



March 7, 2019

Ventura County Board of Supervisors
Hall of Administration
Attn: Mr. Steve Bennett
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
E-mail: Steve.Bennett@ventura.org

Re: Ventura County Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor
Project PL16-0127

Dear Mr. Bennett:

As the acting California State Geologist with the California Geological Survey, I submit this letter in response to the County of Ventura's (County) proposal to amend its General Plan and its Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance, which would establish a Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors Overlay Zone and a Critical Wildlife Passage Areas Overlay Zone, both hereinafter referred to as the "Project." If the Project is approved, additional permitting restrictions would apply to certain proposed development projects within the Project's Overlay Zones.

Because the Project's Overlay Zones include areas that have been both classified by the California Geological Survey (CGS) and designated by the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) as containing mineral deposits having "regional or statewide significance" (also referred to as "MRZ-2 Zones") under Public Resources Code section 2761, subdivision (b)(2), CGS is concerned that the additional permitting restrictions do not appear to protect and conserve mineral resources but may threaten the potential to extract minerals in the Project's Overlay Zones.

Before a lead agency permits a use that would threaten the potential to extract minerals in a classified MRZ-2 Zone, a lead agency is required to provide "a statement specifying its reasons for permitting the proposed use and shall forward a copy to the State Geologist and the board for review." However, CGS has not received any statement or notice from the County regarding the Project. In addition, CGS has inquired with the SMGB to determine if the SMGB has received any statement or notice regarding the approval of the Project as it concerns those areas designated by the SMGB as an MRZ-2 Zone, and they indicate they have not.

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It is the recommendation of CGS that prior to the approval of the Project, the County consider the impacts of the proposed Project on the County's Minerals Management Policies and provide the appropriate statement of reasons for approval pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 2762 and 2763 in light of the Project's impacts affecting those areas within the Project that have been classified and designated as MRZ-2 Zones.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 916-324-2549.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy McCrink".

Timothy McCrink
Acting State Geologist

Cc: Jeffrey Schmidt, State Mining Geology and Board
Fred Gius, CGS

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