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Mother Lode Chapter

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July 14, 2015

Delta Sierra Group

Placer County Community Development Resources Agency
Environmental Coordination Services
3091 County Center Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

Maidu Group

Attn: Maywan Krach

Placer Group

Re: Village at Squaw Valley Specific Plan DEIR

Sacramento Group

The Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above referenced Draft Environmental Impact Report. While the acres covered by the Village at Squaw Valley development are not substantial, many of the impacts are. The DEIR considers Cultural resources, Scenic and Visual Resources, Transportation and Circulation and Noise impacts to be ***significant and unavoidable***. Further, Greenhouse Gas impacts are potentially ***significant and unavoidable*** beyond 2020. Many other impacts studied are deemed to avoid ***significance*** only by considerable numbers of mitigation measures.

Shasta Group

Sierra Nevada Group

Placer County's 1983 Squaw Valley Land Use Ordinance and more recently adopted as a Community Plan states in Policy 1.G.1. "The county will support the expansion of existing winter ski and snow play areas and development of new areas where circulation and transportation system capacity can accommodate such expansions or new uses and where environmental impacts can be adequately mitigated." The project, as currently proposed, contradicts both the letter and spirit of the Ordinance. It creates too many unavoidable impacts that cannot be mitigated sufficiently for the County to consider a finding of overriding consideration.

Tahoe Group

Tuolumne Group

Squaw Valley has a storied and historic Olympic past - a grand vista with soaring mountain walls and peaks surrounding the meadow and creek environment. It remains a visual delight, even with the somewhat haphazard buildings styles and shapes of today. The County should be careful to protect the scenic vistas from large scale development. Doubling the numbers of potential beds and raising building height limits in the Valley will not lead to protection of the resource.

Yahi Group

Yokuts Group

Of particular interest are the DEIR's water supply figures given current drought predictions and climate change. Most of the technical data is taken from before 2012 and new ownership. We would suggest that the County request more current figures on which to base its decisions and in light of reported increased snow-making in the last several years.

Yolano Group

Representing 17,000 members in 24 counties in Northern and Central California
Alpine - Amador - Butte - Calaveras - Colusa - El Dorado - Glenn - Lassen - Modoc - Nevada - Placer - Plumas
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The DEIR spent many pages describing the process of Climate Change and discussions of California state policies pertaining to Greenhouse Gas emissions both in the current and future period. It states that post 2020: “Because the project would generate substantial GHG emissions; and because it is not known if the project would be consistent with future GHG targets, the impact would be *potentially significant*” (pages16-18). One could conclude that the project as proposed is too large at build-out and creates too many visitors and vehicle miles traveled.

The proposed Village at Squaw Valley Specific Plan, as analyzed in the DEIR, results in **too many significant and unavoidable impacts** which outweigh the benefits that such a project would provide. Clearly the County must deny the project as proposed and reject any claim of overriding considerations.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



Barbara Rivenes
Chapter Conservation Committee