appropriate nor acceptable. We know there are those who are more limited to the necessary resources than we are and we are at a disadvantage. Do you truly expect us to be able to interact by way of a remote access? Our area does not have the advanced technology needed for this type of meeting. How naïve are all of you? How little informed are you of your County capabilities and constituents? These are the people you represent.

Finally, we have been sorely disappointed throughout our experiences with the County for many years. This rush to hold a public meeting under the current conditions of a worldwide pandemic and a statewide and local emergency calling for actions to conform to specific directives is questionable and unreasonable. We have been waiting for the report in question since 2018 and there were many delays and rewrites and requests for more money and excuses you can find in the record books, if you don't remember. Now, you are in a hurry to push this Public Hearing that will limit the public in numbers and responses. This is totally inappropriate.

2.

I338-1
Cont'd

↑ Our request is that you focus on the current needs of those you represent and set this Public Meeting aside for now. It is in everybody's interest to allow time for access to the Draft SEIR report in public locations that are safe. Our Health Officer, Dr. Sisson has been actively stressing the viable approaches to this pandemic. Following her guidelines and our Governor's directives deserve our attention and focus at this time. When the orders and directives clearly support the holding of a safe Public Meeting on the HFRP Expansion Project a date should be set and adequate notice given.

We are guarded in our hopes that you will recognize that this is the right thing to do. We want to be able to say that our County officials care and act positively on behalf of the people they represent. This would turn our disappointment around and that is a good thing. And the other plus will be we all survived the virus.

Sincerely,

Jim and Jean Piette

Community members of Protect Rural Placer

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I338: JIM AND JEAN PIETTE

Response to Comment I338-1

The commenter expresses concern about the public comment process.

Please see Master Response 1 – Public Comment Process.

2.7.339 LETTER I339

Letter I339

May 18, 2020

Page 1.

To: Community Development Resource Agency, Placer County Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and Parks Division

From: Jean and James Piette, 5395 Bell Road, Auburn, CA 95602

Regarding: Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion SDEIR

I339-1

We have resided in Placer County for 47 years and are members of Protect Rural Placer (PRP). Our ten acre property shares a property line with the Twilight Ride Access 50 Acre property. We have persisted under extreme shelter in place conditions to study the subject of this communication. We are finding that the conclusions and explanations in the SDEIR are inadequate and without the breadth and depth of understanding and scope of the potential impacts on the people, environment, habitat, agriculture, roads, and fire danger. The HFRP EIR previously issued was approved with limited and weak results and used as the base for the SDEIR we are reviewing. We believe the approach and overlap has left the results grossly inadequate.

Please refer to the attachments for several issues addressed, comments and our conclusion.

4.0 Land Use and Agricultural Resources

- Impact 4-1 is based on an assumption that the introduction of increased numbers of visitors, including hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, nature lovers, along with management plans will have no need for mitigation measures. Previous reports regarding the Hidden Falls Regional Park and the adjoining trails reveal the management and maintenance has been significantly missing. Existing conflicts and past grievances are not documented as well as objections documented by ranchers and private residents. There is no evidence of any collaboration and/or agreement with the ranchers or private property owners. Surveys and elicited statements of support are identified as Focus Groups and the residents, property owners, ranchers and farmers have not been included in the favored groups.
- Impact 4-2 Project elements are assumed to be adequate to state no mitigation measures are warranted. There are no reported findings to support the conclusion. "Project elements" are once again recorded as the reason the plan is compatible with agricultural uses with increased use by the public with nothing to support the claim.
- Impact 4-3 No mitigation measures warranted is documented without any approved minor use permit (MUP) in place. It is stated that "the proposed project is consistent with existing plans, policies, and regulations" before any of those impacted have any input. The existing policies and plans are those in place prior to the 2010 HFRP EIR and are the basis for the expanded project. This is not accurate or adequate for the SDEIR issued in 2020.
- Impact 4-4 No mitigation measures are warranted on an assumption that "future land uses" and "existing roadway corridors" to remain in place and the "approval of a modified CUP" will support the decision. There is nothing documented to support any of these claims that adjacent agricultural land use would not be adversely affected. Where are the figures of the number of visitors to the areas and their activities on the trails? Where is the evidence showing the people who will be impacted, i.e., property owners, residents, homeowners, ranchers, farmers, renters, wineries, had involvement in the proposals and planning? This impact is dependent on a conditional use permit that is yet to be approved for the current SDEIR.

I339-2

Section 4.0 of the SDEIR has conclusions and results based on assumptions, unsubstantiated claims and projected future actions not approved and clearly does not justify approval.

- I339-3 • Impact 5-1 Erosion hazards is an area identified as potential erosion during construction as well as over time through use and maintenance. Actions proposed are to “reduce the potential impacts” that are not named. The watershed in question is important to everyone, not just us. The documented steps to be taken and approvals obtained are vague and do not seem to appreciate the size of the planned expansion. The number of people, who are (residents, ranchers, farmers or agricultural animals) who will be impacted by the erosion hazards has been lost in the rhetoric. Where are the figures and calculations considering the expected numbers of visitors, vehicles, bicycles, animals and impact of specific activities that cause erosion?
- I339-4 • Impact 5-2 Naturally occurring asbestos as it relates to erosion resulting from construction is a concern and is reported to be “less than significant” with a plan in place during construction. The majority of these environmental items are addressed primarily as it relates to construction. The impact of asbestos caused by hundreds of visitors to the park and trails on a daily schedule are not considered as it relates to the people living in the local communities as well as the visitors.
- I339-5 • Impact 5-3 regarding the location of a “potentially active” fault zone, the report has shown the fault zone had been identified previously. The cost of the studies and costs relative to the buildings and safety measures for the visitors to the area are not included in the report. This identified geologic hazard along with erosion from construction and increased use by hundreds of visitors is not calculated in dollars or risks. All property owners and all visitors have not been informed of any risks of any kind or any financial burdens now or in the future and should be made aware. Reports that minimize any aspect of a planned development are not tolerable.
- I339-6 • Impact 5-4 Landslides are reported to present no risk. It is noted with site alterations from “construction of recreation facilities in the park and expansion project area” there could be changes as a result of “site alterations”. It is concluded that the risk is considered low. It is a concern when the risk is caused by the alterations caused from construction. That goes against the usual efforts to eliminate risks. The question is why is it alright to move ahead with a development when the construction causes risks of landslides as well as increases in the pollution of water and air quality? Each of these impacts is being looked at individually and the combined impacts are not mentioned.
- I339-7 • Impact 5-5 Wastewater Disposal Systems is reported the soil supports engineered septic systems and will comply when properly engineered. This claim indicates the impact would be less than significant. However, when Impact 11.0 Hydrology and Water Quality items are reported it is a concern and that is not revealed in this Section. The added expense of engineered septic systems is not included anywhere in the report. This requirement based on the soil must be checked seriously. If the soil for this purpose requires special measures and the possible health hazards to us and our community exists we want to know why the “less than significant” decision was reached and the true impact.
- I339-8 Section 5.0 of the SDEIR includes safety issues, hazards and expenses that do not support approval.

Section 7.0 Visual Resources

Page 4.

I339-9

- Impact 7-1 Minimizes the visual impact based on short term construction activities as well as changes from vegetation and tree removal being in areas "not visible from most off-site public locations." The focus is on construction and the impact is not taking the local residents into consideration. Our home and property share a property line with the Twilight Ride Access site of 50 acres where construction is going to include an added turning lane onto the site from Bell Road, a driveway to a parking lot and trailhead access that will be our view. The plan is to drill wells, install septic systems, construct restrooms and water fountains and troughs for horses, a picnic area, and build two bridges. The "short term construction" claim is not reported in any time frame and we ask what the projected time frame would be?

I339-10

- Impact 7-2 The long-term changes to visual resources is also in consideration of the public visiting the park and trails acreage. There are no references to the residents who will be impacted with the visual changes that have already started as of this date. Trees are being removed along Bell Road and we will be forever impacted by those changes along with every move being planned. The significance of the visual impacts to us and our community is not reported.

I339-11

- Impact 7-3 The visual changes the report describes as "improvements" at Garden Bar Road and Curtola Ranch cannot easily be minimized as most other items are as the outcry from property owners has already been expressed publicly and are documented. This and many other impacts are found in several Sections with overlaps. In this case, it seems unworthy to not only move forward when the impacts are significant to the visual changes, but, the removal of many mature oak trees is being justified somehow. What is the justification?

I339-12

- Impact 7-4 The increased light and glare is reported to be minimal and no mitigation measures are needed. We have not read anything in the report that covers the impact of the lighting referred to in terms of intensity or pollution in a specific location. There is nothing that refers to the lights on vehicles or devices that visitors may use. Our view will be of vehicles arriving at sunrise and leaving at sunset or later as is the case at the current Hidden Falls Regional Park. What are the measures for intensity and glare as it relates to the Twilight Ride Access and Trailhead location as well as other areas throughout the park and trails expansion? What is the measure of the "existing surrounding lighting" being referenced in the plan? The reporting is minimizing items, ignoring objections and reports expressed and reaching conclusions without any supporting data.

I339-13

Section 7.0 Visual Resources is severely limited in the coverage regarding all impacts reported. The impacts all are based on the limited time frame of the construction being considered, the remote locations being developed or maintained that are not visible to the public, the minimal impact of light and glare while under construction. These explanations do not include any supporting data or any considerations for the people who reside in the locations being impacted. The approval should not be supported.

Section 9.0 Air Quality

I339-14

- Impact 9.1 Short-Term Emission of Criteria Air Pollutants and Precursors during Construction. This impact showing no Mitigation Measures are warranted, is limited to construction and does not include emissions from the increase in vehicles including hundreds and thousands of visitors to the area with gas powered and diesel powered vehicles and the propane equipped trailers and barbeques or other equipment not itemized anywhere.
- Impact 9.2 Long-Term, Regional Emissions of Criteria Air Pollutants and Ozone Precursors Associated with Project Operations. The impact is reported as showing no Mitigation Measures are warranted as it relates to Project Operations. There are no measures considering the number of vehicles projected for the visitors and the equipment brought onto the acreage.
- Impact 9.3 Exposure of Sensitive Receptors to Emissions of Toxic Air Contaminants (TAC'S) denies substantial emissions of tacs during park and project construction due to it being temporary and of a distance resulting in rapid dissipation. This part of the item is limiting the coverage to the period of construction of both the park and project while not considering the period following those actions when the number of visitors to the areas being evaluated will consist of hundreds and thousands increasing the emissions. The impact to those properties located within two hundred feet of the park and project construction sites are also not included in the measures. Our property is located about two hundred feet from the twilight ride access acreage and that is not covered in any of the impacts in the report. The other part of this impact is regarding exposure to workers and residents of asbestos during project construction recorded as potentially significant. Both of these items include mitigation measures but only as they relate to the limitations during construction. It is consistent in the report that none of the measurements are considered as they relate to the increases in transportation, visitors and activities and the impact on residents and animals. The measures of emissions of all kinds are available for calculating the adverse impacts as increases in vehicle travel and actions of people are counted. These measures should be projected.

I339-14
Cont'd



- Impact 9.4 long-term (local) mobile-source emissions of carbon monoxide during project operation reported as not requiring mitigation measures. As with other impacts the results are based on the limited measures during project operation and do not consider impacts relative to the planned increases in transportation, vehicle emissions, increases in people and the activities in the park and on the trails.
- Impact 9.5 exposure of sensitive receptors to odors. The odors being considered are diesel exhaust emissions but only as they are from on-site construction equipment. Mitigations measures are not needed based on the emissions being intermittent during construction and the rapid dissipation. As noted in other impacts, the measurements are needed regarding the odors caused by the increased vehicle traffic in locations near residences and ranches with animals.

I339-15

- Impact 10.1 Short Term Construction Generated Noise Levels Exceeding County Standards. The reported results on this impact of noise in excess of 70dBA compares the decibel level to the County nighttime standard of 45dBA and concludes no mitigations are needed since the construction is limited to daytime hours. The question is what is the County daytime standard and how does that compare with the construction generated noise level in excess of 70dBA? The sustained level of noise is not addressed and the length of the daytime construction and noise level emission is not reported as needed. The decibel levels of the vehicles reported to be entering the park and trails access points and parking in the parking lots is not calculated. The decibel levels of the visitors entering the acreage including normal conversation, speaking on cell phones, listening to music or playing musical instruments, or setting up/unhooking horse trailers and reversing the activity, and other regular expected activities of visitors need to be calculated.
- Impact 10.2 Increases in Long-Term (Operational) Noise Levels from Non-transportation Stationary and Area Sources is stated to be generated from maintenance activities. The measure used for this figure is approximately 40 feet at the closest existing noise sensitive receptor and is not considered sufficient to warrant mitigations. Considering maintenance activities and not listing any of the activities involving vehicular, trailer, visitor actions and interactions that are the focus of the construction and maintenance being planned is a measure that is needed to address the park and trails development.
- Impact 10.3 Increases in Transportation-Related Noise Levels includes mitigation measures. The short-term construction traffic measure shows a 3dBA or greater increase in traffic noise levels along area roadways. What is the final total when 3dBA is added to the noise impact? The mitigation is to adjust the traffic allotted daytime hours as it relates to Impact 10.1 and a 3dBA or greater increase in traffic noise levels along area roadways. The confounding of calculations does not fall within any standardized measures. What is the noise level emitted by each defined vehicle, tractor, and power tools during the construction and maintenance and the combined emission for noise and air quality? A normal conversation is 60dBA and a diesel truck is 90dBA or more. The second mitigation for this impact refers back to Impact 10.2 reporting on the surface of the pavement to be used and the speed limit to be limited so as to not exceed applicable Placer County noise standards while still increasing ambient noise in the long-term. The study does not effectively define or measure accurately the impacts in 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3 and the impacts need to be studied and corrected or rejected.
- Impact 10.4 Exposure of Persons to or Generation of Excessive Ground borne Vibrations or Noise levels as they apply to "persons". It is interesting that the limitations of each of the Impacts are so concerning. Whether the omissions and considerations involving residents, property owners, ranchers as well as anticipated visitors to the park and trails expansion, this impact omits the animals including the cows, sheep, goats, horses, pigs, fowl and all wild/native species. Many animals are hypersensitive to ground borne vibrations and/or noise levels as well as other sensory impacts and have been recognized for their warnings of environmental hazards and pending dangers. Where is the measure to report this area of concern?

Noise Impact is not adequately researched and does not report the adverse impact to the people who reside in the access and expansion areas and have not been included in the study as well as the animals.

Conclusions regarding Hidden Falls Regional Park Trail Network Expansion SDEIR

Our review of Sections 4.0, 5.0, 7.0, 9.0 and 10.0 represent our time allotment to this extensive report. We have read and reviewed the entire report and our overall conclusions represent a complete coverage. Our reviews and comments in the body of this paper are a part of our conclusion.

We oppose the approval and certification of the Hidden Falls Regional Park Trail Network Expansion Subsequent Draft Environmental Impact Report in its entirety due to the following:

- The SDEIR based on the previously approved 2010 HFRP Certified EIR shows new significant impacts, a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant impacts and adds new information of substantial importance. These known substantial and significant impacts were the reason for pursuing the SDEIR in an attempt to present assumptions and mitigations to achieve approval of the project.
- The Big Hill lands and watersheds and natural habitat are threatened by the planned development of this project.
- The wildlife habitat is already threatened and further invasion will cause significant disruptions that knowledgeable ecologists report cannot be repaired or replaced.
- Changes and destruction of the oak woodland puts the resident property owners, ranchers and even the public in danger from wildfires.
- Increases in visitors/tourists/environmental enthusiasts/equestrians/bicyclists/hikers/in the access points and park and trails expansions add a significant increase to the wildfire threat. This is supported by past and recently occurring fires in locations very much like ours.
- Wildfires are taken seriously by local people already mentioned, insurance companies, local fire departments and environmental associations but not in the report supporting the development of an area rated as a high fire hazard area and identified as a Wildland Urban Interface threatening lives. The welfare and safety of the people is minimally considered and there is no reference to evacuation plans. Section 16.0 reports the plans to be pursued to address the "increased risk to human health...." Including measures taken in the development of the HFRP that have been sorely and unsuccessfully developed. It is a dangerous plan repeating mistakes and hazards putting people at risk and using tokens like a helicopter landing zone, a lightweight rescue vehicle, water tanks and promises to promote fire safety while moving forward, if approved, to expand a trail system impacting 6,000 residences and the occupants and hundreds to thousands of visitors.
- Water has been a concern for years and the depletion of our groundwater is not addressed as the plans for expensive engineered septic systems and drilling of wells is included in the plans. The use of facilities by hundreds and thousands of individuals is not even mentioned.
- Placer County has long been recognized as an agricultural community and in support of ranchers and the proposed changes and damage to the lands as well as the interference of people and dangers posed to animals is not addressed seriously and even ignored.

I339-16

I339-16
Cont'd

- Transportation is a large factor when reviewing every section of the SDEIR. The seriousness of the impact on the roads, in the communities, to the environment is limited in the coverage. By increasing the vehicle traffic in North Auburn on one busy day we estimate well over a thousand vehicles on Bell, Cramer, Lone Star and possibly Joeger and Dry Creek coming off of Highway 49 according to the documented plan.
- The vehicles will cause pollution including air quality, visual and auditory impacts which we have delineated in our itemized review in this paper (Pages 4-7). Pollution in all forms result from vehicles and the people driving them including hazards to water, our streams and creeks and flora and fauna.
- The need for a County Park and added trails has been questioned and has not been shown to be needed. Support for the trails has been based on surveys and claims that include specific focus groups and have not included the property owners, residents, ranchers, farmers, wineries who will be directly impacted by every negative reported. That group, not included, supports the ongoing ecologically active Placer Land Trust management and interest in activities with oversight. The Placer County project interest (reported in the SDEIR) encourages recreation, limited supervised use of the lands, threats to public safety, indiscretion as it relates to those who are local property owners and to the flora and fauna of the area. This has been witnessed since the HFRP was opened. By studying the SDEIR the action must be on behalf of the people. The significance of this conclusions is clearly delineated on every page of the report.

Based upon the information in the SDEIR and the assumptions made as well as the negative impacts to our communities, we request that you reject this project. Our conclusion is to approve Alternative 1 in the SDEIR.

Please include this correspondence as part of the permanent record.

Thank you,

Jean and Jim Piette
5395 Bell Road, Auburn, CA 95602 (530) 888-1340
Protect Rural Placer

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I339: JIM AND JEAN PIETTE

Response to Comment I339-1

The commenter expresses concern about the adequacy of the Draft SEIR.

The Draft SEIR has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, the potential impacts have been thoroughly analyzed, and appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed. No further response is required.

Response to Comment I339-2

The commenter expresses concerns regarding the analysis presented in Impacts 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, and 4-4 in Section 4.0, “Land Use and Agriculture Resources,” of the Draft SEIR.

Please see Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility and Master Response 5 – Agriculture, which specifically addresses the commenters concerns related to Impacts 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, and 4-4.

The commenter states that the existing HFRP has not been properly managed.

The comment is noted. No further response is required.

The commenter infers that the local residents have not been included in the process for either the proposed project or for the survey for the Placer County Parks and Trails Master Plan.

The survey for the Master Plan was available to the public on our website from April 14 - May 19, 2017. Additionally, the Master Plan was discussed at all Municipal Advisory Council meetings, which are public meetings.

In 2000, the voters of Placer County were presented with a ballot measure to express their desire for the Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program (Placer Legacy) and responded in the affirmative. Placer Legacy established the framework and funding mechanisms for the open space acquisition and outdoor recreational amenities that were brought to fruition through the HFRP and Trails Expansion Project properties. For each of the 11 property acquisitions that make up HFRP and the Trails Expansion Project properties to which the County was a party, beginning in 2003 the actions by the Board of Supervisors were noticed and discussed in public meetings, and the recreational components of each purchase and sale agreement were disclosed (See Appendix B of the Draft SEIR for the public trail descriptions associated with each property). As a development plan proceeded for each property, the County met or exceeded the public outreach guidelines for environmental review for each project including a previous Mitigated Negative Declaration and EIR. In the case of the current Project, the County provided multiple mailed notices to over 6,000 property owners in the vicinity of the Project in 2017 and 2018. There were two scoping meetings (in 2017 and 2018) which were both heavily attended by local residents, as evidenced by the scoping meeting attendance sheets and speaker sheets. The Project has been discussed in over 40 public meetings since late 2016 (including scoping meetings, Municipal Advisory Council meetings throughout western Placer County, Parks Commission, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, and other community groups upon request such as the Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council). Notices have been posted on the County web site, and multiple press releases and stories by local media outlets have been broadcast about the Project.

Additionally, the County Parks Division offered to meet with any local residents who wished to discuss the proposed project. Parks staff met on three separate occasions with local residents who were interested in meeting with Parks Division staff. In February of 2019, the County invited members of the Protect Rural Placer group to participate in a site visit to the Santa Clara Open Space Authority's Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve to learn how the East Bay area has successfully integrated public use of trails with on-going cattle operations. Additionally, the County met specifically with the Protect Rural Placer group and Supervisor Gore on May 28, 2019 to address the groups' questions and concerns. Lastly, the Notice of Availability for the Draft SEIR was again sent out to over 6,000 homeowners. Over 500 comments were received during the public comment period which included numerous comments from local residents and members of the Protect Rural Placer group.

Response to Comment I339-3

The commenter expresses concerns about Impact 5-1 regarding erosion (Draft SEIR p. 5-17).

The County will implement Mitigation Measure S5-1: Obtain Authorization for Construction and Operation Activities from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and Implement Erosion and Sediment Control Measures as Required. This would include preparing and implementing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) with Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Response to Comment I339-4

The commenter expresses concerns about Impact 5-2 regarding naturally occurring asbestos (Draft SEIR p. 5-27).

The County will implement Mitigation Measure 9-1 in Chapter 9.0, "Air Quality" Conduct On-Site Soil Testing and Prepare and Implement an Asbestos Dust Control Plan, If Needed.

Response to Comment I339-5

The commenter expresses concern about the costs related to fault zone studies and building and safety measures.

The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that "An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment" (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required.

Response to Comment I339-6

The commenter expresses concerns about Impact 5-4 regarding landslides (Draft SEIR p. 5-29).

As stated in the Draft SEIR, "Because the trail alignment would be routed in a manner to provide physical and ecological sustainability, and the proposed parking lots and entry improvements are planned in areas that are relatively flat, and no areas of shallow slope instability are known to occur, the project would not result in exposure of structures or people to landslides. This impact would be less than significant" (p. 5-30).

The commenter expresses concerns about landslides as well as increases in the pollution of water and air quality and claims the combined impacts are not mentioned.

Please see Section 18.4 "Cumulative Impacts" (Draft SEIR p. 18-3).

Response to Comment I339-7

The commenter expresses concern about Impact 5-5 regarding wastewater disposal systems (Draft SEIR p. 5-30).

As stated in the Draft SEIR Impact 5-5, “The park and expansion project would comply with Central Valley RWQCB and County Department of Environmental Health regulations which would ensure that on-site systems are properly engineered and designed to suit the on-site soil conditions” (p. 5-30). This impact would be less than significant.

Response to Comment I339-8

The commenter expresses concern about the adequacy of the Draft SEIR.

Please see Response to I339-1.

Response to Comment I339-9

The commenter expresses concern about Impact 7-1 regarding visual resources.

With respect to visual resources, the CEQA thresholds of significance relate to impacts on scenic vistas, scenic resources, visual character, and light or glare. A viewing location must include views available to the public. Views from private properties are typically not considered when analyzing aesthetic impacts of a project against these thresholds, as supported by case law. In *Banker’s Hill, Hillcrest, Park West Community Preservation Group v. City of San Diego*, 139 Cal . App. 4th, 249, 279 (2006) decision, the court determined that “obstruction of a few private views in a Project’s immediate vicinity is not generally regarded as a significant environmental impact.” Furthermore, in the *Mira Mar Mobile Community v. City of Oceanside*, 119 Cal. App. 4th 477, 492 (2004) (Mira Mar) decision, the court wrote that “[u]nder CEQA, the question is whether a project will affect the environment of persons in general, not whether a project will affect particular persons.” The court in that case found that an agency has discretion in determining substantial impacts, and that it was proper for the County to determine that only impairment of public views, as opposed to private views, would be considered less than significant.

In response to a site visit to the commenters’ home by Parks staff and discussions with the Piettes, the original site plan for the Twilight Ride parking area was modified to remove the equestrian parking area from their immediate viewshed. Construction of the first phase of the Twilight Ride access and parking area would take approximately five months, and Phase 2 construction would take approximately another five months. Most of the construction activities would not take place within the immediate view of the commenters’ home.

Response to Comment I339-10

The commenter has additional concerns regarding visual resources and the removal of trees along Bell Road.

The comment that visual changes have already been started is incorrect. No components of the proposed project have been implemented at this time. Based on the preliminary design of potential road improvements along Bell Road, approximately five trees would be removed. Mitigation Measure 7-1: Revegetate and Restore All Disturbed Areas to Minimize Visual Quality Impacts would address potential degradation of visual quality resulting from tree removal. As specified in the mitigation measure, the County will revegetate and restore all disturbed areas. Please also see Response to Comment I339-9 for additional discussion of visual resource impacts.

Response to Comment I339-11

The commenter has concerns regarding tree removal.

Please see Response to Comment I339-9. Please also see Draft SEIR Section 12.4 “Impacts” in Chapter 12.0 “Biological Resources” and Impact 12-9 “Biological Resources – Impacts on Oak Woodland Habitat (p. 12-52 to 12-53) and Mitigation Measures S12-7: Protect Oak Woodland Habitat (p. 12-60).

Response to Comment I339-12

The commenter expresses concern about Impact 7-4 regarding light and glare, and lights on vehicles or devices that visitors may use.

Please see Response to Comment I339-9.

Response to Comment I339-13

Please see Response to Comment I339-1.

Response to Comment I339-14

The commenter expresses concerns about the air quality analysis, specifically with regards to impacts on his neighboring property.

The air quality analysis presented in the Draft SEIR followed standard procedures related to air quality analysis pursuant to relevant CEQA thresholds, and the County considers the finding valid an appropriate and the proposed mitigation measures (e.g. Mitigation Measure 9-1, Conduct On-Site Soil Testing and Prepare and Implement an Asbestos Dust Control Plan, If Needed, and Mitigation Measure S9-2: List Standard Air Quality Notes on Grading and Improvement Plans) are adequate to mitigate potential impacts to less than significant. The commenter mentions propane equipped trailers and barbeques. No barbeques of any kind will be allowed either within any of the proposed parking areas or within the Trails Expansion area. No revisions are necessary.

Response to Comment I339-15

The commenter expresses concerns about the noise analysis, specifically with regards to impacts on his neighboring property.

The noise analysis presented in the Draft SEIR followed standard procedures related to noise analysis pursuant to relevant CEQA thresholds, and the County considers the finding valid an appropriate and the proposed mitigation adequate to mitigate potential impacts to less than significant. No revisions are necessary.

Response to Comment I339-16

The commenter expresses opposition to the project and states that the Big Hill lands and watersheds will be threatened, as well as wildlife and oak woodland.

The opposition is noted. Please see Response to Comment I339-1 and Draft SEIR analyses for Impacts 11-1 – “Potential for Short-Term Construction-Related Soil Erosion and Impairment of Water Quality” and Impact 11-2

– “Potential for Long-Term Soil Erosion and Impairment of Water Quality”, as well as Section 12.4 “Impacts” in Chapter 12.0 “Biological Resources” for an analysis of impacts to wildlife habitat and oak woodlands.

The commenter expresses concerns with potential wildfire impacts.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response.

The commenter states that depletion of groundwater is not addressed.

The County Environmental Health Division does not regulate groundwater depletion. However, construction of all new wells would be subject to approval of a public well permit, which includes additional annual testing requirements.

The commenter expresses concerns with perceived effects from the proposed project on the Agricultural Community.

Please see Master Response 5 – Agriculture. Regarding well usage, low-flow fixtures would be utilized. On-site landscaping would be minimal and would consist of native vegetation, which requires little water. The Twilight Ride property has access to canal water which would be utilized for on-site landscaping.

The commenter noted concerns with the increase in traffic.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking. The opposition is noted. No further response is required.

The commenter questions the need for more trails.

This comment is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 2:21 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Chris Pincetich
Email Address (Optional)	capincetich@yahoo.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
Comments	I strongly support the Hidden Falls Trail project as I rely on cycling for the majority of my exercise for physical and mental well-being. Cycling on public roads can be very dangerous so I prefer off-road cycling, or mountainbiking. While I live in San Rafael, I often travel for overnight stays to Auburn or Grass Valley to ride with family or friends. Increasingly these are overnight trips of 1-3 days and if there is more to ride and explore I will be back to spend more time and money in Placer County for cycling. Please allow the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project to proceed with all the support it needs for more trails, parking, and facilities to support riders and their families. Thank you! Stay healthy!
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I340-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I340: CHRIS PINCETICH

Response to Comment I340-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.341 LETTER I341

Letter I341

May 20, 2020

To: Community Development Resource Agency, Placer County Board of Supervisors,
Planning Commission, and Parks Division

From: Byron Pipkin and Susan Pipkin
9855 Spyglass Circle, Auburn, CA 95602

Regarding: Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion DSEIR

I341-1

As longtime residents of North Auburn/Lincoln and members of *Protect Rural Placer*, I am writing to you today to refute the above referenced document. This DSEIR, as with the previous HFRP EIR, makes weak assumptions and does not take into consideration the full impact that this project will have upon the residents, roads, environment, habitat, agriculture, and fire danger of the nearby community. Specific issues raised are:

WILDFIRE

SECTION 16.0 WILDFIRE

16.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

- There is no discussion about human behavior with regards to fire safety. The SDEIR makes no correlation between number of visitors and potential for fire ignitions caused by humans. Fails to adequately discuss the percentage of wildland fires caused by human beings or human technology.
- CAL FIRE has repeatedly stated that up to 95% of wildfires are caused by human beings. There is no discussion about this statement within the SDEIR. CAL FIRE/Placer County Fire Division Chief Hudson, at a North Auburn/Ophir Fire Safe Council meeting, has verbally stated "The human element cannot be assessed in determination of potential fire starts." Is this a denial of the correlation between human use of an area and fire starts?
- Reopening of Station 184 (Lone Star) is mentioned but there is no discussion regarding massive costs involved for opening, staffing, equipping and maintaining the station. Why is the cost not addressed in the SDEIR?

I341-2

16.2.3 WILDFIRE CLASSIFICATION AND BEHAVIOR

- The SDEIR contains no discussion regarding a fire danger rating system and how a fire danger rating will affect dispatch of equipment for initial attack.
- **The SDEIR fails to identify and disclose that the HFRP Expansion area has been classified by CAL FIRE as a WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE, an area with the greatest potential for loss of lives and structures.**
- The SDEIR contains no discussion regarding what constitutes red flag conditions.
- The SDEIR contains no discussion regarding Park administrative action, such as closing the Park to visitors, during red flag conditions.
- The SDEIR contains very limited discussion regarding potential rate of spread as influenced by topography, fuels and weather. Rate of spread is concerning as it related to evacuation and the welfare or safety of the community.

16.2.4 FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES

- The SDEIR contains no discussion or correlation between fire hazard severity levels in the expansion area as those severity levels relate to the manner of interpretation witnessed by PG&E actions and actions of insurance companies.

- PG&E and fire insurance companies regard the area as laden with great risk. PG&E addresses this with planned power outages during red flag conditions. Insurance companies address this with more and more homeowner policy cancellations.

16.4.2 EMERGENCY RESPONSE/EMERGENCY EVACUATION

- An estimated 6,000 residences in proximity to HFRP and the Trails Expansion area could be affected by fire under red flag conditions. During the 49 Fire (August 2009) Bell Road was impassable.
- No evidence or data is provided in the SDEIR giving any information about the number of driveways and side roads along Bell, Cramer and Lone Star and the possible total number of vehicles that could be merging to evacuate all at one time.
- Effective evacuation and emergency vehicle response via Cramer, Bell and Lone Star Roads would be a significant problem as area residents and Park visitor vehicles and horse trailer rigs attempt to exit Twilight Ride or the Harvego parking lots. Evacuation from area wineries and the Auburn Valley golf course would further add to the confusion.
- As seen at the 240 sq. mi. wind-driven 2018 Camp Fire in Paradise, California, when few escape routes exist, there can be chaos, and even loss of life.

16.6 MITIGATION MEASURES

The SDEIR states, "the potential exists for the project to expose people to an uncontrolled wildfire and to exacerbate risk of wildfire during construction, maintenance, and public use of trail system."

The SDEIR fails to provide evidence that the mitigation measures will diminish that increased risk.

I341-2
Cont'd

- The purchase of a Lightweight Rescue Vehicle (LRV) is noted; cost information for the vehicle and staff is missing and no evidence exists that the LRV can or will reduce incidence of wildfires. What is the actual projected cost of the LRV and annual cost of the staffing that would operate it?
- Missing from the SDEIR is how visitors will be policed for illegal camping, campfires, BBQs, smoking, running dogs off leash, harassing livestock, and myriad similar problems when California Land Management "Rangers" will be the relied upon enforcement group.
- Are multiple "Rangers" on site every day?
- What will be the annual cost of the additional "Rangers"?
- Fuel mitigation, as stated, does not reduce the chance for ignition of fires.
- The SDEIR unjustly appears to speculate that future incidence of wildland fire will correlate with the past 55 years of fire history in the area. There is no correlation because the trail expansion area was privately held land free of visitor impact during most of those years.

OTHER: SIGNIFICANT ITEMS/ISSUES THAT THE SDEIR FAILS TO ADDRESS

- Fire history within the local region, in similar fuel types and with similar topographic features, is not addressed by AECOM in the SDEIR. Three significant fires that exemplify potential are noted:
 1. August 30, 2009: The 49 Fire of southwest winds pushed the fire northeast and consumed 340 acres, 60 homes, 3 businesses, and more.
 2. September 1, 2008: The Gladding Fire was driven by wind burning southeast from its point of origin and consumed 960 acres, 4 residences and many more structures.
 3. 1992: The Fawn Hill Fire another wind-driven fire that burned 250 acres and 11 homes.
- More than 900 miles of trails already exist in Placer County. Funding to maintain these existing trails is in the present problematic.
- With expansion of the HFRP, Placer County creates untold liability by introducing many hundreds, if not thousands, of Park users into a fire-prone area, an area already impacted by fire insurance cancellations and insurance rate increases that are largely attuned to calculated risk.

- I341-2
Cont'd
- The impacted "People" noted in the Placer County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (PCCWPP) are the residents of a rural community living within the confines of the expansion project or on its borders. The Parks Division has identified 6,000 families that are within, adjacent to, or surrounding the Expansion area.
- FAILS TO ADDRESS
- Fire history within the local region, in similar fuel types and with similar topographic features, is not addressed by AECOM in the SDEIR. Three significant fires that exemplify potential are noted:
 1. August 30, 2009: The 49 Fire of southwest winds pushed the fire northeast and consumed 340 acres, 60 homes, 3 businesses, and more.
 2. September 1, 2008: The Gladding Fire was driven by wind burning southeast from its point of origin and consumed 960 acres, 4 residences and many more structures.
 3. 1992: The Fawn Hill Fire another wind-driven fire that burned 250 acres and 11 homes.
 - More than 900 miles of trails already exist in Placer County. Funding to maintain these existing trails is in the present problematic.
 - With expansion of the HFRP, Placer County creates untold liability by introducing many hundreds, if not thousands, of Park users into a fire-prone area, an area already impacted by fire insurance cancellations and insurance rate increases that are largely attuned to calculated risk.
 - The impacted "People" noted in the Placer County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (PCCWPP) are the residents of a rural community living within the confines of the expansion project or on its borders. The Parks Division has identified 6,000 families that are within, adjacent to, or surrounding the Expansion area.

- I341-3
- TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION**
SECTION 8: TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION
- Definition of Rural: Pertaining to country as distinguished from the city or town; rustic. 2. Pertaining to farm or agriculture.
- The Hidden Falls Expansion, which is 100% recreational, does not meet any of the criterium defining rural.
- The access roads leading to the proposed expansion parking lots (Garden Bar, Lone Star, Cramer and Bell) are narrow and riddled with blind curves, undulating hills, and limited visibility.
 - We have conducted our own survey of Bell, Cramer and Lone Star, and found 73 driveways and off shoot roads that have dangerous entrances and exits. We were careful to only include those (out of hundreds) that had one of the above access dangers.
 - Many curves along these roads have signs suggesting 15 MPH because the visibility is less than a car length approaching the entrance from both directions.
 - The SDEIR fails to identify and evaluate how increasing vehicle traffic on these rural roads will substantially increase the danger on these roads.
- Cramer Road:
- The SDEIR makes reference that Cramer Road has had 3 "reported" incidences (collisions) which puts it above the state average, but fails to indicate that Cramer Road does not have a center line or that traffic safety on this road would be significant. This road does not meet minimum safety standards. If a road does not meet this standard, who is liable in the case of an accident?

I341-3
Cont'd

↑ Lone Star Road:

- Lone Star Road has a high-volume of traffic due to Auburn Valley residents, AV Country Club, and other residential developments.
- Significant blind curve Southbound SR49 at Lone Star Road.
- Left turn lane from Northbound SR49 onto Lone Star Road is hazardous because of current high traffic volume. If the left turn lane was fully occupied with cars turning left onto Lone Star, the resulting backup of cars would impose a grave danger to other motorists on Northbound SR49.

Bell Road:

- The SDEIR fails to identify that Bell Road, West of Highway 49, will be heavily impacted due to the approval of high density and high traffic generating residential, government and commercial projects.
- Due to the volume of traffic, poor visibility, grade of road, excessive speed of motorists, and for the safety of residents and visitors to the area, a left-hand turn lane into Twilight Ride entrance is absolutely essential with Phase 1 of the parking lot.

Garden Bar Road:

- The SDEIR provides for public access, with only minimal road improvements: added signage for Phase 1A and pullouts for Phase 1B. This demonstrates a lack of regard for the safety of the residents.

Mears Drive:

- Excessive traffic and speeding, with no California Highway Patrol presence.

Volume of Traffic:

- The SDEIR states that the Twilight Ride Parking Lot on Bell Road will generate 600 vehicle trips on a single weekend day. The Harvego Parking Lot which is accessed through Auburn Valley Country Club will generate 573 vehicles. That is 1,173 vehicles in a single weekend day on Bell, Cramer and Lone Star Roads. The impact will be devastating.
 - The SDEIR fails to identify all the other sources of traffic to these roads: Wineries, AVCC Golf Course, Event Center and Restaurant, Agri-Tourism events, North Auburn Art Studio Tours.
 - The SDEIR fails to identify that traffic safety issues will be compounded by truck and trailer rigs and cyclists. None of these roads have adequate shoulder or bike lanes.
 - Based on the Park's Department information two-thirds of the visitors to the current Hidden Falls Regional Park are not from Placer County. This has caused the Mears Road and Mt. Vernon residents to be subjected to vandalism, littering, and increased traffic.
 - What will happen with overflow when the parking lots are full? We only have to look at the Mears Road entrance to see what problems they have had and continue to endure.
 - The County's solution and mitigation is signage. Will we have to endure "No Parking" signs all along our rural roads and driveways? And what good will they do?
 - The SDEIR does not adequately address evacuation in the case of a wildfire. It does not identify and quantify the number of residents egressing and the implications of narrow, winding rural roads being congested and overwhelmed.
- ↓

- I341-3
Cont'd
- ↑ Highway 49:
- The SDEIR fails to disclose the traffic collisions and fatalities on SR 49 from Lone Star to Bell Road over the past 10 years. There have been 4 fatalities on this stretch of SR 49 over the last 6 months. The SDEIR fails to identify SR 49 as an extremely dangerous stretch of highway and a significant impact.
 - The SDEIR states that, "the project's traffic contribution to the SR 49 /Lone Star and SR/49 intersections is considered to be substantial, but fails to conclude and disclose that this would be a **significant impact**."
 - The SDEIR and the County can't count on any safety improvements (proposed roundabouts and center divider) to this section of SR 49 by Caltrans, because the improvements will require extensive studies, analysis, public input, funding and construction, which could be years out.

I341-4

In closing:

The County has been planning the Hidden Falls Regional Park Expansion since 2005, and has not collaborated with the residents in the affected communities of rural North Auburn and Lincoln.

Based upon the information in the DSEIR, the assumptions it has made, and the negative impacts to the very communities who were not included in any of the 15-year planning, I request that you reject this project.

Please include my letter as part of the public comment permanent record.

Thank you,

Byron Pipkin
Susan Pipkin
Protect Rural Placer

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I341: BYRON AND SUSAN PIPKIN

Response to Comment I341-1

The commenter expresses opposition to the project and questions the validity of the Draft SEIR.

The opposition is noted. The Draft SEIR has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, the potential impacts have been thoroughly analyzed, and appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed. No further response is required.

Response to Comment I341-2

The commenter expresses concern about wildfire, safety and emergency response.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response. Additionally, there are no plans with the proposed project to reopen Fire Station #184. Please see Section 16.2.4 regarding classification of the project area into Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

The commenter requests cost information for fire equipment and fire staff.

The proposed project does not propose to fund any additional fire personnel. The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that “An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required.

The commenter questions how visitors will be policed for illegal camping, campfires, BBQ’s, smoking, dogs off leash and other issues.

Please see the analysis for Impact 13-2 as well as Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility.

Response to Comment I341-3

The commenter expresses concern about transportation and circulation.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

Response to Comment I341-4

The commenter states the County has not included the local residents in the 15-year planning effort.

In 2000, the voters of Placer County were presented with a ballot measure to express their desire for the Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program (Placer Legacy) and responded in the affirmative. Placer Legacy established the framework and funding mechanisms for the open space acquisition and outdoor recreational amenities that were brought to fruition through the HFRP and Trails Expansion Project properties. For each of the 11 property acquisitions that make up HFRP and the Trails Expansion Project properties to which the County was a party, beginning in 2003 the actions by the Board of Supervisors were noticed and discussed in public meetings, and the recreational components of each purchase and sale agreement were disclosed (See

Appendix B of the Draft SEIR for the public trail descriptions associated with each property). As a development plan proceeded for each property, the County met or exceeded the public outreach guidelines for environmental review for each project including a previous Mitigated Negative Declaration and EIR. In the case of the current Project, the County provided multiple mailed notices to over 6,000 property owners in the vicinity of the Project in 2017 and 2018. There were two scoping meetings (in 2017 and 2018) which were both heavily attended by local residents, as evidenced by the scoping meeting attendance sheets and speaker sheets. The Project has been discussed in over 40 public meetings since late 2016 (including scoping meetings, Municipal Advisory Council meetings throughout western Placer County, Parks Commission, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, and other community groups upon request such as the Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council). Notices have been posted on the County web site, and multiple press releases and stories by local media outlets have been broadcast about the Project.

Additionally, the County Parks Division offered to meet with any local residents who wished to discuss the proposed project. Parks staff met on three separate occasions with local residents who were interested in meeting with Parks Division staff. In February of 2019, the County invited members of the Protect Rural Placer group to participate in a site visit to the Santa Clara Open Space Authority's Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve to learn how the East Bay area has successfully integrated public use of trails with on-going cattle operations. Additionally, the County met specifically with the Protect Rural Placer group and Supervisor Gore on May 28, 2019 to address the groups' questions and concerns. Lastly, the Notice of Availability for the Draft SEIR was again sent out to over 6,000 homeowners. Over 500 comments were received during the public comment period which included numerous comments from local residents and members of the Protect Rural Placer group.

2.7.342 LETTER I342

Letter I342

Shirlee Herrington

From: Josh Plotner <plotnerjosh@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 12:30 PM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hidden Hills Expansion Project

Hi,

My name is Josh Plotner and I live in Sacramento.

I342-1 | As an avid outdoorsman, I think this project is a great one. The current park has seen its uptake in visitors and this would be a great opportunity to spread visitors for a better outdoor experience and possibly lesson the foot, horse, and mountain bike traffic in a growing congested area.

I am for the expansion project.

Thanks,

Josh Plotner
ISA Certified Arborist

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I342: JOSH PLOTNER

Response to Comment I342-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.343 LETTER I343

Letter I343

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 6:36 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Ashley Powell
Email Address (Optional)	amloogman@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
Comments	I support the Hidden Falls Expansion Project because outdoor recreation is fundamental to mental and physical health. The expansion of hidden falls will allow for more room for the zealous outdoor population to explore and adding more trails will spread the population on only one trail. The addition of more parking spaces will help the surrounding neighborhood from feeling congested and allow for more use of the existing trails by eager users without expanding where parking isn't allowed. Thank you for taking your time to read this. -Ashley
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I343-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I343: ASHLEY POWELL

Response to Comment I343-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.344 LETTER I344

Letter I344

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 5:51 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Nathan Powell
Email Address (Optional)	wookiewantsacookie@hotmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
Comments	I support the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project because all of the current current trails within the Auburn/Gold Fields area are over crowded. Parking lots are full and the trails are starting to look like Disneyland. The Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project will provide more trails to spread out the crowds and provide more parking lots to disperse the already crowded parking lots. Trails and outdoor activities are only becoming more and more popular, they are the future for towns and cities with in our area. Provide more trails now will create less problems in the future as more people start using the trails
	Nathan Powell
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I344-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I344: NATHAN POWELL

Response to Comment I344-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.345 LETTER I345

Letter I345

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 7:58 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Sarah Puddicombe
Email Address (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls
I345-1 Comments	I would like to see more parking options and more trail heads so that we all can enjoy in a safe and spread out way.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I345: SARAH PUDDICOMBE

Response to Comment I345-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.346 LETTER I346

Letter I346

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 11:13 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Beverly Quan
Email Address (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
Comments	I support the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion project, and urge the county to join me! Honestly I have not been out to the location since it became popular and crowded. It's a beautiful site and the current level of development does not support the need in the community.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I346-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I346: BEVERLY QUAN

Response to Comment I346-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.347 LETTER I347

Letter I347

May 16, 2020

To: Placer County Resource Development Agency,
Environmental Coordination Services
3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190
Auburn, CA 95603

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2020
CDRA

From: KJ and Jan Quarry
5495 Bell Road, Auburn, CA 95602

Regarding: Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion DSEIR

I347-1 | As a longtime resident of North Auburn, we are writing to you to refute the above referenced document. This DSEIR, along with the original HFRP EIR, makes weak assumptions and doesn't take in to consideration the full impact that this proposed project will have upon the residents, roads, and fire danger of the nearby community.

The following issues of concern are:

I347-2 | **TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION**

1. The DSEIR has failed to identify and evaluate how increasing vehicle traffic will substantially increase the danger on these rural, narrow, & winding roads.
2. The DSEIR has failed to identify all the other sources of traffic on Bell, Cramer, Lone Star Roads such as: Auburn Valley Golf Course, Wineries, Auburn Art Studio Tours to name a few.
3. The DSEIR has failed to address that traffic safety issues will be increased by truck and trailer rigs and cyclists due to the roads not having adequate shoulder or bike lanes.
4. Due to the volume of traffic, excessive speed of motorists on Bell Road and the safety of residents and visitors, a left hand turn lane into the Twilight Ride entrance must be included with Phase 1 of the parking lot.

I347-3 | **WILDFIRE**

1. The SDEIR has not addressed evacuation of residents living around the proposed expansion or the business community of North Auburn in the event a wildfire were to start. It doesn't

I347-3
Cont'd

↑
address the issue and number of residents trying to leave the area on narrow, winding rural roads and the overwhelming congestion and confusion as witnessed in the Paradise Fire.

2. There is no data provided in the DSEIR with regard to the number of driveways and side roads along Bell, Cramer, & Lone Star and the possible number of vehicles that could be merging to evacuate all at one time.
3. Fuel mitigation as stated in the DSEIR seems to assume that future incidence of wildland fire will compare with the past 55 years of history in the area. That assumption can't be compared due to the fact that the land in the area was held privately, free of unsupervised public access.
4. The DSEIR makes no mention of how to handle planned red flag conditions with regard to the park being open. PG&E addresses high fire danger red flag with planned outages. Insurance companies address this with more homeowner cancellations.
5. The DSEIR fails to address the fact that 95% of wildfires are human cause and the direct effect of unsupervised public access to this high fire danger area. The only way to mitigate that is no unsupervised public access to this area.
6. The DSEIR contains very little discussion regarding the potential rate of spread as influenced by fuels and weather. Rate of spread is concerning as it relates to evacuation and the welfare and safety of the community.

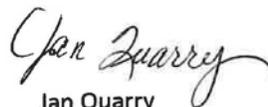
I347-4

Based upon the information in the DSEIR and the assumptions it has made, and the negative impact on the residents and the business community of North Auburn, we request that you reject this project.

Please include my letter as part of the public comment permanent record.

Thank You,

KJ Quarry



Jan Quarry

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I347: KJ AND JAN QUARRY

Response to Comment I347-1

The commenters refutes the Draft EIR and its assumptions.

The Draft SEIR has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, the potential impacts have been thoroughly analyzed, and appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed. No further response is required.

Response to Comment I347-2

The commenter expresses concerns about traffic including lack of bicycle lanes.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

Response to Comment I347-3

The commenter expresses concerns about wildfire.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response.

Response to Comment I347-4

The commenter expresses opposition to the project.

The opposition is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.348 LETTER I348

Letter I348

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name Sean Quillen

Email Address (Optional) sean.quillen@gmail.com

Agenda Item (Optional) Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project

I348-1

Comments I am writing/commenting to let you know that I support the Hidden Falls RP Trail Expansion Project! Hidden Falls RP is a great resource for family and exercise. The current park area is very well utilized and it is often difficult to purchase a parking pass. When I am able to get a pass it always makes for a great day spent in the park and enjoyable time spent with friends at local restaurants. An expansion would allow more of the community to use the park each day which benefits not only the people using the park but the surrounding economy as well.

Sean Quillen
Roseville, CA

Attach a document *Field not completed.*

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I348: SEAN QUILLEN

Response to Comment I348-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.349 LETTER I349

Letter I349

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	JOYCE I RADELL
Email Address (Optional)	joyce39@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden falls expansion
Comments	Please add the new trails and staging area. I am an equestrian and use the trails often. i would love being able to stage off bell Road. and not have to bother the people who live by the staging area at Mears The present trails are very crowded at times.
Attach a document	Field not completed.

I349-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I349: JOYCE RADELL

Response to Comment I349-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:59 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Jane Ragan
Email Address (Optional)	doctorragan@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
Comments	It should be blatantly obvious how strong the need for more trails and outdoor recreation opportunities are for the public. It is so important that Placer County provide this badly needed service. To meet the demand there needs to be more room for more people to spread out on trails, parking access, and trailheads. Outdoor recreation is vital to the physical and economic health of residents and there is an enormous unmet need for walkers and bikers. Thank you!
Attach a document	Field not completed.

I350-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I350: JANE RAGAN

Response to Comment I350-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.351 LETTER I351

Letter I351

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 9:49 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name Stuart Rager

Email Address (Optional) rager.stuart@gmail.com

Agenda Item (Optional) Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project

I351-1

Comments I support the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project. This will help with the overall congestion that is experienced on weekend/holidays. More trails will allow for safer trails for bikers, hikers, and horse riders. With more trails there would be reduced congestion on trails which will help with personal safety and public health. Especially during another event like we're experience right now with covid-19. Additional parking will help with congestion and possible access points for emergency services.

Attach a document *Field not completed.*

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I351: STUART RAGER

Response to Comment I351-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 9:55 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	John ramirez
Email Address (Optional)	Jram71@icloud.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden falls trail expansion project
Comments	I support the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project because it will open up opportunities for longer rides, and allow access to more people. I live at 9755, Hubbard Road, Auburn CA 95602, United States, so with this expansion I will be able to ride from home to the trailhead.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I352-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I352: JOHN RAMIREZ

Response to Comment I352-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.353 LETTER I353

Letter I353

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 11:09 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	John E. Ramirez
Email Address (Optional)	troop6sm@yahoo.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
I353-1 Comments	I am in support of the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project. Please see the attached document.
Attach a document	HFsupportltr.docx

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I353: JOHN RAMIREZ

Response to Comment I353-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.354 LETTER I354

Letter I354

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 9:46 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Anthony Ramirez
Email Address (Optional)	3jrams@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Support the trails
Comments	100% support trail expansion at hidden falls. I live at 9755 Hubbard rd,Auburn. It will spread the crowded road into the existing parking area. Bell rd is much better for access.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I354-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I354: ANTHONY RAMIREZ

Response to Comment I354-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.355 LETTER I355

Letter I355

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:06 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Curtis Raphael
Email Address (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion
Comments	I support the Hidden Falls trail Expansion project because this is such a beautiful area and it deserves to be shared. It has been a great way to help families get out together and be outdoors (I know my family has very much enjoyed the area). Please approve the expansion.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I355-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I355: CURTIS RAPHAEL

Response to Comment I355-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.356 LETTER I356

Letter I356

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:02 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Nick Rashby
Email Address (Optional)	nrashby@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
Comments	I support the Hidden Falls Expansion project as it will expand the usability of this outdoor resource, and potentially bring more outdoor tourism to the area and the local businesses, while also offering more trail options for visitors. Thank you.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I356-1

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RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I356: NICK RASHBY

Response to Comment I356-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.357 LETTER I357

Letter I357

March 26, 2020

Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Ave.
Auburn, CA 95603
bos@placer.ca.gov

Re: Hidden Falls Expansion – Comments on DSEIR

Chairman and Fellow Board Members of Placer County:

I357-1 As a resident of Placer County and an equestrian, I am writing to express my full support for the Hidden Falls Expansion including three additional parking areas as pointed out in the DSEIR, with an additional 30 miles of trails on Placer Land Trust property.

I am a frequent user of the current trails and see the ever-increasing activity and the smiling faces of families and children enjoying the open space and outdoors. Adding parking, and increasing the miles of trails, will help to lessen the impacts on Mears Place and the current trail system. Expanding the trail system to 400,000+ residents of Placer County will increase outdoor recreational opportunities and at the same time increase the health of Placer County citizens.

I believe the current covid-19 restrictions we have currently experiencing is showing how many people want to be out of doors. With that, I feel we need more recreational areas that can support the numbers of people and the accommodate the many people looking for a place to be out nature.

I encourage the Board of Supervisors to approve the DSEIR for Hidden Falls Expansion with the full buildout option, no alternatives. Too much time, money and effort has been put into Hidden Falls thus far not to complete the full project. Looking forward to additional parking and expanded miles of trails.

Sincerely, Janis Rau
Loomis Resident

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I357: JANICE RAU

Response to Comment I357-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.358 LETTER I358

Letter I358

Shirlee Herrington

From: Linda Rector <ljrector66@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 8:55 AM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Expansion

I358-1 | A DEFINITE NO on Hidden Falls expansion!
| Keep Auburn rural people , RURAL !!
| You are defacing Auburn's appeal !!
| We are lucky to live so close to so many trails here and our surrounding area!!
| There is nothing justifiable to expand !!
| NO, NO and NO **X X X**
| PS - I don't live in that area of Auburn/ Lincoln .

Sent from my iPhone

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I358: LINDA RECTOR

Response to Comment I358-1

The commenter expresses opposition to the project.

The opposition is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.359 LETTER I359

Letter I359

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 3:15 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Robert Reeder
Email Address (Optional)	rrss@suddenlink.net
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trails Expansion project
I359-1 Comments	I hike Hidden Falls Trails during the week and enjoy the beauty and health benefits. I would like to see the expansion project happen with more parking added.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I359: ROBERT REEDER

Response to Comment I359-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.360 LETTER I360

Letter I360

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:19 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Walter Reilly
Email Address (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
Comments	I support the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project because we could always use more trails! As a mountain biker, 30 miles of trails can be ridden in a long day. Keeping crowds spread out is important to minimize trail damage and crowding. Adding more challenging trails would be welcome!
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I360-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I360: WALTER REILLY

Response to Comment I360-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.361 LETTER I361

Letter I361

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 7:42 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Niels Reimers
Email Address (Optional)	nielsreimers3@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls trails expansion project
Comments	Hidden Falls is one of the great treasures of living in the foothills. My family, and as can be seen any weekend, numerous others appreciate hiking and biking through the beautiful woodlands. Adding extra area to explore and additional access points would be fantastic. Please approve the expansion for my family, yours and our future families.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I361-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I361: NIELS REIMERS

Response to Comment I361-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.362 LETTER I362

Letter I362

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 5:25 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Michelle Rezentos
Email Address (Optional)	pickledyacktoes@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Expansion
I362-1 Comments	I would be absolutely amazing to have more trails at Hidden Falls. Please approve this proposal and make everyone's live better!
Attach a document	Field not completed.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I362: MICHELLE REZENTES

Response to Comment I362-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.363 LETTER I363

Letter I363

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 5:11 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Aaron Rezentes
Email Address (Optional)	Aaronrezentes@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden falls expansion
I363-1 Comments	Please approve hidden falls expansion riding bikes is great for mental and physical health and lots of it is good. OK, bye.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I363: AARON REZENTES

Response to Comment I363-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 8:08 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name Mark Ricci

Email Address (Optional) mark2203@hotmail.com

Agenda Item (Optional) Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Support

I364-1

Comments To whom it may concern.
I'm writing this letter in support of Hidden Falls trail expansion project. Our family has enjoyed this park and all it has offered for the last few years, but more recently as a place my 11-year old son and I have bonded while teaching him how to mountain bike. The park and trail system is meticulously well maintained and offers some beautiful scenery and wildlife. My son and I always look forward to our visits to Hidden Falls and we've created and will continue to create wonderful memories together at this park. Expanding the trail system would be wonderful way for people to enjoy and appreciated more of what this area has to offer.
-Mark Ricci
Roseville, CA

Attach a document [Hidden Falls.jpg](#)

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I364: MARK RICCI

Response to Comment I364-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.365 LETTER I365

Letter I365

Shirlee Herrington

From: sierraguide <sierraguide@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 1:59 PM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Against Hidden Falls expansion

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: sierraguide <sierraguide@sbcglobal.net>
Date: 5/14/20 1:39 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: mcdraecs@placer.ca.gov
Subject: Against Hidden Falls expansion

Planning Commission

I365-1

We are definitely against any expansion of trails in Placer county. This is a waist of our tax payer monies, to fund a project that is geared to bring in out of county residents to our back yards. I was against the uncapped spending for this project months ago, but now with the financial burden that COVID 19 has put on Placer county, there is no way to justify this type of spending.

Regards

Frank Rinella

Meadow Vista / Placer County Tax payer

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I365: FRANK RINELLA

Response to Comment I365-1

The commenter expresses opposition to the project and is concerned with cost of the project.

The opposition is noted. The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that “An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Saturday, May 16, 2020 6:23 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Robert Ritchey
Email Address (Optional)	ritcheypac@hotmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Expansion
Comments	I support the expansion at Hidden Falls. Im a regular visitor in the cooler months (2-3x / wk). The park is becoming very popular with mountain bikers and this expansion would provide more space for equestrians, runners, and cyclists. Hopefully the bathroom issues will be resolved.
Attach a document	Field not completed.

I366-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I366: ROBERT RITCHEY

Response to Comment I366-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.367 LETTER I367

Letter I367

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Daniel Robbins
Email Address (Optional)	danrobbins@yahoo.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
Comments	My family and I love the times we have driven up to the Hidden Falls area. It is great mixed-use area. Having more room to roam and having more entry points and parking would make the area even better. Hidden Falls is a Hidden gem.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I367-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I367: DANIEL ROBBINS

Response to Comment I367-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 10:04 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Marie Ropele
Email Address (Optional)	tannerbillsby@yahoo.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project

Comments	<p>Mountain bikes are destroying our beautiful natural environments. I urge the Supervisors to prohibit mountain bikes from single-track trails and require bikes be restricted to fire or paved roads.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Supervisors must protect the wildlife habitat for future generations.2. Mountain bikes destroy natural habitat by widening trails, riding off trails (creating thousands of illegal trails throughout our county each year), destroying habitat by creating jumps, digging holes, building berms, etc.3. Mountain bikes create wider and more trails because bikers get bored with the trails they are provided. They constantly seeking more trails with more jumps and obstacles. This creates environmental destruction similar to that of motorized vehicles.4. Mountain Bikers ride at speeds reaching 20 mph (check Strava.com) and race while on trails (they race virtually by posting their times on biker websites like Strava) creating public safety issues.5. It is a standard that bicycles are only allowed on paths wide enough to safely accommodate hikers and bikers simultaneously - the county should adhere to this best-practice safety standard. Should the County allow bikers on single-track trails, the County would knowingly be creating a public safety hazard for which the County would be legally liable because the Supervisors knowingly permitted a dangerous activity.
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I368-1



I368-1
Cont'd



6. Enforcement of rules is virtually impossible with mountain bikers because they catching them is near impossible. Unless the County spends hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to have year-round rangers at every possible entry point (which is virtually impossible) and have multiple rangers constantly patrol the forest ... enforcement with mountain bikers is not possible. Don't create a new problem for our country.

7. Mountain biking pushes out, displaces, native wildlife (because bikes are silent and move at fast speeds) they cover great distances and push out (displace and scare) native wildlife.

5. How would the county enforce no bike riding at night?

6. How would the county enforce no building of illegal trails, jumps, berms?

7. How would the county protect hiker/pedestrian safety on single-track trails?

These are questions the county must answer before permitting bikes on single-track trails. If bikes are to be permitted on fire roads and paved roads the county must have a plan to address illegal mountain biking off those wide paths.

I urge the Supervisors to prioritize protecting wildlife, prohibit mountain bikes on single-track trails and keep the number of trailheads to a minimum as we know environmental destruction increases with more trailheads and enforcement becomes more difficult with the more trailheads.

Thank you,
Marie

Finally, the county must know that electric mountain bikes are one of the fastest growing industries -- is the county going to prohibit e-bikes? Electric bikes are motorized vehicles -- are you going to allow motorized vehicles too? I hope not.

Please protect our environment (it will be your legacy), protect hikers (do not allow bikes on single-track trails) and please do not cave to the well-organized mountain biking special interests ... manage our open spaces for everyone. I cannot hike where mountain bikes

Attach a document

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Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I368: MARIE ROPELE

Response to Comment I368-1

The commenter expresses concern regarding the use of mountain bikes and electric bikes and rules enforcement.

This comment is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration. No further response is required.

Please also see Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility.

2.7.369 LETTER I369

Letter I369

Ann Rubenstein and Jonathan Zerin
4011 Creekhaven Rd
Auburn, CA 95602

RECEIVED
MAY 04 2020
CDRA

Placer County Community Development
Environmental Coordination Services
3091 County Center Dr., #190
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Support of Hidden falls Expansion Plan

\Dear Supervisors,

I369-1

As residents of Placer County and equestrian users of our county’s resources for recreation, we support the full buildout of Hidden Falls Expansion, 30 miles of new trails, three additional parking areas including horse trailer parking, and other park and safety amenities proposed by this expansion project.

This expansion will be an asset to present and future citizens, and will fulfill the public’s ability to access its public lands held in trust for the public and for Placer County residents. We have a need for interconnected hiking, riding and bicycling trails and paths suitable for active recreation. We residents of Placer County use and enjoy these opportunities. We moved here with our horses just for these opportunities, and know that the expansion will be compatible with conservation objectives and the emotional and physical well being of our fellow citizens.

Thank you for your hard work and vision for us now and in the future.



Ann Rubenstein and Jonathan Zerin
4011 Creekhaven Rd
Auburn, CA 95602

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I369: ANN RUBENSTEIN AND JONATHAN ZERIN

Response to Comment I369-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.370 LETTER I370

Letter I370

April 17, 2020

Dear Cindy, Jim, Robert, Bonnie and Kirk:

First, I would like to thank you for all that you have been doing on behalf of Placer County residents, as we endure all that the Covid-19 Pandemic has brought us. Placer County Health Officer Dr. Aimee Sisson has been doing an amazing job as demonstrated by the videos and announcements on the website. I think you would agree that what is unfolding is not going to end anytime soon and must be carefully managed locally as well as statewide, nationwide and worldwide to get us back to what some would call a normal living situation. More likely, it will be a new lifestyle for all, with high-risk persons having to be careful for a very long time.

I370-1

I, along with others, have concerns about how Placer County government is managing public meetings and especially hearings. Thus, because of the Covid-19 Pandemic I am asking that you that you cancel the Public Hearing for the Hidden Falls Expansion set for May 14th with the Planning Commission until a later time when such a meeting will be more feasible. It is clear that large public gatherings will not be happening on that date and to try to conduct a critical hearing via internet and phone call for what should attract a huge crowd is unrealistic. Six thousand contact letters were mailed, so you have to understand that this hearing, while not an Action Item, will none the less attract a great number of area residents. Internet access in rural areas leaves much to be desired, so viewing a Park Dept. presentation will be problematic and managing phone call comments and questions will be extremely difficult.

We have waited and waited for the SDEIR to come out. First it was to come out in October 2018, then December, then February 2019, then June, then August....missed deadline after deadline. It was finally released on February 20, 2020. Obviously, there is no rush. Then the Covid-19 Pandemic showed up and has turned our world upside down, but it is here and must be dealt with responsibly. That includes fairness and common sense in determining when and how public hearings shall be carried out.

I trust that each of you will understand this critical Public Hearing for the Hidden Falls Expansion Project should be cancelled and postponed until a later time.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this request.

Sincerely, Delana Ruud
10800 Cramer Rd, Auburn, CA 95602
DRuud@inreach.com

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I370: DELANA RUUD

Response to Comment I370-1

The commenter expresses concern about the public comment process.

Please see Master Response 1 – Public Comment Process.

2.7.371 LETTER I371

Letter I371

To: Community Development Resource Agency, Placer County Board of Supervisors, Placer County Planning Commission

From: Delana Ruud 10800 Cramer Rd, Auburn, CA

Regarding: Comments on Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion SDEIR

Section 8 Comments

Pg 8-1

- I371-1
- Para 2: What is the circumstance to retain the extra 60 private parking spaces? Please explain.
- Para 3: The CalTrans Project: roundabouts at Lorenson & Lone Star Rds. and the median concrete barrier between them should have been included in the total analysis. Once CalTrans gets to the point of a “dog & pony” show for the public, there is no turning back. This is based on information from a retired CalTrans engineer.
- Para 5 & Pg 8-2 Para 2: Discontinued use of LOS and shameful lack of Placer Co. to establish a VMT threshold, though it is not required until July 1, 2020. The comment is contradictory and confusing. Lead agencies can no longer draw a transportation impact significance conclusion solely on a metric that measures traffic congestion (e.g. level of service (LOS)), yet the data/analysis is included. Why - for fluff, a page filler to confuse the average reader that there is no valid means to measure the impact of traffic congestion on the environment? CEQA is sorely lacking another means to measure the impacts of the roads to be used to access the proposed expansion. There is a “people” impact that is never mentioned: that Lone Star, Bell and especially Cramer Rd. are substandard for increasing levels of traffic. They were all established as wagon roads when the Lone Star area was homesteaded in the 1850s. All are narrow, undulating and have blind curves. Cramer Rd is so narrow that legally it can NOT have a stripe down the middle of the road. Hence, many drivers proceed down the middle of the road, which leads to many not moving over to the edge of the pavement when traversing a blind curve. You ought to experience being forced into the ditch to escape being hit head-on or side-wiped! That happened to me 2 summers ago on the blind curve above the NID Reservoir. The idiot driver missed me by about 6 inches & just kept going. I blew my right front tire, but felt lucky to be alive. Since then, I have had 3 other close calls on that curve and the other blind curve not far from Hwy 49. My 40 neighbors on Cramer Rd & tributaries can all tell you of similar experiences. Just wait until the flatlanders, who will not know how to safely navigate our country roads. Mix in speed and a bit too much wine from the area wineries or the Country Club and I guarantee that we are headed for a disaster. My experience is based on living my whole life of almost 75 years on Cramer Rd.
- I371-2
- Pg. 8-4
- Para 5: State Route 193: no mention is made of the impact of traffic generated by the housing development on the former Chamberlain Ranch or the shopping center at the corner of Hwy 193 and Sierra College Blvd.
- I371-3
- Para 6: State Route 49: No mention is made of the 5 terrible auto accidents between Dry Creek Rd. and Lone Star Rd between November 2019 and now that included 4 with 1 fatality each.

I371-3
Cont'd

↑ Pg. 8-5

Para 6: The following private roads exist in the area of the proposed HFRP Trails Extension project....The County has rights of public access to these roads through either an offer of dedication or easements: Auburn Valley Rd. and Curtola Rd. Rights of access via these two roads absolutely does NOT exist according to AVCC homeowners.

Pg. 8-6

Para 4: The project area is located within an area that was not identified for development within the 2020 MTP/SCS planning period. According to the MTP/SCS these areas are dominated by ... *mining*. Where and what type of mining?.....however, some are covered under adopted or proposed plans that allow urban development and/or are included in the adopted Blueprint vision for future growth. What is the exact location, how many acres are involved?

Pg. 8-9

Para 4: Oak Hollow Lane is actually Oak *Knoll* Lane. The 3 auto accidents listed were all significant. The DUI is scary, but at least did not involve another vehicle and thank goodness did not happen on Hwy 49; the inattentive driver eating & drifting off the road & striking a fence – that could easily have been an oncoming vehicle; the motorcycle vs car on the blind curve is really scary. That could have been me driving the car. This is a road that demands 110% concentration, and no speeding, especially on blind curves.

Pg. 8-12,13

SB 743: As indicated, Placer County has had well over a year to establish a standard of significance of VMT for CEQA analysis, but have chosen to not to do so. The question is why. Did they not want an accepted means to determine the degree of significance for this SEIR?. However it is noted that, "in an abundance of caution, an assessment of VMT is provided." Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7, Placer County can choose to apply thresholds from the *Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA* (Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), December 2018. But, alas it only recommends quantifiable thresholds for residential, retail and office projects and thus under this set of standards, the Hidden Falls Expansion is left with no accepted means to measure the significance of VMT.

The OPR document also identifies another potential approach that could be utilized to determine significant transportation impacts, that being consideration whether the project is consistent with the applicable Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). This aligns with CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(d), which requires that an EIR should discuss inconsistencies between the proposed project and the regional transportation plan. For the SACOG region this is the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/SCS (MTP/SCS). "The proposed project would result in an increase in VMT above the assumptions in the MTP/SCS and is therefore inconsistent with the land use plan." Why is the increase in VMT not explained? What is the inconsistency?

↓

I371-3
Cont'd



Pg. 8-14

Para 2: Discusses parking space numbers. The discussion is misleading: first the project description in the June 2018 Notice of Preparation includes up to 60 parking spaces attributed to private individuals creating commercial parking lots adjacent to HFRP; then this is removed from the project description. However KD Anderson & Associates, Inc. is stated to have chosen to keep the 60 parking spaces in the traffic analysis. But, "the Project Description and rest of the SEIR document therefore reflect the removal of the 60 spaces from the project". So, which is it....if the spaces are removed, yet are kept in the analysis, shouldn't the last sentence read that, the Project Description and the rest of the SEIR document therefore reflect NOT removing the 60 spaces from the project ?

Pg. 8-14,15,16

Parking Lot Spaces for the four parking lots are discussed. That the final number of parking spaces at each access point have been fine tuned based on site specific characteristics and other considerations. There is no discussion of what the site specific characteristics or other considerations are. What are the site specific or other considerations? Why were they not discussed?

I371-4



Pg. 8-17

Para 4 For the Harvego Bear River entrance, Phase 1 would be restricted to once per day docent-led tours. There is no discussion or comparison to the the number of current docent-led tours. Why not? Is this daily tour compatible with the livestock being run on the property? Grazing absolutely must continue to help keep the wildfire potential in check in this fire-prone area. More people = more fire potential. CalFire states that up to 95% of all CA wildfires are man caused. The Harvego preserve is located in a high fire zone. Look at the map. All it will take is one errant cigarette butt, marijuana joint, an arsonist, or an escaped campfire from an illegal camper. Do not kid yourself, that is already happening per findings of property owners on Big Hill.

Though not stated, one would assume that the Twilight Ride entrance is to be open 365 days/year dawn to dusk. The Taylor-Kotomyian Preserves are currently only open to docent-led tours. Cattle are run on these properties as a means of providing a local rancher continuation of 45 + years of leasing this property for grazing and inadvertently provide a means of reducing wildfire fuels. What will the impact of walkers/hikers/bike riders/ horse riders 365 days/year be on the cattle, once the interlopers are turned loose and not on a docent-led tour? Who is to guarantee that said interlopers will stick to trails? Who will guarantee that dogs will not be turned loose and ultimately harass the cattle and perhaps kill a baby calf or even a grown cow? Who will pay the rancher for the dead animal? Who is to guarantee the interlopers will not try to pet a baby calf and have Mama become defensive and perhaps injure or kill the interloper? Grazing absolutely needs to continue as a means of reducing wildfire danger in this fire prone area. My determination is that the Twilight Ride parking lot will become the parking lot of choice, because of the proximity to Hwy 49 and also because if one puts the address of 5345 Bell Rd. into a GPS, Google Maps or Map Quest, they tell you to take Hwy 49 and Cramer Rd. and to turn left on Bell Rd. Parking reservations need to be mandatory from the start 7 days a week at this site as a means of crowd control on the Preserves and also traffic control on Lone Star, Bell and especially Cramer Rd.

I371-5 | Pg. 8-20
Para 2: Analysis from 2010 HFRP Certified Impact Summary indicates that roads providing access to HFRP were operating at an LOS of C.

I371-6 | Para5 : The persons providing the analysis evidently have not driven Mt Vernon Rd. lately. If they had, they would have observed that a portion (Joerger Rd. to Baxter Grade) has turned into a speedway/ back route to Lincoln and that the traffic is significantly greater than the old data used and that most drivers pay no attention to speed limits. They would also have observed that the traffic is not intermittent, and that during commute hours, it increases. To say that the impact would be **less than significant** is not accurate. This is based on my personal driving experience visiting friends over many years on Baxter Grade and attending numerous MAC meetings in the hinterlands since June 2018.

I371-7 | Pg. 8-21
2019 HFRP Trails Expansion Project Impact Analysis
As discussed earlier, LOS is no longer to be used as a means of evaluating whether the proposed project would result in a potentially significant impact on traffic or circulation. However, a traffic operations analysis was included in Section 8.6 for reference. Why was this included, if it is no longer valid? Is it to pad the length of the report? Is it to confuse the inexperienced EIR reader?

And then Impact 8-3 goes on to state that since no threshold has been established by the County and the proposed project is inconsistent with the MTP/SCS, the increase in VMT is considered significant. This makes no sense at all, so why is this statement even included? To add more "fluff" or to further confuse the reader or both?

Pg. 8-22-23
2019 HFRP Certified EIR Impact Summary
Five paragraphs of generalities and assumptions are made resulting in a conclusion that the "potential increased activity associated with the proposed project would conflict with the MTP/SCS strategy for reducing VMT through investments in roadway and multi-modal infrastructure primarily in urban areas.

Because no threshold exists for VMT and is not required until July 2020, the proposed project is deemed to result in a **significant impact** because it generates additional VMT beyond the baseline condition and is not consistent with the MTP/SCS land use plan. This is not explained. Why not?

I371-8 | Mitigation measures for such impacts are limited in rural areas. The only feasible method arrived at is a parking reservation system, which is already used at HFRP, though only on weekends, holidays, and other peak use days. My recommendation **would be to continue the guided walks at the same level/number for the Taylor-Kotomyan sites as they currently exist and the same for the Harvego site.** This would eliminate the need for the Twilight Ride site parking lot, as it could be accessed via the trail easement from HFRP. Since according to AVCC home owners, the County does NOT have use of the private roads or an easement to access the Harvego site, there is no need for a parking lot at that site. In addition, parking lots at the DeWitt complex should be used for car-poolers to join up on weekends and holidays and weekdays as available to go to HFRP. Also, the County must explore an hourly or every two hours bus from DeWitt to HFRP, especially on weekends, holidays and other high-use days to decrease the traffic to the HF Mears parking lot area.

I371-9

Pg. 8-24

Para 4-5: No mention is made of the very distinct hump in the road in front of the house located at 5401 Bell Rd. The hump creates a blind spot in the line of sight looking north, particularly if the current driveway entrance at 5345 Bell Rd. is used. Evidently the writers did not visit/drive this area or they would have noticed this observation.

Pg. 8-25

Para 4: The consideration of a left turn lane assumes that a high percentage of the traffic to 5345 Bell Rd. will traverse Bell Rd from Hwy.49/DeWitt Center. What is this assumption based on? I believe many visitors will also use Cramer Rd. from Hwy 49 because it is a shorter distance from Hwy 49 on Cramer Rd (about 1.7 miles), then turn left on Bell Rd. (about 3/8 mile), than to take Bell Rd from Hwy 49/DeWitt Center (about 4+ miles). Also, GPS, Google Maps & Map Quest all tell one to take Hwy 49 to Cramer Rd, turn left on Bell Rd. and proceed to 5345 Bell Rd. Go ahead... look it up on MapQuest and Google Maps or your car GPS.

Pg. 8-27:

Impact 8-5, Para 2: "Without mitigation, there is no guarantee that visitors may not occasionally elect to park off-site and walk to the new trail expansion areas." The impact will be **significant**. If the writers had talked to people who live on Mears Ct. and Mears Dr., you would know this is true, and that the County barely recognizes it has caused extreme angst and upset the lives of these homeowners.

Mitigation Measures S8-2

I371-10

So where are these visitors going to park? In private driveways, in the ditches on both sides of Bell, Cramer, private Cramer Rds., Orr Creek Lane or the private cemetery on Orr Creek Lane? Every property owner in this area, if they have not already done so, will have to put in a locking gate and fence their property next to the county roads. Before the Twilight Ride parking lot is allowed to open – **IF** it opens, "No Parking" Signs **MUST** be installed on both sides of the road for a half mile either direction of the Bell Rd. entrance, Orr Creek Lane, and also on Cramer Rd. including the wide spot at Fawn Ridge Rd. I can also see pedestrians trespassing to take short-cuts to the Twilight property, or Taylor Preserve, including proceeding down the private parts of Cramer Rd. and Orr Creek Lane. Trespassing will absolutely not be tolerated; trespassers will be arrested and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Measure S8-3 Prior to the public use of the Twilight Ride facility in Phase1, "install or upgrade traffic control devices along Cramer Rd..." This should have been done many years ago. Were the 3 auto accidents not enough of a wake-up? What are the devices and where will they be located? And then there is the matter of the blind curves. Not only do drivers have to contend with a road so narrow, that legally it cannot have a stripe down the middle, it is a road that demands 110% attention by a driver proceeding at a speed slower than most want to go. It is full of undulations, humps, curves, blind curves, and a few straight stretches where drivers speed, only to be brought up short by a curve or blind curve. The two big blind curves can be frightening for a cautious & experienced driver and perhaps deadly for an inexperienced driver either for lack of years of driving experience or familiarity of how to safely navigate Placer County country roads. Bell, Cramer and Lone Star Rds. were created when the Lone Star area was homesteaded in the early 1850s as wagon roads. The only thing that has changed is that they now are either chip-sealed (Cramer Rd.) or have an asphalt road base and a center stripe (Bell and Lone Star Rds.). Proceeding west on Cramer from Hwy. 49 one comes to the first really bad blind curve. The westbound driver had best hope that an oncoming eastbound vehicle is way over to the edge of the road, because there is no place to escape because of a 6 foot vertical bank about a foot off the edge of the pavement. And the eastbound driver had best hope that they don't meet a big pickup truck pulling a 4

I371-10
Cont'd

horse trailer or cattle hauler, because in order to get the trailer around the curve, the truck has to cross way over into the eastbound lane. This must occur before the eastbound driver has a visual of the westbound vehicle. And then there is the second blind curve above the NID reservoir. While the apex is longer, a westbound driver can easily be forced into the ditch and up against the 6 ft. vertical bank by an errant eastbound driver, who has drifted way over the center. That happened to me two summers ago. I only blew my right front tire, but felt lucky that the jerk missed me by about 6 inches. He didn't even have the courtesy to stop and see if I was OK. All my neighbors on Cramer Rd. have horror stories about these two curves. We collectively have years and years of driving experience on this road. Just wait until the flatlanders show up.

Measure S8-4,5: Prepare improvement plans and construct improvements for access to Twilight Ride: This will be a very involved project – way more than the County realizes, as they have not even bothered to talk to the owners of property contiguous to this site.

Pg. 8-28

Para 5: Automobile safety impacts – Collision Frequency – County Roads: This project will absolutely add traffic to Lone Star, Bell and Cramer Rds, especially on weekends, holidays and other high use days. GPS devices, MapQuest and Google Maps all give directions to take Cramer Rd. to the Twilight Ride site. No mention is made of the Harvego site behind the Country Club. Why not? Traffic will also increase to that site via Lone Star, Cramer and Bell Rds. Collisions will increase, especially on Cramer Rd. Special attention must be paid to the blind curves on all three roads. No mention is made of the roundabouts to be installed on Hwy 49 at Lone Star Rd. and Lorenson Rd. or the solid concrete barrier between Lorenson Rd. and Lone Star Rd. Why not? This project is scheduled for 2022-23. Elaborate discussion of LOS has been included in this Section even though it has NO significance because LOS can no longer be used. Was it included to confuse the average reader? To pad the length of this SEIR? Why were the Hwy 49 projects that will have a significant impact on traffic circulation on Cramer-Bell-Lone Star Rds. not discussed? Evidently 4 fatalities in 4 separate accidents on Hwy 49 between Dry Creek Rd. and Lone Star Rd. between November 2019 and prior to the release of this SEIR made no impression on the writers.

Pg. 8-29

Para 1: For reasons previously cited, traffic will increase dramatically on Cramer Rd. and more accidents will happen, especially on the blind curves. Just wait until out-of-area driver drifts over on a blind curve and meets a truck pulling a cattle hauler or a hay truck; or a driver tanked-up at one of the local wineries or the Country Club drifts over and slams into an oncoming vehicle. **It will happen.** It is not a matter of *if*, but a matter of *when*.

Para 2: Implementation of Mitigation Measure S8-3 which include the installation or upgrade of traffic control devices along Cramer Rd... would reduce the project's impact to safety on Cramer Rd. to **less than significant**. This is extremely doubtful. When people are driving on a country road that is substandard to begin with, a certain percentage will pay no attention to signage and will speed and cut corners. Somehow drivers think because there is no CHP presence unless there is a serious accident, and they are way off the beaten path, they can take a lot of liberties. My personal experience is that drivers do that all the time on Bell, Cramer & Lone Star Rds. I hope & pray that I am not the oncoming driver they slam into on one of the blind curves and am already beginning to feel like a prisoner unable to safely leave my home.

I371-11

Impact 8-6 **Result in inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses.** Where are the access points located? How would First Responders be trained? GPS is not accurate: 2 years ago an ambulance that was summoned to Orr Creek Ln, was finally located wandering around on Big Hill Rd. To say this is of no significance

and requires no mitigation is wrong. Adequate training of First Responders is absolutely necessary. Who will provide it? If they can't even find their way from Point A to Point B, they are useless.

2019 HFRP Trails Expansion Project Impact Analysis: "no designated emergency evacuation plans are in place with CalFire/Placer County Fire Department for the existing residential areas surrounding the expansion areas. This is a very scary and totally unacceptable assessment that must be addressed immediately whether or not this Expansion is allowed to proceed. The area surrounding and including the expansion area could under the right conditions turn into a wildfire inferno and burn hundreds of homes and destroy thousands of acres of winter grazing land all the way from the Bear River, Auburn Valley Country Club area, Big Hill Rd. and on south to HFRP and east and south to Hwy 49 and the DeWitt area. Without hundreds of visitors on the trails stretching from HFRP all the way to the Bear River, evacuation of area residents from harms way of a major fire storm would be pure calamity. Bell, Cramer and Lone Star Rds. would easily be overwhelmed by traffic trying to get to Hwy. 49 and First Responders trying to get in. Add in those on the trails is inviting absolute total disaster. How are they to be notified to "get out" ? My personal experience is that cell phone reception in the whole area is very poor and spotty. From approximately mid-May until mid- October or November when the first heavy rains usually come, the hills are tinder dry and ripe for a disastrous wildfire. Think Paradise/Camp Fire, which occurred on November 8, 2018. Seven people died in their cars trying to escape; another 79 died mostly in their homes, though a few died in hospital days or weeks later. Paradise didn't think it would ever burn, but according to former residents, was far better prepared for a calamity than Auburn or the north Auburn area currently are. What they did not expect was a fire storm driven by 60 + mph downslope winds. Never mind how the fire started – it happened and the community burned to the ground. The residents of Auburn and the north Auburn area for the most part are living in total denial that such a calamity could ever happen here. It is not a matter of IF, it is a matter of WHEN. CalFire states that 95% of wildfires are man started. All it will take is an errant cigarette butt or joint, an escaped illegal campfire from an illegal camper or homeless person or an arsonist. Do not kid yourself, any of these could happen. Homeless have already been kicked out camping on Orr Creek on the Ruud ranch. Four trespassing joint-smoking bike riders on the Harvego site were overheard in August 2019 while sitting in the dry grass, to be discussing camping and that no one would ever know they were there.

To say that the proposed HFRP Trail expansion project would not result in new significant environmental effects or substantially increase the severity of previously identified significant effects regarding potential interference with emergency response routes or result in an inundated emergency access based on changes in the project, circumstances or new information is total naivety. The writers apparently have never driven Bell, Cramer or Lone Star Rds. Nor have they acknowledged that the changes to come in 2022-23 on Hwy. 49 : roundabouts at Lorenson and Lone Star Rds. and a solid cement barrier from Lorenson to Lone Star Rds. would negate a left turn for north-bound traffic, including First Responders at Cramer Rd. North bound vehicles would have to proceed to the Lone Star Rd. roundabout, go around it and then come back and turn right on Cramer Rd. When time is of the essence in an emergency situation, this is an appalling solution.

Pg. 8-30

8.5 Mitigation Measures

Measure S8-2, 3, 4,5 Discussed under Pg. 8-27

Pg. 8-32

8.62 Applicable Policies and Standards: This entire section is a mess. Why was it even included when current CEQA regulations have discontinued the use of Levels of Service (LOS) as a means of assessing the quality of existing traffic conditions? Is it included to confuse the average reader? Is it included to pad the length of the

I371-11
Cont'd

I371-12

I371-12
Cont'd

SEIR? Is the consultant being paid by the page, paragraph, graph, chart, phrase, sentence or word? Why not just be honest and say that you have no means to provide this assessment, in a short concise statement explaining why. And include in the statement that Placer County could have developed quantifiers utilizing Vehicle Miles Traveled (MVT) but chose not to do so, evidently because VMT quantifiers are not required until July 1, 2020.

I371-13

Pg. 8- 33 Para 1: "In allowing any exception to the standards, the County shall consider the following factors:"

" The right-of-way needs and the physical impacts on surrounding properties "

There are 6 homes with driveways and a private road (the continuation of Cramer Rd.) on Bell Rd. between the Twilight Ride property and Cramer Rd. and 7 homes located on private Cramer Rd. All of these home owners will be severely impacted by traffic taking Cramer & Bell Rds. to the Twilight Ride site. This is not addressed. The property owners whose property is contiguous to the Twilight Ride property will also be severely impacted. A fence does not necessarily make a good neighbor. None of these property owners were notified by the County that the Twilight Ride property was to be purchased by the County in an action taken by the Placer County Board of Supervisors on May 22, 2018. Many believe that this non-notification that would turn the 50 acres into a park to be illegal. Yet it was allowed to proceed.

"Construction and right-of-way acquisition costs."

There is no discussion of cost, though several different scenarios are discussed, including right-of-way acquisition.

"The impacts of quality of life as perceived by residents."

The County has been sneaky in how they have gone about developing this Expansion. The final straw was the lack of notification of contiguous property owners of the Twilight Ride site purchase at the May 22, 2018 Placer County Board of Supervisor meeting. NONE! Not only was this Board of Supervisor's purchase action probably illegal, it does not make for being a good neighbor. This is a quiet rural area. How would you like your life turned upside down by an invasion of flatlanders on county roads that are substandard to begin with? The negatives begin with road safety, exponentially increasing the chances of a catastrophic wildfire, trespassers, theft, homeless and other "visitors" camping on private property, HFRP and Placer Land Trust property, trash, noise; plus interference with normal ranching activities, including harassment of livestock. Area ranches are not a zoo. Would you want a "park" including a parking lot for 100 cars, 40 truck & trailer rigs, bicycle rental, concession stand, restrooms, picnic tables and a well to go in next door to your home/property? What about the well drawing on the water channel of neighboring properties? What about the polluted run-off from the parking lot into the nearby small creek, which flows into Orr Creek? I think you would not want this. What is our "reward" for the County destroying our peace and quiet and adding to the probability of losing our fire insurance? Some homeowners have lost their fire insurance 2 & 3 times. No justification has been offered.

I371-14

Pg. 8-34

I371-15

8.6.3 Analysis Methodologies: See comment above under 8.62 Applicable Policies and Standards

- I371-15
Cont'd
- Pg. 8-36
- 8.6.4 Existing Traffic Operations: Not only is this section non-usable (LOS not allowed to be used according to current CEQA regulations), it also contains stale, old, out-of-date data. Was this done to further confuse the reader? This is April 2020. Data collected in May, June, and October 2016 and October and December 2017 is used. This is wrong. In addition, it does not take into account Fawn Ridge Winery, located on a private road off Cramer Rd, or the 3 or possibly 4 additional wineries to go into production on Cramer Rd.
- I371-16
- Pg. 37 Table 8-12 Existing Daily Traffic Volumes and Levels of Service. The source of the Data is listed as being provided by KD Anderson & Associates, Inc in 2019. I live on Cramer Rd. I did not see any signs of a traffic counter on Bell Rd. or Cramer Rd. in 2019. I would like to know when/where/how the existing data was derived, other than being provided by KD Anderson & Associate, Inc. in 2019.
- I371-17
- Para. 1 mentions Appendix D, which is more readable, though it also utilizes Level of Service (LOS) information/data, which can not be used as it is no longer allowed by CEQA. Interestingly, it is dated August 1, 2019. It contains 7 pages of charts and a map, with the remaining 18 pages methodically describing existing plus project traffic conditions and levels of service.
- Pg. 8-39
- 8.6.5 Existing Plus Project Traffic Operation : data/narrative is based on LOS, which is not allowed to be used according to CEQA regulations
- I371-18
- Para 1: states that, " Figure 9 of the traffic impact study presents resulting "project only" traffic for the trips associated with proposed and approved but unbuilt HFRP uses (Appendix D)." There is no Figure 9 to be found in the traffic impact study. Was it left out? In addition, no mention is made of the additional traffic that will continue to build on Bell, Cramer and Lone Star Rds. with the wineries already in the area plus the addition of 3 more with tasting rooms on Cramer Rd. And then there will be the additional accoutrements and traffic once the Winery and Farm Brewery Ordinance, that has few constraints, including allowing weddings is finally adopted.
- I371-19
- Pg. 8-41 Para 1: Not only will there be more traffic on Cramer then Bell Rd. because GPS, MapQoS and Google Maps all tell one to take Cramer Rd from Hwy 49, there will be more impaired drivers. On March 21, 2020, early in the afternoon, I followed a car travelling south on Bell Rd. from the Cramer Rd. intersection. It crossed the yellow line several times. Initially I thought the driver must be sight-seeing, but when it turned into VIno Castellano, I realized the driver must have been impaired. I was too far back to get a good ID of the make/model and license plate numbers. In hind-sight, I wish I had called 911.
- I371-20
- Pg. 8-44 : Para 2: Fails to assess trips specifically on Lone Star, Bell and especially Cramer Rd. Cramer Rd. currently has one winery- Fawn Ridge; there are up to 4 more in various stages of going into full production, including 2 tasting rooms.
- Pg. 8-45 Table 8-17: To state that Cramer Rd. will have a Saturday LOS of A is flat wrong, as it does not take into consideration that the base data is 2-3 years old , nor does it take into account that up to 4 additional wineries with tasting rooms will be going into production.

I371-21 | Pg. 8-48
8.6.7 Cumulative Plus Project Traffic Operations : To state that, “ the effects of the HFRP Trails Expansion project are not significant in these areas.” Is just plain wrong. LOS data can **not** be used, as it is no longer accepted by CEQA and there is no other accepted means to measure the traffic impact. In addition, there is no means or even commentary that Bell, Lone Star and especially Cramer Rds. are substandard roads to begin with. Information regarding traffic counts or delay is only one measure that is far better suited for an urban area and not a country road in a rural area.

I371-22 | Pg. 8-52
Para. 2: “Traffic operations at the SR 49/Cramer Road intersection would degrade from LOS D to LOS E...” I am surprised it is not F, as at Lone Star Rd.

I371-23 | Para 3: Finally roundabouts on Hwy 49 or perhaps a traffic signal at Cramer Rd. is mentioned. But, the can is simply kicked down the road, as additional analysis and planning must be carried out by the County and CalTrans. And then there is the matter of funding. With the State of CA \$54 **BILLION** and growing, in the Red, and the Placer County Budget shrinking by the day, where is the money to come from for additional road building and probably more important – maintenance and repair.

I371-24 | With the current pandemic because of Covid-19 and the economy tanking into a minimum of a recession or perhaps even a depression, all the planning to expand the Hidden Falls trail system and install 3 more parking lots and carry out this DSEIR may be moot. The County of Placer is very likely to be in far worse shape economically than the 2008 recession brought, in which case since the Park Division is a “bottom feeder” in the budget priority list, planning and expansion for Hidden Falls will simply grind to a halt. That might not be all bad, since even the current budget does not adequately fund for park personnel or needed maintenance of the 1200 acre HFRP site at Mears Rd. or any of the rest of Placer County Parks or trails. Finally, why should I and other Placer County taxpayers pay for out-of-county HFRP users who make up over 70% of the parking reservations on weekends, as gleaned from Park Dept. data?

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I371: DELANA RUUD

Response to Comment I371-1

The commenter asks a question regarding the private parking discussed within Chapter 8.

Private parking areas, as discussed and analyzed within Chapter 8.0, “Transportation and Circulation,” of the Draft SEIR were removed from the Project Description but were left in the traffic analysis to provide a conservative analysis.

The commenter questions the use of LOS and VMT, and also expresses concerns about traffic safety.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking regarding LOS and VMT thresholds and traffic safety.

Response to Comment I371-2

The commenter requested additional clarification of the assumptions utilized for the cumulative traffic analysis.

The assumptions made for the cumulative traffic analysis are discussed on Draft SEIR page 8-44. The SR 193 / Sierra College Blvd shopping center project is included. Placer County planning department staff have no information regarding a project named Chamberlain Ranch.

Response to Comment I371-3

The commenter expresses concern about the collision history on SR 49, private roads, VMT, and parking.

Please see Chapter 3.0 “Project Description” and also see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

The commenter also asks why the proposed project was found to be inconsistent with the MTP/SCS.

As stated in the SEIR, the 2020 MTP/SCS contains land use projections for the future year of 2040. The HFRP Trails Expansion Project is located in an area designated as “Lands not Identified for Development” in the 2020 MTP/SCS. Because the project proposes development of lands not identified for development, it is considered inconsistent with the land use projections for the MTP/SCS.

Response to Comment I371-4

The commenter requested additional information about docent led tours.

The traffic analysis notes on page 47 that three to five times each year docent lead tours of 5 to 15 vehicles visited the area. Under Phase 1 docent lead tours would be limited to once-per-day.

The commenter discusses the need for continued cattle grazing as a means to prevent wildfires and discusses fire danger and potential interactions between cattle and visitors.

Please see Master Response 5 – Agriculture and Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety and Emergency Response.

The commenter discusses concerns over the need for policing.

Please see Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility.

Response to Comment I371-5

The commenter requested additional information about a reference on page 8-20.

The reference on page 8-20 is to roadways operating at “LOS C or better” current roadway LOS A or B is “better” than LOS C.

Response to Comment I371-6

The commenter inquires when traffic volume data was collected.

The weekday traffic volume data presented for Mt. Vernon Road was collected in December 2018 and represents “regular” conditions for the roadway. Please also see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

Response to Comment I371-7

The commenter expresses additional concerns about traffic.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

Response to Comment I371-8

The commenter feels that only docent-led tours at the same frequency as currently exists should be allowed, that parking should not be allowed at the Harvego Bear River Preserve site, that car-pooling from the DeWitt campus should be encouraged, and that bus service to the existing HFRP from the DeWitt campus should be instituted.

This comment is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration. Prior to the implementation of the reservation system, the County researched various parking options, including the possibility of a bus shuttle service from the DeWitt Campus to the existing Mears parking area. However, with the implementation of the reservation system, which limits the number of patrons on weekends, holidays and other peak usage days, the need for a shuttle system was negated.

No further response is required.

Response to Comment I371-9

This comment discusses road safety due to road undulations at 5401 Bell Road, which the commenter feels creates a blind spot.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking and the section titled “Twilight Ride Area Access to Bell Road.

Response to Comment I371-10

The commenter has concerns with traffic safety, enforcement, illegal parking, people walking from off-site, trespassing, and Cramer Road safety.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking, and Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility.

Response to Comment I371-11

The commenter has concerns with emergency evacuations.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response.

Response to Comment I371-12

The commenter questions why Level of Service (LOS) was included in the Transportation and Circulation chapter since it is no longer considered a significant impact on the environment under the CEQA Guidelines.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation and Parking for a discussion about LOS and VMT.

Response to Comment I371-13

The commenter has concerns with impact from traffic on local residents of Bell and Cramer Roads.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

The commenter states that none of the nearby residents to the Twilight Ride property were given notice of the Purchase and Sale Agreement between the County and the previous property owner.

Initial County negotiations regarding Purchase and Sale Agreements for real property are held in closed sessions with the Board of Supervisors. On May 22, 2018, in a public portion of the Board of Supervisor's Hearing, the County's Real Estate Services Division requested authorization to acquire the Twilight Ride property.

Response to Comment I371-14

The commenter expresses concern regarding lifestyle.

The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that "An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment" (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required.

The commenter asks about costs associated with right-of-way acquisition costs and construction and maintenance of roadways.

The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with

CEQA guidelines stating that “An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382).

The commenter claims that the County has not been forthright in its purchase of the Twilight Ride property.

Please see Response to Comment I371-13.

The commenter express concerns about road safety, parking, and wildfire.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking and Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response.

The commenter has concerns with various land use compatibility issues.

Please see Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility.

The commenter infers that the loss of some peoples’ fire insurance is related to their proximity to the proposed Trail Expansion area.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response.

Response to Comment I371-15

The commenter states that the data used for the traffic analysis was too old.

The Draft SEIR identifies the date of traffic data collection that has occurred as the traffic analysis has proceeded. Caltrans traffic study guidelines suggest that traffic data be collected within two years. The baseline for the traffic analysis is the publication date of the Draft SEIR Notice of Preparation which was originally June 15, 2017 and was revised June 5, 2018. The data employed for this traffic analysis was collected within two years of the NOP date and is representative of current conditions by Placer County. The traffic counts also include traffic associated with Fawn Ridge Winery. Please see Response to Comment I371-18. Please also see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation and Parking.

Response to Comment I371-16

The commenter requests the dates that traffic data was obtained.

The Bell Road and Cramer Road traffic counts were conducted on Saturday June 10, 2017 and Tuesday October 3, 2017.

Response to Comment I371-17

This comment refers to Appendix D, the Traffic Analysis, of the Draft SEIR but does not ask a question or make a statement related to the adequacy of the Draft SEIR. Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

Response to Comment I371-18

The commenter states that she could not locate Figure 9.

Figure 9 is found on page 39 of the traffic impact analysis included in Appendix D of the Draft SEIR.

The commenter states that cumulative traffic information was not produced in the Draft SEIR.

The cumulative traffic impact analysis located in Sections 8.6.6 and 8.6.7 in Section 8.0, “Transportation and Circulation,” of the Draft SEIR addresses the effects of 30 new wineries operating in Placer County in the future as presented in the Winery and Farm Brewery Zoning Text Amendment Project EIR. While Placer County planning staff is unaware of proposals for three more tasting rooms on Cramer Road, the cumulative traffic analysis assumes that an additional six medium and two large wineries could be operating in the Northwest Auburn area.

Response to Comment I371-19

The commenter states that more people driving in the area of Cramer and Bell will be under the influence of alcohol because of the proximity to the local wineries.

This comment is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration. No further response is required.

Response to Comment I371-20

The commenter states that the Draft SEIR did not take into account cumulative traffic from existing and potential future wineries in the area.

Please see Response to Comment I371-15 and I371-18.

Response to Comment I371-21

The commenter questions the cumulative plus project traffic operations analysis.

With the exception of cumulative conditions at the SR 49 / Lone Star Road and SR 49 / Cramer Road intersections, the project does not result in any other roadways and intersections operating at a level of service exceeding the General Plan standard based on Placer County’s adopted methods and criteria. Please also see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

Response to Comment I371-22

The commenter states that she is surprised that the traffic operations at the SR49/Cramer Road intersection would not degrade from LOS D to LOS F.

This comment is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration. No further response is required.

Please also see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking for additional information regarding LOS.

Response to Comment I371-23

The commenter asks about funding for maintenance and repair for Highway 49

The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that “An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required.

Additional information regarding improvements to Highway 49 are provided in Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

Response to Comment I371-24

The commenter opposes the project, and again notes the costs for parks personnel and maintenance.

The opposition is noted. The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that “An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required. Also, please see Response to Comment I371-23.

2.7.372 LETTER I372

Letter I372

To :Community Development Resource Agency, Placer County Board of Supervisors< Placer County Planning Commission

From: Delana Ruud 10800 Cramer Rd, Auburn, CA 95602

Regarding: Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion SDEIR

17.0 Alternatives

17.2.1 Ability of the Alternative to Attain Most Project Objectives

Pg. 17-2

I372-1

Provide expanded opportunitieswithout overburdening natural resources, local roadways or adjacent communities. Please see my comments re: Pg. 3-11 of Section 3 Project Description

Expand the existing multi-use....while maintaining safety for park users, visitors & nearby residents. No where in the SDEIR did I see any explicit discussion or proposal how of safety for park users, visitors or nearby residents would be addressed. The road safety issue is critical both for local home/property owners or others who might travel on Bell, Cramer or Lone Star Rds. LOS or VMT descriptors do not address the concerns of being wiped out or run off the road on a blind curve; signage is a joke. If it is deemed so valuable, why was it not installed years ago? The grave concern of wildfire in an area that is designated a High Risk wildfire zone by Cal Fire is barely touched: Cal Fire will respond in ten minutes...is extremely doubtful given the location of the Fire Stations and the distance to be traveled on narrow substandard roads to the perimeter of the "park". In addition, many in the Lone Star and North Auburn area have lost their fire insurance due to the risk recognized by insurance companies of a fire-start by the hoards using the proposed trails, as well as escaped camp fires from illegal campers, the errant disposal of cigarette butts and joints, and even arson. A complete lack of recognition of the possibility of wildfire on Red Flag days as designated by the National Weather Service ever since HFRP opened does not give one much confidence that Park Administration has the necessary skills to manage an extensive trail system in a Cal Fire designated high fire zone.

I372-2

Create new areas for parking that will function smoothly from the outset... Park Administration says everything is just fine. The had best talk to the homeowners at Mears. What is still happening is a travesty...PLEASE DO NOT DO THAT TO US. PLEASE DO NOT TRASH 2 more neighborhoods so you can have the bragging rights that you put in 30 miles of trails. There are already over 900 miles of trails in Placer County. Save the money and tell people where they are.

*Expand on opportunities for natural, cultural, agricultural and historic resource*Nothing has happened. Where are you going to get the money for staff, programs, educational materials, etc. You can't even manage what you are currently attempting to do. Deferred maintenance is staggering, you don't have enough staff and yet you are proposing more. This is a "want" list . What part of Recession or Depression do you not understand? What happened to your Budget in 2008-09. You have never caught up.

>>>>>>

I372-2
Cont'd

As near as I can determine from this whole SDEIR, the total analysis, while guided by CEQA is a joke. This report cost the taxpayers of Placer County thousands of dollars and came in 19 months late from what was promised by the Park Dept. Much is left out or glossed over. The writers do not appear to have even visited HFRP, the trail expansion area, or driven Bell, Cramer or Lone Star Rds, or Hwy 49. Environmental issues rarely are mitigated because the finders/writers state they do not exist or are not a problem.

In short, this Expansion will create a myriad of problems that the Park Department, Placer Land Trust and the County of Placer can not begin to imagine, nor do they seem to care. They don't understand the distress they have created to the Mears parking lot home/property owners nor do they care. They have failed from the very beginning to involve contiguous or nearby home/property owners or ranchers in the planning process, inviting only the hikers-bikers and horse crowd. This is one reason why people have a lack of trust in government. This is not how to win friends. Maybe the County Administrators from the CEO, Board of Supervisors, Park Department and whomever else might be involved, just doesn't care that they have trashed one neighborhood and just may succeed in trashing two more. It appears all they are interested in, is putting in 30 miles of trails for BRAGGING RIGHTS...look what we did. But we have no money for staff, no money for maintenance, no money for all the deferred maintenance. Please look at your Budget from the last recession 2008-09.

The County and Placer Land Trust seem to not understand that they need to just cease with this whole trail expansion/parking lot project. That this is the last of the undeveloped- unpeopled Oak woodlands in Placer County and that those who own the land or lease the land to run cattle do so with a light touch, for the enhancement of the habitat for wildlife and to make a living, which adds to the economy of Placer County and feeds people, who are beef eaters. The OPEN SPACE IS NOT A ZOO. The wildlife need to be left alone in order to thrive. The cattle, which are vital to the maintenance and improvement of the grazing land AND are a most necessary element of wildfire control don't need hundreds if not thousands of gawking people, dogs – including some off-leash, bike riders and people on horseback that they do not know. You need to learn something about cow behavior, that they are very wary of strangers and bicycles and dogs and strange people on horseback.

For our sanity, for our safety, please just stop. Placer Land Trust monthly Docent led tours seem to be manageable. Keep the people on HFRP and manage it the best you can with what money you have. Do NOT put in a parking lot at Twilight Ride – another trash the neighborhood proposition. And do not put a parking lot (the area where Tri-Colored Blackbirds nest) in on the Harvego property. Besides, Auburn Valley Rd. and Curtola Rd. are PRIVATE roads. *What part of private do you not understand?*

When all is said and done and you have killed off the last of the open space Oak woodlands and when all of the thoughtful, caring public, who has spoken up has been beaten to a pulp, you can all crawl off in a corner and look at each other and arrive at the decision that Pogo told us years ago, "we have met the enemy and he is us". And only then maybe a few wonder, "why didn't I listen, really listen to all those concerned citizens and ranchers who have lived there for years and generations and had the courage to work the land, take care of the land and the wildlife and the Oak woodlands... but I didn't and now it is all gone".

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I372: DELANA RUUD

Response to Comment I372-1

This comment refers to road safety and wildfire concerns. Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation and Parking. Please also see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response.

Response to Comment I372-2

This comment discusses current parking trends at the Mears entrance.

This comment is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration.

This commenter is concerned with potential changes in lifestyle for the local neighbors.

Please see Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility.

The commenter asks where the money is going to come from to construct and operate the Trails Expansion Project.

The Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that “An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required.

The commenter claims that local residents have not been invited to participate in the process.

With both Notices of Preparation that were mailed out, the County went well above and beyond normal protocol for noticing and sent out notices to over 6,000 homeowners each time. There were two Scoping Meetings (in 2017 and 2018) which were both heavily attended by local residents, as evidenced by the Scoping Meeting attendance sheets and speaker sheets. Additionally, the County Parks Division staff offered to meet with any local residents who wished to discuss the project. Parks staff met on 3 separate occasions with local residents who had requested meetings. In February of 2019, the County invited members of the Protect Rural Placer group to participate in a site visit to the Santa Clara Open Space Authority’s Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve to learn how the East Bay area has successfully integrated public use of trails with on-going cattle operations. Additionally, the County met with the Protect Rural Placer group and Supervisor Gore on May 28, 2019 to address the groups’ questions and concerns. Lastly, the Notice of Availability for the Draft SEIR was again sent out to over 6,000 homeowners. Over 500 comments were received during the public comment period which included numerous comments from local residents and members of the Protect Rural Placer group.

The commenter states that cattle grazing operations and multi-use trails for the public are incompatible.

Please see Master Response 5 – Agriculture.

The commenter again states a variety of reasons why she is opposed to the proposed project, including perceived impacts to safety and wildlife, as well as costs and use of Auburn Valley and Curtola Ranch Roads.

For road safety and use of Auburn Valley and Curtola Ranch Roads, please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation and Parking, and for personal safety, please refer to Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility. With regards to wildlife concerns, please refer to the mitigation measures contained within Chapter 12, Biological Resources.

The commenter infers that the County is “killing off the last of the open space Oak woodlands”.

On the contrary, the purchases of the Trails Expansion properties by the Placer Land Trust, and the placement of those properties into Conservation Easements guarantees that the oak woodlands within the Trails Expansion properties will be protected in perpetuity.

2.7.373 LETTER I373

Letter I373

10800 Cramer Road
Auburn, CA 95602
April 18, 2020

Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion Project (PLN19-00187)

Dear Supervisors,

As you are aware, the Placer County Planning Commission has rescheduled the Public Meeting originally set for March 26, 2020 for review of the HFRP Trails Expansion Project. Now, because of restrictions emplaced due to our Covid-19 issues, I have learned that the review process is planned as an online meeting, and is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on May 14, 2020.

I am opposed to this online/call-in format and request that the meeting be delayed indefinitely or until it can reasonably be held in normal fashion with interested residents physically present.

As a member of "Protect Rural Placer," and as a member of a farm family in residence since July 1940 in the impact area, I am fully aware of the many effects this Trails Expansion Project will have on the ranching community within the zone of influence. This project as proposed will forever change a historic and valuable agricultural region of Placer County. This is a serious matter.

I373-1

An online meeting is unjust. The County of Placer long delayed the release of its DSEIR. In fact, the delay amounts to 19 months. There is no urgency. Area residents should have a voice.

- Many interested parties do not possess the hardware or the technical skills necessary to engage in an online format.
- Rural areas are not at all well served by the Internet because there is no distribution other than by prohibitively expensive satellite systems, or in some cases by telephone landlines or by WiFi.
- The format offered, online and call-in, as means to comment or ask questions for the record is formidable and entirely unsatisfactory for a project that, if developed as projected, will forever change rural and agrarian livelihoods and lifestyles. Were that change to occur, there is no means to ever go back and correct misjudgment.

In fairness to the community most impacted, please understand and please suspend this planned online format until circumstances permit public meetings to return. Sometimes doing the right thing is the hardest thing. The criticality of this issue demands change from an online/call-in format.

Sincerely,

Bart Ruud

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I373: BART RUUD

Response to Comment I373-1

The commenter has concerns about the public review process.

Please see Master Response 1 – Public Comment Process.

2.7.374 LETTER I374

Letter I374

To: Community Development Resource Agency, Placer County Board of Supervisors, Placer County Planning Commission

From: Delana Ruud 10800 Cramer Rd, Auburn, CA 95602

Regarding: Comments for Hidden Falls Regional Park

4.0 Land Use and Agricultural Resources

Pg. 4-1/2

I374-1

4.1.1 : HFRP has failed to follow its own findings: *"the park would continue to be used for livestock grazing"*. The fact is that once the Spears pulled cattle off the property, there has been no livestock grazing, which is very unfortunate, as 1200 acres of grazing land have been removed from providing fodder for cattle and thus contributing to the incomes of ranchers who might lease the acreage, contribute to the economy of Placer County and provide food for beef eaters. In addition, grazing would reduce the fuel load in event of wildfire. Evidently the Park Dept. does not understand that agriculture plays a viable role in the economy of Placer County, thus the finding that there was **less than a significant impact** whether there would be a conversion of important farmland to a nonagricultural use is simply wrong.

I374-2

4.2.1 The big issue will be how compatible going from docent led hikes to being open 365 days a year, particularly for adjacent private land owners. Trespassers and confrontations already happen on a regular basis. In addition, we fully expect more trash, theft, illegal camping, as that is already happening and an increased risk of wild fires. I also wonder how grazing will happen on the Twilight Ride 40 acres, where the parking lot and amenities are supposed to be placed. Saying that attention will be paid to calving season is one thing. Human nature is that people will want to pet baby calves or even harass the cattle. What will happen if dogs off-leash (already happens) chases and possibly injures or kills a calf or cow? What will happen if a Mama cow tries to protect her baby and injures or kills someone? These are very real issues that need to be addressed.

Much has been observed since Hidden Falls Park opened: dogs are off-leash, cigarette butts found in tall dry grass, loud music blares from the parking lot, BBQs being dragged from the parking lot back to "picnic" amongst the dry grass. Talk to the residents adjacent to the Mears parking lot. They will give you an earful & have just about given up getting any help from the County. There is currently not enough staff to "police" the 1200 acres, let alone the whole stretch of interconnecting trails and properties all the way to the Bear River. Where is the money to come from for additional staff? With the economy tanking and the Placer County budget and the Park Dept. budget certain to be drastically cut, there will not be enough staff to adequately cover the whole park and trail system.

Pg. 4-10

I374-3

Policy 5.A.2 (g) *The County shall strive to achieve 1 mile of recreational trail per 1,000 residents.* ...there are already over 900 miles of trails in Placer County. So, we the taxpayers now need to fund and maintain 30 more miles at an outrageous cost. It is one thing to build trails & parks, but where is the money to come from for future maintenance? The can just gets kicked further down the road. Meanwhile, the County has already destroyed the quiet lifestyle of one neighborhood, yet chooses to destroy the lives of several more. What action can those people take to maintain their homes, private property and lifestyle from the invading hoards 365 days a year dawn to dusk? What is their "reward"? Why were they excluded from the seemingly years of

I374-3
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↑ planning? Some ranching families have lived peacefully in the area for generations. We are not a zoo. This is NOT an urban area. We have been treated like dirt and ignored by the County, yet the hikers, bikers & horse people have been included with the planning process for years. Where is the decency and respect? This is not how to win friends.

Pg. 4-11

I374-4

GOAL 7.A, Policy 7.A.1. *The County shall protect agriculturally-designated areas from conversion to non-agricultural uses.* So, putting in parking lots for 100 cars, 40 truck-trailer rigs, restrooms, picnic tables, bike rental, concession stands on grazing land is not conversion to non- agricultural use? Both the Placer County Farm Bureau and the Tahoe Cattlemen’s Association have come out against the trail expansion and parking lots because they rightfully believe they will diminish existing agricultural endeavors and the sustainability of Placer County agriculture. In addition to never involving the area ranchers or home/property owners, the Farm Bureau and the Tahoe Cattlemen’s Association have never been approached by the County...not a smart move. ...no couth-no PR smarts on the part of the County.

GOAL 7.B: *To minimize existing and future conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural uses in agriculturally-designated areas...*Extending the trail system all the way to the Bear River and going from Docent guided hikes to being open 365 days a year dawn to dusk absolutely does not minimize existing and future conflicts. Neighbors who run cattle on Big Hill on private property report constant run-ins with trespassers, especially on bikes. The trails on Land Trust properties are not even supposed to be in use except for guided Docent tours. With spotty cell-phone reception, how are they supposed to get a Deputy Sherriff to get there NOW and cite the trespasser?

Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program

I374-5

Key objectives include:

No. 7: *Ensure public safety*Having hundreds on the extended trail system all the way from Hidden Falls Park to the Bear River in a Cal Fire designated **High Fire Zone** absolutely does not insure public safety to the users or contiguous or nearby property owners/homeowners. My bet is that those who use HFRP do not even know they are in a High Fire Zone and furthermore have no idea what it means. Do not kid yourselves: wildfire is a very real concern to **ALL** who live in the North Auburn area. More people gallivanting on their own & not on a docent guided hike absolutely increases the risk of wildfire. Cal Fire states that 95% of wildfires are man caused. All it will take is an errant cigarette butt, joint, arson, or an escaped campfire – yes, there will be illegal camping & there already has been, and are all very real possibilities. Lets say there is a North or South West wind and a fire starts. How are the hundreds of walkers, bike or horse riders to be notified to get out? Cell phone contact in this area is spotty. Fire season in this area is usually mid-May to when the first heavy rains come in late October to mid-November. But with climate change upon us, we could be looking at a year round fire season. So, with those on the trails trying to get out, homeowners trying to get out, livestock owners trying to rescue their animals and First Responders trying to get in ... all on the same narrow, windy, undulating, curvy Bell, Cramer & Lone Star roads, there will be sheer pandemonium. **DO NOT KID YOURSELVES, IT COULD HAPPEN!** Remember that the Paradise/Camp Fire happened on November 8, 2018 and **KILLED** 85 people, including 7 who **burned to death** in their cars trying to escape. The 49 Fire, which happened August 30, 2009 burned 340 acres, 60 homes, 3 businesses and more on the east side of Hwy 49 across from the Auburn Greens, had Bell Rd. tied up in knots – totally impassible. The people of Paradise didn’t think their community would ever burn to the ground, but in truth, were much better prepared for a calamity than the North Auburn area is. Even scarier is that there is no evacuation plan for North Auburn.

I374-5
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Totally ignored ever since HFRP opened, have been the yearly Red Flag days (high temperatures, extremely low humidity and high wind) that included HFRP and the acreage North to the Bear River. A Red Flag designation by the National Weather Service means extreme fire danger. That is what caused PG & E to shut off electricity in the Lone Star area this last Fall for a total of almost 7 days. Many people were totally unprepared for such an event. Others planned ahead and installed generators. People living in this area should have learned something from the Wine Country Fires, which started October 8, 2017, also designated as Red Flag days in this area. Also think super dry hillsides, as there had been NO rain. I listened to the KCRA Channel 3 weather news at 8 am on that Saturday, October 7th & learned that winds 50 to 60 mph would be coming across the Sacramento Valley and hit the Foothills 30 to 40 mph. I went out in my front yard about 11 am was astounded at the ferocity of the wind, even though my house is in a swale. Tree branches were snapping and leaves were flying. My weather station indicated the wind was a steady 25 to 30 mph, which lasted steadily until Monday morning. The hot-dry wind came out of the SW. I remember thinking, "what if a fire starts at Hidden Falls Park", which is only a couple of miles to the SW of our ranch. Thank goodness, nothing happened in this area, but 250,000 acres and thousands of homes burned in the Santa Rosa-Napa-Sonoma area. That could easily have happened here in the North Auburn/Lone Star area and we would have been hard pressed to save ourselves. We have already been warned by PG & E there may be similar electricity shut-off events this summer and into the fall because of anticipated weather events.

And then there is the matter of many homeowners in the North Auburn area losing their fire insurance. The insurance companies are not dummies. They understand that Hidden Falls Park and the trails stretching all the way to the Bear River through a Cal Fire designated High Fire zone puts homes and barns, etc. at a higher wildfire risk. They are not about to take the chance of losing their profits, so they refuse to insure or are cancelling fire insurance.

Pg. 4-12

I374-6

Impact 4-1

Fails to provide evidence how the project would ensure compatibility with land use in the project area. The SDEIR does not give any evidence how cattle grazing will exist with the non-docent led hoards of hikers, bikers or horse riders on the various Land Trust lands or even private properties.

Fails to address the potential of losing grazing leases, which contribute significantly to individual ranchers ability to make a living and contribute to the Placer County agricultural economy, and reduces fuels in the event of wild fire.

Pg. 4-13

I374-7

2019 HFRP Trails Expansion Project Impact Analysis

Impact 4-1/2 Fails to include how various elements would be compatible with land use in the area. The SDEIR does not give any evidence how cattle grazing will be managed/integrated going from current monthly Docent led hikes to having hundreds of hikers, bikers, horse riders on the expansion trails 365 days/year dawn to dusk. No management plans are discussed or included, even though the Placer County Public Recreation Ordinance states that adaptations would take place to ensure regulation of public activities that have the potential to impact agricultural operations on expansion properties. Perhaps the County should have been working with those grazing cattle in the expansion area and those property owners with land contiguous to or very near the proposed parking lots and trail easements all along, instead of bending over backwards to the wants of the hikers, bikers & horse riders. It seems illogical that the entity (ranchers grazing cattle that reduce the fuel load) that will contribute the most to public safety in case of wild fire in the whole expansion area AND

I374-7
Cont'd

subsequently the greater North Auburn, have been all but excluded from the wants of the hoards of hikers, bikers and horse riders, when said hikers, bikers, horse riders are the exact group that will exponentially increase the probability of wild fire. And in the process, the creation of HFRP in the urban-interface, plus the trail expansion and additional parking lots ALL contribute drastically to the hundreds of homeowners who have lost and will continue to lose their fire insurance, some 2 and 3 times . Further, it is nonsensical to state , “ we are proud that no hikers or riders have ever caused a fire on the current HFRP”. That is just plain luck, when residents on Mears Court have watched BBQs being dragged from the parking lot back into the dry hinterlands, and hiker/walker friends have found cigarette butts in the tall dry grass. In addition, no effort has been made to seriously educate the park users of the critical fire danger during the dry season or that the area is a High Risk Fire zone. Mix in the fire danger with the substandard Bell, Cramer & Lone Star Rds. is inviting big trouble. Just ask the people of Paradise or the Wine Country fires, or any other major CA fire where people had to evacuate, including trying to move livestock. This expansion Plan is totally irresponsible.

Perhaps the best management plan would be that since some current users have demonstrated that they cannot follow the rules at HFRP, that since the County does not have the money for even basic maintenance at HFRP or to pay for additional staff or pay for deferred maintenance, that IF the trail expansion is to go forward, that it only be done on the condition that only Docent led activities be the rule, whether it is hikers, bikers or horse riders; and further that such activities NOT be allowed 365 days a year dawn to dusk, but cut by at least 2/3rds and the Twilight Ride and Harvego parking lots not be put in. In case you haven't seen the news, this country is well on its way to a long term severe recession, and that includes CA and Placer County. If you thought the economy and the cuts made to the Placer County budget were bad with the 2008-9 recession, just wait.

Much has been said that the County has worked to alleviate problems caused by the hoards that descend on the Mears parking lot/trail head but evidently County Park staff have not consulted with the homeowners of late. The problems never end. The fact is the County put an amusement zone in the middle of a quiet rural area and some shameful users seem to think that because they are out of sight from law enforcement, they can just about do anything they want, leaving the residents all but powerless to reduce the duress that has descended on their lives.

So, now the County wants to duplicate the problems in two more quiet rural neighborhoods, but have also failed to include any of the stakeholders (contiguous or nearby property owners and those who graze cattle in the area of the trail expansion) in any of the planning . Further, the County seems to think they have the right to use two private roads to access the parking lot they anticipate putting on a Placer Land Trust property – that by the way is a Tri-Colored Black Bird nesting area. And further, I believe broke CEQA law in the purchase of the Twilight Ride property and on top of that, LIED to property owners in the area, that the Twilight Ride property sale would not go through until the EIR process was complete. Fact: the property purchase was completed the day after the Draft EIR was released. It is no wonder why there is a lack of public trust at all levels of government . The people deserve better.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I374: DELANA RUUD

Response to Comment I374-1

The commenter expresses concerns regarding Agriculture.

Please see Master Response 5 – Agriculture. Additionally, although the grazing lease with the Spears expired in December 2013, cattle from various adjacent ranches have continued migrate into HFRP to this day. Since April 2015, the County has contracted with local grazers for annual goat/sheep grazing of the property to maintain the shaded fuel breaks and areas of high human contact (like the entrance parking area).

Response to Comment I374-2

The commenter expresses concern regarding land use compatibility.

Please see Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility.

Response to Comment I374-3

The commenter asks about costs associated with maintenance and expresses concern regarding lifestyle.

The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that “An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). For concerns regarding lifestyle, please refer to Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility. No further response is required.

Response to Comment I374-4

The commenter expresses concerns regarding Agriculture.

Please see Master Response 5 – Agriculture.

The commenter discusses policing of the Trails Expansion area. Please refer to Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility.

Response to Comment I374-5

The commenter expresses concern regarding fire and evacuation, and loss of fire insurance.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response.

Response to Comment I374-6

The commenter expresses concern regarding land use compatibility and Agriculture.

Please see Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility, and Master Response 5 – Agriculture.

Response to Comment I374-7

The commenter expresses concern regarding land use compatibility.

Please see Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility.

The commenter discusses the risks of fire from visitors.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety and Emergency Response.

The commenter believes that only docent-led tours should be allowed and expresses opposition to the project.

The opposition is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.375 LETTER I375

Letter I375

Members of the Resource Development Agency, Environmental Coordination Service:

A public request has been made for input on what interested parties think about the HFRP Trails Expansion Project. What follows is an abbreviated summary of my thoughts relative to wildfire considerations.

I request that this correspondence be made a part of the public record of the DSEIR review.

The question must be asked, "Is it time to make land use decisions based on ethical criteria of right and wrong, rather than on expedience?" Further, "Is it time to not kick the can down the road to effectively let someone else deal with a poor decision in the future?"

The despoliation of a ranching community is not a legacy I would want my name associated with long into the future. How about you?

Harmony between the ranching community comprised of citizens who help to feed our nation and recreationists can best be achieved by instituting a policy of docent-led excursions on the Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion landscape. To willfully and intentionally fail the agricultural community in the Big Hill area is effectively the poorest kind of planning. Respect for those most impacted by this Trails Expansion project is the only ethically correct answer.

I1375-1

In reading through the DSEIR, with regard to Wildfire, the consultant and I face a bifurcation of CORE VALUES. On one side we have insufficient study and denial. On the other side we have honest assessment and common sense. Which should prevail, or should there be compromise? Compromise is the best path forward.

One side, in the view presented by the consultant who prepared the DSEIR, we have a simplification of reality such that almost every contestable point concludes with a supposition that there is "less than significant" impact. On the other side, we have opposing views, like my views, based on fiscal responsibility, common sense and local knowledge. Factors of fiscal responsibility, common sense and local knowledge have not been observed within the report.

It is an interesting outcome that a consulting firm, AECOM, repeatedly concludes with "less than significant" views time and again. Why? This is a suspicious consequence.

The plan for this Trails Expansion project has been moved quietly ahead for years, and that movement has been done in collusion with the Placer Land Trust, and perhaps even with the Placer Legacy program in Placer County.

↑ Behind a smokescreen of little public notice, decisions were made right under the noses, but hidden from sight, of the stakeholders most affected, the residents of the ranching community in the Lone Star, Cramer and Bell Road neighborhoods. A movement toward installation of a parking lot to complement the parking at the HFRP Mears Drive entrance was discovered almost accidentally on or about May 20, 2018. Without a Facebook discovery that the County was moving to purchase two contingent parcels at 5345 Bell Road, a site where it could install a parking lot and an additional point of entry into acreage held under the stewardship of the Placer Land Trust, the neighborhood might never have known of the plan. No adjacent property owner was notified by the County of the stealth purchase. That 50-acre property is known as the Twilight Ride property.

From that day to the present, beginning with the formation of the *Protect Rural Placer* grass roots advocacy group, there has been an effort to work with the County to develop a plan that would at once be supportive of agriculture and open space, and concurrently be supportive of passive recreation, meaning hiking, not cycling and not equestrian usage. Those PRP local stakeholders have asked many questions, attended dozens if not hundreds of meetings, and in general have been stonewalled by a County staff determined to create a legacy destination of staggering cost.

I1375-1
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Land-use planning must address wildland fire risk to a greater degree than is found in the DSEIR. With climate change, the challenges of wildfire safety in the wildland-urban interface should not be glossed over. The AECOM report is found vastly incomplete. A commonsense conclusion is twofold: First, opening an area of 2,765 acres to greater numbers of unsupervised visitors correlates to immensely increased risk for fire; approximately 95% of wildfires are human caused. Secondly, the cost of mitigation factors and mitigation maintenance is not addressed at all. Millions of dollars of taxpayer supported cost bears no discussion within the report.

The primary stakeholders in harm's way, because of risk and financial costs, are the county taxpayers and the families of the ranching community impacted by the Trails Expansion project. Extrapolations related to emergency response to greater needs within the Trails Extension area include a public compromised by diversion of emergency services within the zone normally served by first responders from Placer County Fire Station # 180.

↓ The [Sierra Nevada](#) foothills, and much of the [Central Valley](#) have a [Mediterranean climate](#), with warmer, drier weather in summer and cooler, wetter weather in winter. The foothills are categorically an at-risk region because of weather conditions and the fuel component. Related to this climatic regime is the reality that a great variety of native and non-native plant species grow within the area and that these vegetative species contribute to the fire behavior, in part due to their oily, volatile nature. Some species die off completely during the dry season; a few drop many leaves, some produce smaller leaves or reduce moisture content within their leaves. These adaptations increase the potential to burn should fire be introduced into the environmental landscape.

↑ While the list below is far from complete, the species known to grow in the HFRP Trails Expansion area include at least the following, and all contribute to radical fire behavior when fire is introduced:

Gray pine, *Pinus sabiniana*
Poison Oak, *Toxicodendron diversilobum*
Yellow Star Thistle, *Centaurea solstitialis*
Fiddleneck, *Amsinckia menziesii*
Interior Live Oak, *Quercus wislizeni*
Blue Oak, *Quercus douglasii*
California Buckeye, *Aesculus californica*
Chaparral species including Whiteleaf Manzanita and Buckbrush
Himalayan Berry, *Rubus armeniacus*

CAL FIRE notes that areas within the Trails Expansion area are classified as Moderate, High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The species component occurring within the area contributes to this finding, but there is no mention of how vegetation types affect fire behavior. The so-called fire triangle - Fuel, Weather, Topography - is not adequately described and results in an incomplete explanation regarding fire severity ratings.

I1375-1
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Fire history within the local region, in similar fuel types and with similar topographic features, is not addressed by AECOM. Three significant fires that exemplify potential are noted:

The August 30, 2009 49 Fire - 340 acres, 60 homes, 3 businesses, and more. A SW wind pushed that fire NE.

The Sept. 1, 2008 Gladding Fire - 960 acres and burned 4 residences and damaged a whole bunch more structures as it burned SE from the point of origin.

The 1992 Fawn Hill Fire - 250 acres and burned 11 homes.

It is abundantly clear that the best strategy to reduce risk and fiscal cost is a policy that reduces human usage of a very fire-prone area. It is not a matter of "if" fire will occur; it is a matter of "when" fire will occur. When that fire ignites during conditions, such as "Red Flag," fire will overrun all mitigation actions. Land-use planning is essentially a local or county jurisdictional matter. Therefore, land-use planners who ignore the risk and create liabilities are accountable and must be held responsible for problems they create. A strategy of prudence would dictate that abolition of any planning that exacerbates risk must be a high priority. What is seen in the DSEIR is avoidance of reality. No amount of fire apparatus, equipment or personnel reduces the risk of catastrophic fire. People are the primary risk, though down-strikes from passing thunderstorms might also constitute some degree of risk. The Trails Expansion policy presented does not protect the health, welfare and the safety of area stakeholders. The project is a reprehensible act of poor planning.

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- I1375-1
Cont'd
- Judgments made based on past fire history that there is low risk of fire potential in the present is unwise. We live in a time of climate change, greater numbers of people, including recreationists, and impacts of many more residents living within the wildland-urban interface.
- Risk perceptions of the writers of the DSEIR and the local residents differ greatly. Locals know the area for the limitations of its roads and access, know its fire history, have direct fire experience, and understand that people represent the greatest risk for future catastrophic loss, including loss of life. To proceed with the plan for Trails Expansion from HFRP is a disaster in the making. Very simply said, AECOM did not conduct a thorough analysis of the landscape's susceptibility to wildfire. To ruthlessly find "less than significant" impact regarding wildland fire is deceitful.
- I1375-2
- The AECOM findings are not the result of a collaborative effort that could have involved interviews with members of an agricultural community who are especially knowledgeable about the Trails Expansion area. There was virtually no triangulation between or among the consultants, the County Parks Department personnel and the most important stakeholders, the residents who would be most impacted. Why? It appears one entity spoke and paid for a desired outcome; one entity cowed to that direction; one entity was altogether ignored.
- I1375-3
- Homes adjacent to the Trails Expansion area are built within the fire-prone wildland-urban interface. These homes, many not fire-hardened, and activity on those residential properties, create untold risk of fire burning into the Park from outside the boundaries. Thus, the risk for catastrophic fires is as great outside the expansion area as it could be within the Park itself. This fact is not addressed by AECOM in the DSEIR.
- Community wildfire preparedness, through establishment of firewise programs leading to fire hardening and creation of defensible space around homes and barns or other out-buildings, is a partial but incomplete solution to prevention of accidental fire starts outside the Park boundary. The advent of fire into the Park has the potential to burn into heavy fuels, fine flashy fuels, and topography that could create a fire storm of such intensity that containment and control might be impossible until burning conditions were less conducive to the spread of fire, e.g., decrease in wind, increase in relative humidity with commensurate increase in fine fuel moisture content, a change in fuel type and loading, or until uncontrolled fire burned into topography with reduced slopes and few to no gorges or canyons. Fire behavior is driven by the components of the fire triangle.
- I1375-4
- Placer County has more than 900 miles of trails suitable for passive and active recreational opportunities. Reportedly, the County has neither the workforce, nor the financial capability to improve or maintain this present network of trails. Why would it embark on a project that only pushes it further into deficit spending and risk?

On a scale of negative outcomes vs. positive outcomes regarding Trails Expansion from HFRP, it is critical that Planning Commission members, County Parks Commissioners and County Supervisors from all five Districts understand they sit as a clearinghouse. If the AECOM DSEIR was taken at face value, agreement could be realized. However, with constructive critical thinking and consideration, combined with common sense, those accountable for fiscal responsibility and fairness to all parties should understand wildfire and loss potentials from catastrophic fire justifiably negates any plan but to recognize that passive recreation in the form of docent-led passive recreational tours is the best path forward. The record of success with this type of landscape usage cannot be contested. A compromise between core values falls within that conclusion.

Supportive comments and questions follow:

1. CAL FIRE has repeatedly shared that up to 95% of all fires are human or human technology caused.
2. The combined effect of all stated and unstated mitigations regarding wildland fire does not reduce the risk associated with human usage. People are the greatest risk factor regarding fire starts. Incremental increase in usage of the Park translates to increased risk of accidental or arson fires.
3. Mitigations include construction of access roads and fuel breaks within the Trails Expansion area. How is the installation of access roads or fuel breaks on private property, e.g., Liberty Ranch, authorized, and how is maintenance of these roadways and fuel breaks to be financed? (Reportedly, the County cannot, in the present, finance removal of dead trees or maintain fuel breaks already in place in areas of its responsibility.)
4. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) states values at risk include people, property, ecological elements, and other human and intrinsic values within the project area. They are identified by inhabitants as important to the way of life in the study area and are particularly susceptible to damage from wildfire.
5. Usage limitations based on the number of parking spaces provided will not prove an effective control of Park usage.
6. Medical calls to HFRP and to the proposed Trails Extension area reduces availability for emergency responders to meet needs for medical and fire services beyond the Park.
7. Local residents are more careful with fire than are visitors from out of the area who have limited or no understanding of fire ignition and control issues.

I1375-5

I1375-5
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8. Fire history in the general area of HFRP and the Trails Expansion area is proof that with the right weather, fuel and topographic conditions that fire will become catastrophic.
9. PG&E planned electrical power outages and increasing numbers of insurance company residential fire insurance cancellations demonstrate understanding of the criticality of how prone to fire the local area may be.
10. Inclusion of a Light Rescue Vehicle (LRV) as a mitigation is eyewash. The functionality and expense of this vehicle is poor justification for so-called mitigation of fire. Why is the cost of the LRV not address in any manner within the DSEIR? This cost is not addressed in any manner.
11. There is discussion within the DSEIR regarding opening of the long-vacant Lone Star Fire station, yet nothing is addressed in terms of cost. What is the cost of preparing the structure for occupancy by a fire crew? What is the operational cost per year of staff for this station? What is the annual cost of the full complement of equipment and maintenance of this equipment for this station? Who pays all these costs?
12. The Lone Star Station should be fully staffed and operational before any further recreational use of the Trails Expansion area is permitted.
13. When the necessity for evacuation occurs because of wildfire, chaos will prevail because the local roadways do not have the capacity to handle ingress and egress. Complete gridlock is to be anticipated. Lives could be lost.
14. Park planners and County administrators across the spectrum of influence in this Trails Expansion plan know the risks and something of the exorbitant the cost but deny the significance of the problem they will create because they are lost in the foolish dream of making Hidden Falls a destination of no equal. All involved must come to terms with the truth, that being, there is too much risk, too much liability and too much fiscal cost. The penchant to proclaim "less than significant" impact across the spectrum is blatant dishonesty.
15. The County has suggested 6,000 homes could be impacted by wildfire in HFRP zone of influence.

Cattlemen's Concerns

I1375-6

1. Ranchers and cattlemen in particular who live and conduct their agricultural activities in the area of the Trails Expansion have not been given any consideration throughout the planning process.
2. The reintroduction of cattle grazing to help with vegetation management to reduce wildfire burn intensity at HFRP could prove to be a costly proposition.
3. In the event of evacuation, ranchers may not be able to gain access to grazing sites when their ingress is against the flow of traffic as they attempt to move livestock from harm's way. Severe economic losses could result.
4. Risks for Park users are inherent: A mother cow protecting her calf could easily maim or kill a Park visitor. Who incurs the liability if (when) such an eventuality occurs?
5. If a decision was made to proceed with the Trails Expansion project, the County of Placer CEO, and all decision-makers, including but not limited to the County Parks Department, the Parks Commission, Planning Commissioners and members of the Board of Supervisors must all sign a legal statement assuming personal accountability for indemnifying the rancher, livestock owner and property owner of any liability should a trail user during operational or non-operational hours be harmed in any manner by said agricultural operations.
6. A mitigation measure proposed within the DSEIR states that cattle will be used to graze and reduce fuel loading in the Trails Expansion area. That being the case, fence lines for animal management must remain in place.
7. With very little supervision of HFRP visitors, who is to judge whether Park users on foot, on bicycles or even on a horse will not harass livestock? Should this harassment occur (when this harassment occurs) lactating cows will produce less milk, thus stymieing weight gain and marketability of weaner calves. Disruption of breeding cycles and harm to animals escaping harassment are additional unaddressed potentialities within the DSEIR. Who pays for these losses? Planners who are uninformed of animal husbandry matters cannot foresee these kinds of matters. That aside, planners who do not see these kinds of issues should be held personally accountable for losses incurred by agriculturalists.
8. The impact of safety risks and harassment potential on grazing cattle is a valid concern.

I1375-6
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9. There is no mention in the DSEIR of domestic livestock that constitute a living, a lifestyle, and an economic factor of great proportion – millions of dollars of annual productivity value in Placer County.
 10. Assuming cattle are “property”, who will pay for domestic livestock that might be lost when overtaken by fire? If cattle attempt to escape by stampeding across ground covered with burning fuels, there exists great risk for heat injury to the pedal bone and the deep flexor tendon in their feet. Those injured animals will not recover from “heat-damaged” hooves/feet and will have to be dispatched. Loss of a cow-calf pair is an expensive proposition. Who will pay for those losses? Who will be the accountable party?
 11. If hydrophobic soils resulting from a fire event are created and cease to support forage consumed by domestic livestock – cattle – who will pay for the lost forage?
 12. Lack of consideration for the value of agriculture, ranching and the products produced appears as a blatant oversight in the construct of the DSEIR.

I1375-7



Conclusions

1. The Trails Expansion Project should not advance without absolute provision on Day 1 of a fully staffed and operational Lone Star Fire Station.
2. The County of Placer and any other associated entity must provide written indemnification to all ranchers, livestock owners and landowners for any liability resulting from their agricultural operations.
3. Development of this Trails Expansion project is a fiscally irresponsible action.
4. As a matter of fairness, the only acceptable Trails Expansion project is one that is limited to docent-led tours. This is a workable, proven and fiscally responsible alternative.

Signed,

Bart Ruud
10800 Cramer Road
Auburn, CA 95602
May 16, 2020

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I375: BART RUUD

Response to Comment I375-1

The commenter relates concerns regarding Agriculture and Wildfire.

Please see Master Response 5 – Agriculture and Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response.

Response to Comment I375-2

The commenter states that local people from the Agricultural Community were not involved in the process.

Please see Response to Comments I204-2, I205-1 and I372-2. Response to Comment I375-3

The commenter discusses fire behavior.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response.

Response to Comment I375-4

The commenter asks about costs associated with maintenance.

The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that “An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required.

Response to Comment I375-5

The commenter discusses the risks of wildfire, states mitigation for wildfire does not reduce the risk of human use, asks how maintenance of access roads and fuel breaks and the Light Rescue vehicle will be paid for, states the Community Wildfire Protection Plan identifies values at risk that are important to the way of life in the study area, states that emergency response time will be reduced for the residential areas surrounding the proposed project, discusses the opening of the Lone Star fire station, and is concerned with evacuation in an emergency.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response. Regarding costs, please see the Response to Comment I375-4. While page 16-2, Section 16.2.2 of the Draft SEIR makes general mention of the fact that Placer County Fire Department/CAL FIRE is seeking resources to staff the currently-closed fire station at Lone Star Road and Highway 49, the Trails Expansion Project does not include providing resources to re-open Lone Star Station #184. Lastly, the commenter inaccurately states that the County has suggested 6,000 homes could be impacted by wildfire. No such statement has been made by the County.

Response to Comment I375-6

The commenter expresses concern that ranchers and cattlemen have not been given any consideration throughout the planning process.

Please see Master Response 5 – Agriculture. Please also see Response to Letter O15 and Response to Comments I204-2, I205-1 and I372-2.

The commenter states that anyone involved with approving the project must sign legal statements assuming personal accountability for damages to local residents and ranchers.

This comment is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration. No further response is required.

The commenter requests a mitigation measure be included requiring cattle grazing for fuel reduction within the Trails Expansion area, and states that fencing must remain in place.

This comment is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration. No further response is required.

The commenter states that planners who do not see that there are land use incompatibility issues with the proposed project should be held personally accountable for losses incurred by agriculturalists.

This comment is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration. No further response is required.

Response to Comment I375-7

Please see Responses to Comments I375-1 to I375-6.

2.7.376 LETTER I376

Letter I376

To: Community Development Resource Agency, Placer County Board of Supervisors, Placer County Planning Commission

From: Delana Ruud 10800 Cramer Rd, Auburn, CA 95602

Regarding: Comments for the Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion SDEIR

3.0 Project Description

Pg. 3-1

Para 2: *Additional access* is not explained. What & where is it? ...*associated uses* is not explained . What are the associated uses?

3.1 Project Location

Para 2 Fails to note that Big Hill Rd. is a private Road.

Pg. 3-4

3.2.1 Existing Regional Park

Para 1: Fails to note that the restrooms are porta potties, that there is no running water, no potable drinking water, no water for horses or dogs. Fails to note that the well went dry and nothing has been done to deepen it or drill a new well.

I376-1

Item under Para 3: *Installing a web-cam with a view.....*<https://www.placer.ca.gov/2623/Webcam> is the wrong address...it has been updated.

Pg. 3-5

Para 1: *Data from current use has been utilized in this SEIR to evaluate long-term management strategies, provide for sustainable parking solutions that limit impacts on adjoining neighborhoods, improve the current user experience, and define future opportunities.* How will the impacts be limited? What are the management strategies? What are the future opportunities? Please explain...

Pg. 3-6

Para 1: *The trail easements in the Harvego Preserve areas are "blanket" in nature....*Please explain/define "blanket". *This parcel connects to the other trail expansion areas via an existing easement.* What and where is the existing easement?

Taylor Ranch

Para 1 : *and is located at the end of Orr Creek Lane...* Please explain that Orr Creek Lane is a private road beyond the private Oest Cemetery and that there is NO access to HFRP or any trails via Orr Creek Lane.

I376-1
Cont'd

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Kotomyan Preserve

Para 1: *...and is located on New Hope School Road just north of the City of Auburn. I would hardly call 7 miles out Hwy 49, turn left on Cramer Rd & proceed west 1.8 miles; turn left on Bell Rd and proceed approximately 3/4th of a mile, turn right on Orr Creek Lane and proceed at least 7/8 of a mile SW ..."JUST" north of Auburn. It is apparent that the writers did not drive the area so they would have a better idea of the locations of the various properties cited in this document.*

Pg. 3-6

Liberty Ranch

Para 1: *with the easement leading to the Harvego Preserve. The easement comes to a private road (Big Hill Rd.) and does NOT have the right to cross the private road.*

Pg. 3-10

Twilight Ride Property

Para 1: *These negotiations may result in the eventual purchase of the property. Many believe the County illegally entered into a purchase agreement, as they failed to notify contiguous/nearby property owners that the County was to hear this possible purchase as an item on the Agenda of a regular Placer County Board of Supervisors meeting on May 22, 2018. Several property owners contested this fact at the meeting, but were steamrolled and the vote went forward. Then we were LIED to, as we were told that the completion of the sale would not go forward until after the EIR was completed. The sale was finalized the day after the Draft EIR came out on Feb. 20, 2020. No wonder people have little trust in Government.*

I376-2

Pg. 3-11

*Provide expanded opportunities for public passive recreation and educational access **without overburdening natural resources, local roadways or adjacent communities**. This is pure hogwash. The Draft EIR fails miserably to explain that the 3 roads (Bell, Cramer and Lone Star) that lead to the proposed parking lots (Twilight Ride & Harvego) are totally substandard to be able to manage the traffic that is expected with these parking sites open 365 days/year dawn to dusk. This is on top of the traffic expected to be generated with the growing Wineries-Tasting Rooms and Breweries, including one winery on Bell Rd. and one just off Cramer Rd, with 4 more on Cramer Rd.in various stages of development. LOS and VMT descriptors fail to tell the real story : that our concern is the **quality** of the roads & not how long one has to wait at an intersection. These are roads built in the early 1850s as wagon roads and hardly upgraded in the intervening years. Bell Rd is now mostly asphalt with a stripe down the middle; Lone Star is a combination of asphalt and chip seal with some stretches with a stripe down the middle; Cramer is ALL chip seal and is legally too narrow to have a stripe down the middle. All three roads are narrow, with virtually no shoulders and long stretches of ditches along both sides. They are curvy, have many BAD blind curves, are lumpy and demand strong driving skills. Of the three, Cramer Rd. is the worst. Every one of the 43 families, including me, who live on Cramer Rd. and the 3 private roads off Cramer, have horror stories of being run off the road on the blind curves.*

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I376-2
Cont'd

The DEIR notes 3 accidents on Cramer Rd. in the last 3 years, but those are only ones that were reported to the CHP. In addition, there is a fabulous curve on Bell Rd, that in the last year 5 cars and one motorcycle left the road and went through the fence. One car failed to even get around the curve, going straight ahead and landing on top of a great big rock & crashing into the very substantial PG & E power pole that broke and had to be replaced. Putting in 2 parking lots for 100 cars and 40 truck-trailer rigs, plus all sorts of amenities is anything but overburdening the homeowners/property owners, especially of the Auburn Valley Country Club or those property owners along and off Lone Star, Bell & Cramer Rds. The burden starts with traffic – stated to be 5-600 additional vehicles on a busy day on Cramer Rd. Would you want that on your street? I don't think so. This is a ranching area, not a zoo or amusement park. Go back to the Bay Area if you want that. More cars will destroy the tranquility that we the people, and livestock expect. In addition, we will get more people casing the neighborhood to come in & steal anything they can- and they will. It is already happening.

I376-3

Placer Land Trust also doesn't seem to understand that their first priority is to preserve open space/ag land including cattle grazing and not create a monster recreation area to be overrun by hundreds-thousands on all the trails 365 days a year dawn to dusk with the interlopers on their own. People have been able to live with the Docent led tours, although those are a pain, but being open 365 days a year dawn to dusk is too much for the neighborhood, the wildlife and the land itself. In addition, they absolutely must continue cattle grazing, as that is our second best means of defense from wild fire, as grazing cows will diminish the quantity of fine fuels. The first line of defense is keeping the number of hikers/bikers & horse riders very low, especially during fire season. With climate change and the erratic winters and rainfall, we could be looking at a year round fire season, so that is also something to be considered.

Further, going from monthly Docent led hikes, to having hoards of people, bike and horse riders on their own on the trails will add additional stress to the cows and their calves. Who is to say they will stay on the trails? Livestock are very wary of people they don't know and will take off running, which impacts the ability of cows to lactate and could send cows and calves through fences. If there is a loose dog, what a great opportunity to join the chase and maul or kill a calf or even a cow. I could tell you about an incident in the area of a Great Dane killing a full grown registered cow that cost the dog's owner \$15,000 and yes, the dog was also dispatched. And then there is the matter of the bike and horse riders. Range cows and calves and bikes and dogs either loose on a leash, and strangers on horseback they don't know, just don't mix. ***This is not a zoo.***

Then there is the matter of the wildlife. The whole stretch of acreage including HFRP, all the way to the Bear River is a critical wildlife corridor between the Sierras and the Valley. It is vital habitat for migratory fowl, including raptors and supports resident populations of endangered species, many of whom are unable to co-exist with dogs, bike and horse riders and people. Putting bridges over riparian corridors will do long term damage to the flora and fauna. Recreational pursuits puts added stress on wildlife and will displace them. Unfortunately they will have no place to go - they will simply perish. This is the last large undisturbed – unpeopled acreage in Placer County. **PLEASE DO NOT DESTROY IT, JUST SO YOU CAN HAVE BRAGGING RIGHTS** that you put in 30 more miles of trails. The wildlife were here first. We respect that – please let them live a normal life.

I376-4 | Pg. 3-11
3.4 2019 - Proposed Project Components

* *Constructing two additional bridges over Raccoon Creek and one major culvert.....* OK, so where is the money coming from? The County Park budget can't even take care of current trails and there is tons of deferred maintenance. We are going into a recession – possible depression, so the planners/budget people had best not over-reach. As a Placer County taxpayer, I and many others are not happy paying for amenities that are provided for out of county visitors, who pay NO Placer County taxes. HFRP and trails should only be used by those who pay Placer County property taxes.

Pg. 3-12

Adding parking and access area improvements... Where is the money coming from and how is long term maintenance to be paid for, when there is a long list of deferred maintenance already on the books? It seems to me, this is big-time over reach...you can't even take care of what you already have, but are putting in even more "wants" and just kicking the can down the road for being able to take care of it. By the way, Auburn Valley Rd and Curtola Rd are **private roads** that Placer County seems to think they can use. What part of **private do you not understand?**

I376-5 | *Allowed uses includinghunting and fishing, depredation hunting...* Hunting in HFRP has never been explained . So is it happening? If so, when, who is allowed to hunt, what game are they hunting? The Final HFRP EIR stated that hunting would be allowed when the public was not present....strange because the public is allowed 365 days/year dawn to dusk. Shooting hours are very strictly regulated by the CA Dept. of Fish and Game and seem to coincide with the hours that HFRP is open to the public...please explain.

Para 1: *Equestrian amenities (horse watering facilities) (with associated restrooms, wells, septic areas...)*
The availability of water via wells in the Lone Star area (as well as at HFRP where the well has gone dry and not replaced) is a very testy subject. Many home owners have had their wells go dry or barely draw enough to keep in a holding tank. So, now you are going to put in wells at two sites that will likely draw on already over stressed aquifers that nearby homeowners rely upon. You had best plan on NO wells – NO water available for horse watering, restrooms, people or dogs.

Pg. 3-15
3.4.1 Multi-Use Trails

Para. 1: *No motorized vehicles other than maintenance and emergency response vehicleswould be allowed in the trail expansion area.* OK, so what is happening/allowed in HFRP? I can hear the howling from my house. I paid wazoo bucks for my new electric-assist bicycle and I can't use it ...huh, what – that's not fair. Guess what, they have already been spotted at HFRP. So much for the paid staff doing their job.

I376-6

Pg. 3-16

Para. 2 : Please explain/define "blanket" trail easement rights.

Para. 3: *Additional trails and amenities planned, designed and completed in the future would be addressed in future tiered CEQA documents.....* please explain: what, when, location where and how they will be paid for and maintained and how they will not overburden natural resources, local roadways and nearby communities.

3.4.3 Bridges and Creek Crossings

Para. 3 *Bridge 5 is planned as a.....* Will it carry CalFire trucks?

Pg. 3-18

3.4.4 Parking and Access

I376-7

Para 1: *The extent of new and expanded parking areas ... is based on an evaluation of parking demand at HFRP.* Common sense would say to expand the current parking lot at HFRP or put in a second lot further back in, where you have 1200 acres to place more parking instead of ruining/trashing two more rural neighborhoods, overloading Bell, Cramer and Lone Star Rds, and putting drivers at extreme risk of being killed on one of the blind curves and causing untold duress to all the homeowners, property owners and ranchers in the two areas surrounding the two proposed parking lot sites (Harvego property and Twilight Ride). Have you thought about that? In addition to being less expensive, you wouldn't be upsetting the lives of untold families who have lived a quiet life for years. Somehow, no one has given any thought of the impact on all the people who have lived in the Lone Star area for years, some for generations, ranched for generations. **Don't they deserve something?** While the hikers, bikers and horse crowd with a list of "wants" were included in the planning for the expansion for years, **NONE OF THE CONTIGUOUS OR NEARBY HOME/PROPERTY OWNERS WERE EVER CONTACTED OR INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. NOR WAS THE PLACER COUNTY FARM BUREAU OR TAHOE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION EVER CONTACTED.** Both organizations oppose the additional parking lots and trail expansion. Not only is the lack of inclusiveness strange, it demonstrates a total lack of manners, public relations skills and sensitivity. But, this type of behavior seems to be typical of how Placer County has carried out land-use decisions for years: "we're right, you're not, we know what is best ...blah- blah- blah". I have been attending Placer County Board of Supervisor meetings since I was 12 years old and have witnessed some of the most incredulous decisions and indecent, shameful public attacks on citizens by members of the Board, that not only would curl your hair, but one incident had members of the public present encourage the person attacked to file a lawsuit for defamation. She should have, but didn't. That woman was intelligent-really smart, was a refined person, who was way ahead of her time, a superb public speaker, who as a Stanford Economics graduate and the wife of a local rancher, who understood land use policy and economics probably better than all the members of the Board put together. If she were alive today, I am certain she would totally agree with the message Protect Rural Placer is trying to get across to the decision makers. Someday, when the thoughtful, caring public is beaten to a pulp and those in power have paved over and carved up all of the open space that is left in Placer County, those in power will retreat to the corner of the room and look at each other and arrive at the decision that Pogo put forth years ago, "we have met the enemy and he is us". Some may wonder,

I376-7
Cont'd

↑ “why didn’t I have the courage to listen, really listen to those concerned citizens and ranchers and other agriculturists, who have lived in those rural areas, some for years and generations and had the courage to work the land, take care of the land and the wildlife and the Oak woodlands....but I didn’t and now it is all gone “. We might as well be living in downtown Sacramento or LA . But, we don’t, we live in the Lone Star district.

Little can be said of the “professionals” in the Placer County Planning Dept. and the Park Dept. They seemingly have a lack of experience or recognize that they are the primary role players in the implementation and coordination of planning for public safety for all the stakeholders . They seem to not recognize that is their first and last responsibility. They seem to not care if people on their way to the parking lots or trails are slaughtered on Hwy 49 between Dry Creek Rd. and Lone Star Rd (4 fatal accidents from Nov. 2019 to Feb. 2020 – far above the state norm.) ; or are smashed into or run off the road into a ditch on a blind curve on Bell, Cramer or Lone Star Rds. In addition HFRP is located in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and further about 2/3 of the 1200 acres is designated a High Risk wildfire zone by Cal Fire. The further north one goes to the Bear River, the worse the risk gets. Please, look at the Cal Fire map. Why would you put a park and hiking trails in a high risk fire zone, especially as we accelerate into climate change and could well be facing wildfire danger year round? In addition, why would you put a trail system further to the north – all the way to the Bear River, where the wild fire risk becomes graver along the way? How many of the people who use HFRP understand that they are in a Cal Fire designated high risk wildfire zone? What has the Park Dept. done to inform the seemingly clueless public that they are in a high risk wildfire zone? All the users seem to know is that the annual grasses dry out sometime in May and the hills turn brown and won’t green up until the rains come, maybe in October or November. Oh, and that there are some “No Smoking “ signs. Sure, if you are a smoker or a tweaker, who cares...no one is going to arrest you if you light up. In addition, has anyone done any planning how to notify and evacuate the hundreds, if not thousands strung out on all the trails in case a fire starts somewhere in HFRP and all the way to the Bear River, and how will they along with all the people who live in the area be able to safely evacuate? As far as I know, there is NO evacuation plan for those using HFRP or the expansion trails or for the residents who live in the Mears parking lot area or along Bell, Cramer and Lone Star Rds.

We are now in an era that common sense and the budget killing cost of controlling wildfires in California demands that the government agencies responsible for wildfire control have to think in terms of prevention, not just control or suppression. Cal Fire has stated that their objective is to reach any local wildfire in the HFRP and expansion area in 10 minutes. I do not believe this is feasible, given station locations in the area and the narrow substandard roads to be negotiated just to reach the perimeter of the park area. That is why I and others have asked should this expansion go forward, that the vacant Fire Station located at Hwy 49 and Lone Star Rd. be fully staffed and equipped. In addition, the local “planners” need to be far more concerned with disaster management, which will require coordination across multiple county and state agencies. Regulatory programs that utilize jurisdictional legal authority to develop and implement regulations to protect health, welfare and safety can be effective tools to reduce the threat of wildfire and the resulting damage to property and the possible demise of livestock and human lives. Please, think of all the livestock and wildlife needlessly killed in wildfires in the last few years just in Northern California; and think of the 86 people who lost their lives in the Paradise/Camp fire, including 7 who burned to death in their cars trying to escape.

I376-8

Pg. 3-26

Para. 2: *when permanent flush or vault toilets would be installed.* Where is the water to come from?

This is a very dry area. Over the years, many wells have gone dry.

Harvego Preserve – Curtola Ranch Road. This is a private road, for use only by the homeowners and for Ag use for those running cattle on the Harvego Preserve, thus, there will be no public access to a parking lot.

Pg. 3-35

Table 3-3. Summary of Harvego Preserve Access Phasing.

I376-9

Permitted Access – Phase 1: Docent led tours only, 7 days/week, up to one tour/day: Auburn Valley Rd. is a private road, thus people wanting to access the Harvego parking lot do not have legal access to the area. So now we are going from a couple of Docent led tours a month to Docent led tours seven days a week. Parking and Docent led tours must be by reservation only. Has anyone considered the impact on the Auburn Valley Homeowners, the land, the wildlife (the site proposed for the parking lot is a nesting area for Tri-Colored blackbirds – an endangered species) or the livestock being run on the property. Livestock grazing absolutely must continue as it is a means to decrease damage from wildfire. Cows and calves are very wary of strangers and will take off running. What if there is a dog – off leash...what a grand time to take up the chase. What will happen if the dog mauls or kills a calf or cow? Who will pay for the animal – triple damages?

Has anyone thought to do an engineering evaluation of the earthen dam that must be crossed to reach this site?

Phase 2 : Now we go to Open Public Use, non-Docent access, 7 days a week; parking is evidently reservation based only, 7 days/week. : This is a non-starter. Access must continue as Docent-led tours.

Phase 3: Too many parking spaces – this needs to be cut by 2/3rds. That is the only way to maintain any semblance of crowd control. Access must continue as Docent led tours only.

I376-10

Parking reservations must continue.

Pg. 3-41

Table 3-4. Summary of Twilight Ride Access Phasing

This is a NON-STARTER. NO PARKING LOT SHALL BE BUILT ON THIS SITE. I believe this purchase was illegally crammed through a Placer County Board of Supervisor meeting on May 22, 2018, as contiguous and nearby property owners were never notified of the pending action. In addition, while the property was in escrow, we were told the sale would not be finalized until the EIR was completed. CEQA Law was broken when the sale was finalized the day **after** the Draft EIR was released on Feb. 20, 2020. It was NINETEEN MONTHS LATE, as it was promised to be released in October of 2018.

I376-11 | **Pg. 3-46**
3.6 Operation and Maintenance.
The Park Department had best concentrate on completing all of the deferred maintenance not only for HFRP, but all of the properties they are responsible for as well as complete regular maintenance. Adding even more trails, parking lots and amenities is a “want” – wishful thinking. They can’t maintain what they already have. Do they and the County not understand that we are in a recession and possibly headed to a Depression? Do you not remember what happened to the Placer County Budget during the Recession in 2008-09? Please review those budgets.

I376-12 | **3.6.1 Traffic Management**
No new parking lots shall be built either at Twilight Ride or the Harvego sites. That will cut traffic and decrease the impacts on the substandard Bell, Cramer and Lone Star Rds. The parking lot at Mears can be enlarged and a second lot can be put in on the 1200 acres. Reservations for the Mears lot(s) should continue. Out-of-county residents should be charged double for a parking reservation. ALL out of county residents using HFRP should also pay an entrance fee. Why should Placer County taxpayers pay for the maintenance and staffing for out-of-county users?

I376-13 | **Pg. 3-48**
3.6.2 HFRP TRAIL EXPANSION AREA USES
My understanding is that the Spears family absolutely did not want any camping on the place.
The Park Dept. can’t manage/maintain the trails they already have, yet they want more. There is NO water at the Mears parking lot. How do they expect to pay for Fish and wildlife restoration, Interpretive displays, Signs and fencing ? Evidently management has not spoken with the homeowners near the Mears Parking Lot of late. They still have many issues that have never been resolved. We have been told by many that the interlopers have caused nothing but grief and angst . Noise (raucus amplified music from the parking lot) trash, theft and trespassing have never ceased. One comment that stuck with me from a long time friend , “you don’t know what you are in for and the County just doesn’t care”.
Please, do not trash two more neighborhoods, just so you have bragging rights that you have added 30 more miles of trails. There are over 900 miles of trails in Placer County. Please do not add to the wildfire danger. Please do not add to more people losing their fire insurance. Please do not impact our perilous, narrow roads with flatlanders, who do not know how to safely drive our country roads.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I376: DELANA RUUD

Response to Comment I376-1

The commenter expresses concerns about the project description.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, an EIR project description should contain the location and boundaries of the proposed project by way of a map; a description of the project's technical and environmental characteristics; and a statement briefly describing the intended use of the EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15124[a]-[d]). The project description “should not supply extensive detail beyond that needed for evaluation and review of the environmental impact” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15124). A general conceptual discussion of the main features of the project is sufficient (CEQA Guidelines Section 15124[a], [c]; *Dry Creek Citizens Coalition v. County of Tulare*, 70 Cal. App. 4th 20, 27-28 [1999]).

Chapter 3.0, “Project Description” of the Draft SEIR provides extensive detail in an accurate, stable, and finite project description that presents the scope of the Project and includes all of the components identified in Section 15124 of the CEQA Guidelines Section 15124. Chapter 3.0 includes maps to identify the location of the Project, the existing HFRP, and 2019 project components. The project description identifies the background and history of the HFRP; Project objectives; proposed land uses; their location and phasing; and substantial detail on construction, operation, and maintenance of new facilities.

The Draft SEIR has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, the potential impacts have been thoroughly analyzed, and appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed.

The commenter states that the web address for the webcam at HFRP is outdated.

The updated website is provided in Chapter 3.0 of this Final SEIR – Revisions to the Draft SEIR.

The commenter requests information on the types of management strategies to be utilized by the County for the Trails Expansion area. Management strategies will include use of the reservation system, ranger patrols, County maintenance and managerial staff, vegetation management and close coordination with the Placer Land Trust, who owns the majority of the Trails Expansion property. They have their own management plans for each of the preserves.

The commenter requested additional information regarding trail easements.

Copies of all relevant trail easements are included in Appendix B of the Draft SEIR.

Response to Comment I376-2

The commenter discusses traffic from the proposed project, cumulative traffic impacts, LOS versus VMT in the traffic analysis, road safety and accidents and land use compatibility issues.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking and Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility.

Response to Comment I376-3

The commenter has concerns with perceived Agriculture impacts, potential wildfire and wildlife impacts.

Please see Master Response 5 – Agriculture, Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response and Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility. Additionally, please refer to Mitigation Measures S12-1 through S12-6 in Chapter 12 (Biological Resources) for mitigation measures pertaining to potential wildlife impacts.

Response to Comment I376-4

The commenter asks about costs associated with project improvements and maintenance.

The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that “An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required.

The commenter discusses Auburn Valley Road and Curtola Ranch Road.

Please see Master Response 3 – Transportation, Circulation and Parking.

Response to Comment I376-5

The commenter asked about the availability of water via wells, opposition to motorized vehicles and hunting that occurs within HFRP.

This comment regarding water availability and motorized vehicles is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration. There is no public hunting allowed within HFRP. and no public hunting will be allowed within the Trails Expansion area. The only hunting that occurs within HFRP is depredation hunting of animals that do damage within the park (like feral pigs). The County’s Wildlife Specialist works in tandem with the Parks Division under a permit from the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to dispatch nuisance animals. No further response is required.

Response to Comment I376-6

The commenter asks how the county defines “blanket” easements.

Blanket easements apply to an entire area, while right of way easements are generally narrow and linear, allowing only for a trails or utility to traverse a parcel. On parcels with blanket easements, the county could add additional trails and amenities in the future. However, additional trails and amenities planned, designed and completed in the future would be addressed in future tiered CEQA documents as appropriate and would require additional resource surveys prior to completion. Future CEQA documents would provide a detailed description of all proposed trails and amenities and provide an analysis of physical environmental impacts resulting from these additional trails and amenities.

Response to Comment I376-7

The commenter claims that none of the contiguous or nearby home/property owners were ever contacted or invited to participate in the process.

This claim is unfounded and is responded to in Response to Comments I204-2, I205-1, I341-4 and I372-2.

The commenter makes disparaging comments about Planning and Parks staff.

This comment is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration.

The commenter discusses concerns of wildfire and evacuation.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response and Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking and Response to Comment Letter O15.

The commenter would like to see the Lone Star Fire Station #184 reopened as a part of the proposed project.

Comment noted. Opening of the Lone Star Fire Station #184 is not a part of the Project Description for the proposed project.

Response to Comment I376-8

The commenter is concerned with where the water for toilets would come from.

Please see Chapter 13.0, “Public Services and Utilities,” of the Draft SEIR for information regarding water supply and proposed wells.

Response to Comment I376-9

The commenter states that Curtola Ranch Road is a private road and discusses a variety of issues, including potential land use compatibility, wildlife and agriculture impacts, and questions the costs for liabilities.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking and Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility, as well as Mitigation Measures for wildlife included within Chapter 12. The cost of payment for damages to cattle is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking and Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility.

Response to Comment I376-10

The commenter asks about an engineering evaluation of the earthen dam on Curtola Ranch Road and states her opposition to Phases 2 and 3 of the Harvego Bear River parking area.

The opposition is noted. No further response is required.

The proposed use of the dam is consistent with existing types of vehicle use. Examples of current vehicle use include large machinery, including cattle trucks associated with the Harvego Bear River Preserve cattle operations, and docent-led tours that currently cross the dam. There have been no reported issues with the dam's integrity and Placer County Fire/CAL FIRE personnel have visited the dam site and have not raised any concerns with being able to drive across the dam with their fire apparatus. Please also see Response to Comment I73-3.

The commenter feels that the Twilight Ride parcels were illegally purchased by the County.

Initial County negotiations regarding Purchase and Sale Agreements for real property are held in closed sessions with the Board of Supervisors. On May 22, 2018, in a public portion of the Board of Supervisor's Hearing, the County's Real Estate Services Division requested authorization to acquire the Twilight Ride property.

Response to Comment I376-11

The commenter asks about costs associated with maintenance. The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that "An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment" (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required.

Response to Comment I376-12

The commenter desires the removal of the Twilight Ride and Harvego Bear River parking areas in order to limit traffic.

The comment is noted. Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

The commenter also states that Placer County taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for the maintenance and staffing on the behalf of out-of-County users.

The purpose of the Draft SEIR is to identify the significant effects of the proposed project on the physical environment and the Draft SEIR is not intended to address social or economic impacts. This is consistent with CEQA guidelines stating that "An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment" (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15131 and 15382). No further response is required.

Response to Comment I376-13

This comment includes anecdotal information about the Spears family and discusses lack of funding for improvements.

This comment is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration.

This comment discusses potential land use incompatibility issues, and loss of fire insurance.

Please see Master Response 4 – Land Use Compatibility and Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety and Emergency Response.

2.7.377 LETTER I377

Letter I377

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 1:33 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Debra sabo
Email Address (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden falls hiking
Comments	I am an avid hiker. I hope we can save more ares to get out with kids and adults. The Hidden falls area is beautiful and I hope the county can manage to get adequate parking so neighboring areas are not impacted by cars on the street. Also increasing the hiking area will enhance the area.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I377-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I377: DEBRA SABO

Response to Comment I377-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.378 LETTER I378

Letter I378

Shirlee Herrington

From: Louis Salatino <salatinolou@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 6:39 PM
To: Placer County Board of Supervisors; Robert Weygandt; Cindy Gustafson; Jim Holmes; Todd Leopold; Shanti Landon
Subject: HFRP meeting

Dear Supervisors et al,

I378-1

We have waited long & hopefully to have our voices heard on the HFRP affect on our peaceful neighborhood & ask that you postpone your May 14th meeting until after the covid19 crisis has ended & we can meet again face to face. A phone call meeting is unacceptable with all the delays that have taken place leading up to this phase of the decision making processes.

We are a solid group of neighbors that have been brought together by the threat of a parking lot in the middle of our lands that will forever change the nature & outlook of the area we call home. Do not dismiss us so easily & think that we will go away.

Sincerely,
Lou & Carol Salatino

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I378: LOUIS SALATINO

Response to Comment I378-1

The commenter asks to postpone the public meeting.

Please see Master Response 1 – Public Comment Process.

2.7.379 LETTER I379

Letter I379

Shirlee Herrington

From: Louis Salatino <salatinolou@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2020 9:03 PM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services; Placer County Board of Supervisors; Sue Colbert; Jane Wurst
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails expansion SDEIR

May 9, 2020

I379-1

My family & I have lived in Auburn at this same address for over 32 years & in that time have thoroughly enjoyed the peace, quiet & serenity of our area. We are currently members of "Protect Rural Placer". I am writing you to refute the aforementioned document. This SDEIR as well as the prior HFRP EIR does not address the considerable impact that the Twilight Ride expansion area would have on our peaceful neighborhood.

I379-2

Let me remind you that we, as residents, are part of the environment here & were never interviewed by the committee that made up the SDEIR. I would like to address the area of "Noise" in the SDEIR. The impact of the COVID 19 lock down & the closure of schools has brought to the forefront the affect that an increase in traffic would have on our neighborhood.

1. Kids now race up & down Bell rd. on motorcycles disturbing the peace & quiet.
2. The availability of the Auburn Valley Country Club to more golfers from the Sacramento & Roseville areas where their courses are closed increased the traffic & danger on our peaceful streets where a 35 MPH speed limit is routinely ignored by them.
3. The SDEIR spends 27 pages describing what noise is but denies that is anything but "less than significant" at least 18 times.
4. Please be assured that ANY change is significant to us!

We respectfully request that you reject this project & not impose on us the negative impacts of this increased traffic into our area.

Thank you,

*Lou Salatino
10111 Ranch Rd., Auburn, Ca.
"Protect Rural Placer"*

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I379: LOUIS SALATINO

Response to Comment I379-1

The commenter expresses opposition to the project.

The opposition is noted. The Draft SEIR has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, the potential impacts have been thoroughly analyzed, and appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed. No further response is required.

Response to Comment I379-2

The commenter expresses concerns regarding noise; however, does not point to any specific impacts or analysis of the Draft SEIR.

Please see the Draft SEIR Chapter 10.0 “Noise” for a discussion of noise and an analysis of impacts. This comment does not contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration. No further response is required.

The commenter also expresses concern about increased traffic.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

2.7.380 LETTER I380

Letter I380
Salatino Hidden Falls letter p.1

Date: May 18, 2020

To: Community Development Resource Agency, Placer County Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and Parks Division

From: Lou and Carol Salatino; 10111 Ranch Rd., Auburn CA 95602

Regarding: Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion DSEIR

I380-1 As a 30-year resident of North Auburn and member of Protect Rural Placer, I am writing to you today to refute the above referenced document. This DSEIR, as with the previous HFRP EIR, makes weak assumptions and does not take into consideration the following concerns.

After listening to the planning commission meeting the other night, it became apparent that there are several flaws, or shortcomings, in the DSEIR that has been drafted. I realize that much time, energy and money has been spent to 'preserve' the area and make it open to the public for enjoyment, however, there are several concerns that should be addressed before the public is invited to come in on a 7 day a week basis.

- I380-2
- Concern one seems to be the ignoring of safety – not only for all people involved, but also for the local wildlife.
 - Traffic not being a problem is another concern. When you base your 'studies' on number of accidents that occur on a certain road, it did not take into consideration that the reason there are not so many accidents is precisely because the road is 'less traveled' and used by local residents who are very aware of the twists and turns the roads make. Also, aware of local wildlife that traverse these roads, day and night. To many of us, the EIR report basically lies that there will be 'no significant' impact for traffic!!
 - Safety for wildfires and quick evacuation of residents is a high priority concern
 - Concern for the water table – all people in the area depend on their wells for water, to think that you will fill large water tanks with this precious water, and use it for drinking/restrooms brings the concern of our wells going dry
 - Noise – helicopters coming to patrol, cars and people noise disturb not only local residents, but wildlife as well; our area has proof of mountain lions, bobcats, bear and many other animals that are quickly diminishing. State and Federal Agencies need to be involved in this review.
- I380-3
- I380-4

I380-5 | In short, there are many aspects EIR that should be given more time to review, after all – it took over 18 months for it to be compiled, there should be at least that much time for it to be reviewed carefully by residents, state and federal agencies and other concerned and knowledgeable people.

I380-6 | Please consider leaving things as they are at present and reject this new expansion.
Keep only docent led hikes and no public access more than 3 times a week. Let our area ‘grow’ into the need for this project – say 20 – 30 years from now. People can enjoy the many parks and trails that are already available (which are massive) and spare the time, energy and money that would be put into making the Hidden Falls Expansion a ‘must do now’ priority.
AS the song goes – let’s NOT “Pave Paradise to make a Parking LOT”!

Concerned residents,

Louis and Carol Salatino

Please include my letter as part of the public comment permanent record.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I380: LOUIS AND CAROL SALATINO

Response to Comment I380-1

The commenter expresses opposition to the project.

The opposition is noted. The Draft SEIR has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, the potential impacts have been thoroughly analyzed, and appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed. No further response is required.

Response to Comment I380-2

The commenter expresses concern about wildfire, safety, and traffic.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response; and Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

The commenter also expresses concern about local wildlife safety.

Please see the Draft SEIR Chapter 12.0 “Biological Resources” for an analysis of impacts to wildlife, and mitigation measures to avoid and minimize impacts.

Response to Comment I380-3

The commenter expresses concern about the use of well water for park drinking water and restrooms.

Please see the Draft SEIR Section 11.4 “Impacts” in Chapter 11.0 “Hydrology and Water Quality”, and specifically “Impact 11-4” and impact analysis summary (Draft SEIR p. 11-16 to 11-17).

Response to Comment I380-4

The commenter expresses concerns about noise and impacts to local residents and wildlife.

Please see Response to Comment I379-2 and Response to Comment I380-2.

Response to Comment I380-5

The commenter expresses concern about the review time for the Draft SEIR.

Please see Master Response 1 – Public Comment Process.

Response to Comment I380-6

Please see Response to Comment I380-1.

2.7.381 LETTER I381

Letter I381

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 11:08 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Sabrina Santos
Email Address (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trails
Comments	An expansion of the hidden falls trails would be a great benefit for recreation, and local commerce. I am an out of area mountain biker. We love to make day trips to hidden falls, and we always eat breakfast in Auburn beforehand, and get dinner there on the way out.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I381-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I381: SABRINA SANTOS

Response to Comment I381-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.382 LETTER I382

Letter I382

May 17, 2020

Dear County Supervisors,

I382-1

I live near the intersection of Cramer Road and Bell Road. I frequently travel those roadways and as such believe I have vital, personal observable knowledge to share with you.

After review of the EIR for the HFRP, I have several concerns. Traffic has significantly increase since the 2016 study that was used for this report as evidenced by the fatal car collisions in the last 2 years in that exact stretch of highway between Lorenson and Lone Star Road that I was unfortunate enough to have seen the aftermath of. Even though the state has a plan to try to mitigate that situation, the project has not been fully approved and funded as of yet so there is no guarantee that it will be addressed and taken care of. In light of the current Covid-19 situation, the state budget has gotten even tighter and the likelihood of the project being completed is questionable.

It is absolutely irresponsible to move forward with this project before a solution has been found to mitigate the dangerous, fatal turn from Hwy 49 to Cramer.

Secondly, I have grave concern regarding the increased traffic on Cramer Road. As it stands, I am on constant look out for oncoming cars on Cramer Road. On many occasions, I have been nearly run off the road when oncoming cars are traveling down the middle of the road. Also, there are no less than 4 blind curves that cause concern as well. The road is not even wide enough for a yellow line and yet, you propose to send trucks pulling horse trailers on a collision course down Cramer Road head-on into each other. I find this to be very irresponsible on your part.

It is necessary to find a safe solution to the increased traffic that will flow along Cramer Road before moving forward with this project.

Respectfully,

Mary Sartori
5700 Cinderella Ln
Auburn, CA 95602

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I382: MARY SARTORI

Response to Comment I382-1

The commenter expresses concerns regarding traffic and safety and increases substantial increases in traffic since the traffic report was prepared in 2016.

Please see Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking, which updates the collision history and roadway safety as well as addresses traffic volumes.

2.7.383 LETTER I383

Letter I383

Shirlee Herrington

From: Douglas Saylor <dougfsaylor@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:50 PM
To: Cindy Gustafson
Subject: May 14th Public Meeting Needs to be Rescheduled

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Cindy,

I383-1

I heard that the "public meeting" on May 14 is going to be held remotely??? Does that mean "people", "citizens", "Auburn residents" can't attend in person? Isn't that the purpose of having a public meeting, so we can all attend and be heard? I implore you to work with your colleagues to reschedule the meeting to a date where we can all come together and be heard, in person. I voted for you because I believe you will do what's right in representing the citizens in your district. Having a public meeting with the public present is the right thing to do. Thank you for your help and support in this extremely important issue.

Sincerely,

Doug Saylor
Auburn, Ca

Sent from my iPhone

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I383: DOUG SAYLOR

Response to Comment I383-1

Please see Master Response 1 – Public Comment Process.

2.7.384 LETTER I384

Letter I384

Shirlee Herrington

From: Holly Saylor <hollybuysstuff26@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 9:21 PM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services; Placer County Board of Supervisors; Sue Colbert
Cc: jawurst@yahoo.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion SDEIR

Date: May 18, 2020

To: Community Development Resource Agency, Placer County Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and Parks Division

From: Holly and Doug Saylor, 5130 Bell Road, Auburn, CA 95602

Regarding: Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion SDEIR

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My husband and I are extremely concerned about the impact the Hidden Falls expansion project will have on us, so we are sending this letter to inform you of just a few of these concerns.

One of our greatest concerns is that there are not enough escape routes out of our area to allow us to evacuate during a wild fire. All the roads around us (Bell Road, Cramer, Lone Star, Joeger Road, etc.) are all narrow, two-lane (one going in each direction,) chip and seal roads which, in some spots, are barely wide enough to allow two cars to drive past each other. Limited narrow escape routes have been one of the greatest factors in loss of life in the large wildfires we have experienced in the past few years here in California.

In the Carr fire near Redding, California, residents had only one road in and out of their area. It, too, was a narrow two-lane road just like all the roads around our house. As the fast moving flames spread and evacuation orders came, all the residents in the area jammed the roads to the point of gridlock trying to escape. They tried to turn a two-lane road into a four-lane road by driving around each other. This caused cars to collide with each other, and many cars fell into ditches along the road. This "jamming together" of cars as panicked residents tried to flee the fast moving flames caused the complete gridlock conditions. Additionally, the smoke was so thick that no one could see more than 3 or 4 feet in front of them. This caused cars to move slowly, collide with each other, and drive off the road.

Many residents, in seeing that the roads were completely gridlocked and the traffic not moving, decided to get out of their cars and run to escape the flames. They were burned alive when the flames overtook them!

I384-1

I384-1
Cont'd

↑ According to the Cal Fire Report on the Carr Fire, the flames moved 50 miles per hour, with gusts up to 80 miles per hour. The fastest man in the world (Usain Bolt) can run 27.44 miles per hour. The flames moved at 50 to 80 miles per hour. So even the fastest man on earth would not be able to outrun these flames, let alone the elderly, children, and the infirmed!

Other residents thought that staying in their cars might afford them protection from the flames. The Carr Fire produced a "fire tornado" which was 2000 feet wide at its base and 1800 feet high. The flames in this fire-tornado spun at 110-120 mph. They engulfed the cars, roasting the residents alive in their cars, including whole families with children. These dear people died a frightening, painful, horrific death. Can you imagine dying such a horrible death? Can you picture the people that you love the most dying such a horrific death if they get caught like this in a wildfire that starts in the Hidden Falls Park area?

The SDEIR states that, "the potential exists for the project to expose people to an uncontrolled wildfire and to exacerbate risk of wildfire during construction, maintenance, and public use of trail system." (Emphasis added.)

The following statements come from the Wildfire Subcommittee Report:

Section 16.2.3 WILDFIRE CLASSIFICATION AND BEHAVIOR (Emphasis added)

"The SDEIR fails to identify and disclose that the HFRP Expansion area has been classified by CAL FIRE as a WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE, an area with the greatest potential for loss of lives and structures."

Section 16.4.2 EMERGENCY RESPONSE/EMERGENCY EVACUATION (Emphasis added)

"An estimated 6,000 residences in proximity to HFRP and the Trails Expansion area could be affected by fire under red flag conditions. During the 49er Fire (August 2009) Bell Road was impassable."

"No evidence or data is provided in the SDEIR giving any information about the number of driveways and side roads along Bell, Cramer and Lone Star and the possible total number of vehicles that could be merging to evacuate all at one time."

"Effective evacuation and emergency vehicle response via Cramer, Bell and Lone Star Roads would be a significant problem as area residents and Park visitor vehicles and horse trailer rigs attempt to exit Twilight Ride or the Harvego parking lots. Evacuation from area wineries and the Auburn Valley golf course would further add to the confusion."

By approving this park expansion, and flooding this area with more park visitors than the roads can handle, I believe you will be putting both me, my husband, and the residents in this area in harms way, where we may die similar horrible deaths by being unable to

- I384-1
Cont'd
- ↑ escape a wildfire like the people in the Carr Fire. Do you really want to be responsible for such a tragedy for whatever little you hope to gain by approving this project?
- The SDEIR contains NO evacuation plan.
- The Mitigation Plan does not address these concerns. Widening the roads around us is NOT a viable solution because private property would have to be commandeered in order to add extra lanes to the roads. We are ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED to our government confiscating private property to use for its own ends!!
- I384-2
- Based upon the information in the SDEIR, the assumptions it has made, and the negative impacts to the very communities who were not included in any of the 15-year planning, WE URGE YOU TO REJECT THIS PARK EXPANSION PROJECT!!

Please include my letter as part of the public comment permanent record.

Please consider carefully,
Holly and Doug Saylor
Protect Rural Placer

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I384: HOLLY AND DOUG SAYLOR

Response to Comment I384-1

The commenter expresses concerns about wildfire, safety, emergency services, and traffic.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response; and Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

Response to Comment I384-2

The commenter expresses opposition to the project.

The opposition is noted. No further response is required.

The Draft SEIR has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, the potential impacts have been thoroughly analyzed, and appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed. No further response is required.

2.7.385 LETTER I385

Letter I385

Shirlee Herrington

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 6:31 AM

To: Andrea Dashiell <ADashiel@placer.ca.gov>; Kara Conklin <KConklin@placer.ca.gov>; George Rosasco <GRosasco@placer.ca.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Alexandra Schaal
Email Address (Optional)	Sanyamassey@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls trail expansion project
Comments	<p>Dear Placer County Board of Supervisors,</p> <p>I live in Sacramento, but have traveled to Hidden Falls Regional park for biking. It is quite the jewel your county has! Most times I have been there, parking gets packed with people wanting to hike, bike, or ride horses. Expanding the parking area and trails would be a benefit to all!</p> <p>Let's keep Californians active and healthy while enjoying the environment we are blessed with here in this state!</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to consider the expansion of this splendid park!</p> <p>Sincerely, Alexandra Schaal</p>
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I385-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I385: ALEXANDRA SCHAAL

Response to Comment I385-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 10:45 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Emilie Schneider
Email Address (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
Comments	I support the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project because this is an incredible opportunity to provide people with more opportunity and space to appreciate the beautiful outdoors. The bright side of this dark time is that families are discovering the magic of slowing down, going outside, and being in the moment. Seeing so many people (and kids not glued to screens!) on trails has been awesome and we are in need of more!
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I386-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I386: EMILIE SCHNEIDER

Response to Comment I386-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 9:07 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Kevin Schneider
Email Address (Optional)	kss461@sbcglobal.net
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion
Comments	I strongly support the expansion of Hidden Falls with additional parking, trail head access and more trails. Doing so will allow more people to enjoy healthy, family friendly and less crowded recreation in this beautiful gem of Placer County, while alleviating the pressure on the surrounding neighborhood that has had to deal with issues as a result of the Park's popularity. Respectfully, Kevin Schneider 4332 Stevens Court Placerville 530-306-1690
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I387-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I387: KEVIN SCHNEIDER

Response to Comment I387-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 2:54 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Cody Schwartz
Email Address (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion
Comments	I support the expansion of the Hidden Falls Trail network. The trail network provides a great place to go mountain bike and hike and more access and more trails will provide more places to recreate and more facilities will keep the trails and trailhead clean, and keep residents from complaining about illegal parking. Also it is a great draw from the surrounding communities.
	Cody Schwartz Shingle Springs
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I388-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I388: CODY SCHWARTZ

Response to Comment I388-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.389 LETTER I389

Letter I389

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:34 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Gary Scott
Email Address (Optional)	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Agenda Item (Optional)	Placer County Hidden Falls Park Expansion
Comments	Rarely do I think my tax money is well spent as to when it's appropriated to parks. Being an avid mountain biker, I ride HF many times a year and donate to PCLT with the intent on land preservation. I'd hope that the expansion offers relief to the traffic to locals who live near the parking lot. It would be valuable to add another parking lot access off Bell Rd. An expansion benefits hiker, bikers, and horses alike. Plus more trails offers exercise options for our obese youth who seem to be enthralled in video games and bulging bellies all before high school graduation.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I389-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I389: GARY SCOTT

Response to Comment I389-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.390 LETTER I390

Letter I390

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 9:50 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Andrew Scott
Email Address (Optional)	awscott10@icloud.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Expansion
Comments	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I would like to express my viewpoint on the Hidden Falls Expansion. While I am NOT opposed to the expansion of the park, I feel that the Garden Bar Road parking lot option is only safe if certain conditions are met.</p> <p>I have lived on the north end of Garden Bar Road for 25 years. I am very familiar with this portion of the roadway. It is very narrow with many blind curves. Increasing the traffic on this road, as would happen with the GBR parking lot, without upgrades, would make this road extremely dangerous. If equestrian parking was permitted, it would make it even more so.</p> <p>This road must be widened to eliminate the narrowness. Cars can barely squeeze by each other on some sections, as it is currently, and it would be unacceptably dangerous if an increase of traffic is allowed by opening public parking to the park on GBR without proper mitigation.</p> <p>Currently, trucks are not allowed on GBR during school bus hours because of the safety issues present. This very unique prohibition is testament to the issues expressed above.</p> <p>Reducing the speed limit or placing warning signs on the road is insufficient and would be ineffective. A lower speed limit</p>

I390-1

I390-1
Cont'd

would be completely unenforceable by the CHP. Radar cannot or be used, as the required speed survey results would never support lowering the speed limit, and "pacing" violators would be impossible on this section of roadway. Any belief that lowering the speed limit would mitigate traffic safety issues is simply a plan that would work on paper only and have no affect on traffic safety.

Lastly, this is the ONLY egress for most people who live off this roadway north of the proposed parking lot. If a fire occurred anywhere on GBR north of Mt. Pleasant, the ability of residents to flee to safety would be severely and negatively affected by the increased vehicle traffic on this roadway. If a horse trailer traveling north to the park came upon a horse trailer traveling south, the road would be effectively and completely blocked if they met in numerous narrow sections of the road between Mt. Pleasant Road and the proposed parking lot. This roadway is borderline at best for emergency egress, and it would be woefully and dangerously insufficient with increased traffic.

Building a public parking lot for Hidden Falls Park on Garden Bar Road without widening a considerable section of the roadway north of Mt. Pleasant would be extremely unsafe, and could not be mitigated by anything short of widening that section of road. I ask that no plan to build this parking lot is approved without addressing the dangers it would cause without proper mitigation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Andrew & Diane Scott
Big Hill Road
Lincoln, Ca 95648

Attach a document

Field not completed.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I390: ANDREW & DIANE SCOTT

Response to Comment I390-1

The commenter expresses concerns about traffic, safety, and wildfire.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response; and Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation and Parking.

Shirlee Herrington

From: Andrew Scott <awscott10@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 9:48 AM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Cc: Robert Weygandt
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hidden Falls Expansion proposal

Good afternoon,

I would like to express my viewpoint on the Hidden Falls Expansion. While I am NOT opposed to the expansion of the park, I feel that the Garden Bar Road parking lot option is only safe if certain conditions are met.

I have lived on the north end of Garden Bar Road for 25 years. I am very familiar with this portion of the roadway. It is very narrow with many blind curves. Increasing the traffic on this road, as would happen with the GBR parking lot, without upgrades, would make this road extremely dangerous. If equestrian parking was permitted, it would make it even more so.

This road must be widened to eliminate the narrowness. Cars can barely squeeze by each other on some sections, as it is currently, and it would be unacceptably dangerous if an increase of traffic is allowed by opening public parking to the park on GBR without proper mitigation.

Currently, trucks are not allowed on GBR during school bus hours because of the safety issues present. This very unique prohibition is testament to the issues expressed above.

I391-1

Reducing the speed limit or placing warning signs on the road is insufficient and would be ineffective. A lower speed limit would be completely unenforceable by the CHP. Radar cannot or be used, as the required speed survey results would never support lowering the speed limit, and "pacing" violators would be impossible on this section of roadway. Any belief that lowering the speed limit would mitigate traffic safety issues is simply a plan that would work on paper only and have no affect on traffic safety.

Lastly, this is the ONLY egress for most people who live off this roadway north of the proposed parking lot. If a fire occurred anywhere on GBR north of Mt. Pleasant, the ability of residents to flee to safety would be severely and negatively affected by the increased vehicle traffic on this roadway. If a horse trailer traveling north to the park came upon a horse trailer traveling south, the road would be effectively and completely blocked if they met in numerous narrow sections of the road between Mt. Pleasant Road and the proposed parking lot. This roadway is borderline at best for emergency egress, and it would be woefully and dangerously insufficient with increased traffic.

Building a public parking lot for Hidden Falls Park on Garden Bar Road without widening a considerable section of the roadway north of Mt. Pleasant would be extremely unsafe, and could not be mitigated by anything short of widening that section of road. I ask that no plan to build this parking lot is approved without addressing the dangers it would cause without proper mitigation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Andrew & Diane Scott
Big Hill Road
Lincoln, Ca 95648

Sent from my iPhone

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I391: ANDREW & DIANE SCOTT

Response to Comment I391-1

The commenter expresses concerns about traffic, safety, and wildfire.

Please see Master Response 2 – Wildfire, Safety, and Emergency Response; and Master Response 3 – Traffic, Circulation, and Parking.

2.7.392 LETTER I392

Letter I392

Shirlee Herrington

From: Donald Segerstrom <donaIdsegerstrom@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 8:34 PM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hidden Falls Trail Expansion

I392-1 [Totally in favor of the expansion. Clearly the highest and best use of that area.

Donald Segerstrom

Sent from my iPhone

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I392: DONALD SEGERSTROM

Response to Comment I392-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Jared Sellers
Email Address (Optional)	jsellers.73@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion
Comments	As a resident of Auburn California and member of Placer legacy, Coach for the Placer Foothills Mtb team and Adapted PE Specialist teaching in Auburn public schools, I strongly support this expansion and look forward to taking local students, mountain bike team members, and special needs students from my adapted PE program to enjoy and experience the trail expansion. Thank you so much!
Attach a document	Field not completed.

I393-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I393: JARED SELLERS

Response to Comment I393-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 1:51 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	MARK SHAW
Email Address (Optional)	mark@totalbodyfitness.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	HIDDEN FALLS PARK - EXPANSION
Comments	I vote YES on the expansion plans for Hidden Falls Park. TBF will commit to recruiting trail building and maintenance for the project.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I394-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I394: MARK SHAW

Response to Comment I394-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.395 LETTER I395

Letter I395

Shirlee Herrington

From: Patricia Shaw <ptshaw9@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 8:35 PM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Reconsider New Hidden Falls Access

To:

Environmental Coordination Services
Placer County Resource Development Agency

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to express our opposition to the plans to expand access to the Hidden Falls park through parking lots and entrances along or near Bell Road. While we do not live in the immediate area of Bell Road, we have many friends who do and we share their concerns, which are many.

I395-1

Of those concerns there is one that bothers us the most and that is the willingness of the government to simply ignore the citizens who will have their daily lives disrupted the most. Your studies that show little disruption fly in the face of common sense which leads us to conclude that your minds were made up long ago and the studies are just for show.

If you ignore the citizens who actually live in the area and build the proposed expanded access then we strongly suggest that every property owner within at least five miles of Bell Road be given a substantial and permanent reduction in their property taxes. This seems only reasonable since you will have destroyed much of the value of living in this part of the country. Maybe you can recover the lost revenue from the people who use Hidden Falls.

Or, you could drop these plans and try to think of something else. That would restore our faith in local government.

Sincerely,

Grant & Patricia Shaw
Auburn, CA 95603

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I395: GRANT AND PATRICIA SHAW

Response to Comment I395-1

The commenter expresses opposition to the project.

The opposition is noted. No further response is required.

This comment is not directed at the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing adverse physical impacts associated with the proposed project, nor does it contain an argument raising significant environmental issues. However, this comment is published in this Response to Comments document for public disclosure and for decision maker consideration. No further response is required.

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 8:29 AM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Steven Sheldon
Email Address (Optional)	teledawg@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project

I396-1

Comments

Please support the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project to add to the well used outdoor recreational opportunities in Auburn and Placer County.

I have greatly enjoyed the existing Hidden Falls Regional Park, and am delighted to see so many other trail uses with strollers, pets, children, horses, etc. The combination of Placer Trust land acquisition and county development/management have provided a wonderful resource for Placer County residents.

I am thrilled that the expansion project land is owned, trails built, and look forward to this opening for additional outdoor recreational activities. Please move forward in support of this park expansion.

As for the concerns of nearby residents, I feel a thousand plus acres of outdoor park are vastly better than the alternative, residential development. It would be a tragedy to have this land acquired, trails built, and not opened due to the selfish concerns of nearby residents. I have some sympathy for their concerns, but the county has done a great job managing the initial concerns at Hidden Falls, and the park facility would be a much lesser impact than development.

Steven Sheldon
Auburn, CA

Attach a document

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RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I396: STEVEN SHELDON

Response to Comment I396-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.397 LETTER I397

Letter I397

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 6:28 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Matt Shelley
Email Address (Optional)	Dabuick@icloud.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Agenda Item: "Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project"
I397-1 Comments	I support the Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project. I live locally in Auburn and have been riding the hidden falls trails frequently for at least 6 years. The people there, including the rangers and other mountain bikers, and horse riders too, are a great group of people that are respectful and fun to interact with. In addition to riding, I also hike there with my family. Many great memories, like geocaching with my son or an early morning Easter hike. The first expansion project completed maybe 4 years ago definitely enhanced my experiences at hidden falls so I'm sure the next expansion will not only enhance future years for me and my family but for many others as well. I hope agreements are made to allow this project to continue. Good luck. Thank you.
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

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RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I397: MATT SHELLEY

Response to Comment I397-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.398 LETTER I398

Letter I398

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:16 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Adam Sherf
Email Address (Optional)	oth85@yahoo.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	Hidden Falls Trail Expansion Project
Comments	I am writing in support of more trails at Hidden Falls. Mountain biking and hiking is how my family and I spend time together, get some exercise, and get outside. We would love to have more options!
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I398-1

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I398: ADAM SHERF

Response to Comment I398-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.399 LETTER I399

Letter I399

Shirlee Herrington

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Shirlee Herrington; Kara Conklin; Sue Colbert; Meghan Schwartz; Lisa Carnahan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

Public Comment Submission - Planning Commission

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Placer County is committed to public participation in County Government in a manner that is consistent with guidance provided by our Public Health Official. We have provided this form that can be used to submit comments to the Planning Commission.

First and Last Name	Sharon Silver
Email Address (Optional)	tahoevacationproperties@gmail.com
Agenda Item (Optional)	HIDDEN FALLS TRAIL EXPANSION
Comments	I have enjoyed riding my horse in this beautiful natural park for years. However, I always worry if there will be a space to park my horse trailer when I arrive. I hope you will consider expansion of this lovely park with more areas to ride and hike in and also parking spaces for trailers. Sharon Silver 680 Old Grass Valley Rd Colfax, CA 95713
Attach a document	<i>Field not completed.</i>

I399-1

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RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I399: SHARON SILVER

Response to Comment I399-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

2.7.400 LETTER I400

Letter I400

RECEIVED
MAY 13 2020
CDRA

May 9, 2020

Placer County Community Development Resource Agency,
Environmental Coordination Services
3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: Response to Hidden Falls trail expansion DSEIR
In support of a full buildout options in concert with the Placer Land Trust
and their conservation requirements.

Dear Planning Commission members:

I support the Hidden Falls Trail expansion project.

As an equestrian, I support the full buildout option, including 30 miles of trails, three additional parking areas, including horse trailer parking and other park and safety amenities as discussed in the DSEIR.

This time of coronavirus lock down has shown me how important for our well-being as a society to have outside activities. The Hidden Falls Trail project will provide the joy of nature for generations to come.

I400-1

I understand that the Issues with traffic, for the most part, are less than significant and can be mitigated. The two intersections on Highway 49 were shown to be significant. However, these intersections will be improved over time whether or not Hidden Falls is expanded. The DSEIR adequately addressed the concerns about wildfire as being less than significant.

In addition, the project provides preservation of open space and rangeland that will be maintained and accessible to the public for healthy outdoor recreation in perpetuity and fulfills "Placers Legacy."

The full buildout option should be the only option, no alternatives, with the understanding that Placer Land Trust will work with Placer County to ensure that trail design, and construction are compatible with conservation objectives.

Sincerely,

Barbara Simmons

16471 Wolf Meadows Dr.
Grass Valley, CA 95949

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER I400: BARBARA SIMMONS

Response to Comment I400-1

The commenter expresses support for the project.

The support is noted. No further response is required.

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