

# County of El Dorado

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330 FAIR LANE PLACERVILLE, CA 95667  
TELEPHONE (530) 621-5390  
FAX NO. (530) 295-2552  
FAX NO. (530) 622-3645

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December 5, 2006

Mr. William S. Haigh,  
Folsom Field Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
Folsom Field Office  
63 Natoma Street  
Folsom, CA 95630

**RE: Sierra Draft Resources Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement Dated August 2006**

Mr. Haigh:

The following are the comments of the County of El Dorado on the draft document. We believe there are some incongruities between our County General Plan and your draft document. We believe such incongruities exist between all four alternatives; not just the preferred alternative D.

Since you probably do not have time to review our County General Plan in its entirety, attached is the Introduction section of that plan. The introduction section sets forth certain philosophies that are important to the creation and function of our General Plan.

Our plan was adopted in July 2004, has been adjudicated by the California Third District Court of Appeals and has been ratified by our voters.

While not specifically set forth in code, Federal law encourages plans such as you are engendering, to reflect the planning efforts of local governments. Such an effort to create congruent plans can best be accomplished in a collaborative effort which could avoid conflicts between our plan and yours. A similar effort is now under way as regards the Pine Hill Plant Preserve working group in our efforts to create the missing Memorandum of Understanding.

BLM manages approximately 2% of the land within our County, that being about 23,834 acres owned by the people of the United States of America. However, the Draft Plan includes policies which affect a much larger portion of our county and may have dire affects on our ability to plan for our future. Some examples of our concerns are:

1. The conflict between future water availability and storage and your evaluation of the American and Cosumnes Rivers as "Wild and Scenic". This is a violation of our plan assumption 5 D.
2. While we are requiring all new development to protect Oak Woodlands through our General Plan requirements, we find no mention of such protection in your draft plan.



3. Pursuant to our General Plan there is a recognized need to have a frontage road on the North side of Highway 50 in the Cameron Park area. This frontage road would be between Ponderosa Road and Cameron Park Drive; it would specifically be from the West end of Wild Chaparral Drive to the East end of Palmer Drive through a parcel that is adjacent to the freeway that was purchased as part of the plant preserve.

4. To comply with our plant preserve requirements there is an additional 900 acres adjacent to the existing preserve that should be qualified and added to the preserve.

5. BLM has numerous parcels spread throughout our county. Some of these parcels are available for purchase or exchange. Unfortunately all of your parcels are designated as open space or public facilities. We should work together to be certain that your parcels are appropriately designated on our General Plan to afford them the most protection from encroachment. Further, parcels to be sold or exchanged need to have General Plan designations that will not cause confusion in the future.

We apologize for not having previously reviewed your draft plan and are aware that our comments are due by December 13, 2006. However, we believe that it is important for staff from each of our entities to get together and, where possible, rectify as many differences as possible before your plan is adopted. We look forward to a continuing beneficial relationship between our organizations.

Respectfully,

James R. "Jack" Sweeney, Chairman  
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Attachments

