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October 16, 2006

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Honorable Chairman Jack Sweeney & Boardmembers
Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: Cameron Park Congregate Care Project

Dear Honorable Chairman Sweeney and Boardmembers:

We represent Cameron Park Ventures, the project applicant for the Cameron Park Congregate Care Project. The purpose of this letter is to clarify that in compliance with Condition of Approval Number 41, the project applicant will continue to provide access to the Pine Hill Preserve through Gabbert Drive for Pine Hill Preserve/ Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") staff. Consequently, the proposed project will not isolate or otherwise hinder access to the Preserve for ongoing management activities. Graciela Hinshaw, Pine Hill Preserve Manager, previously expressed this as an issue of concern at a prior hearing on the project.

It has also come to our attention through a recent telephone conversation between Jeff Little and Chuck Hughes, M.S., Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc., and Graciela Hinshaw that BLM currently manages approximately 4,042 acres of land containing some or all of the eight rare Pine Hill Plant species. Although not all of these lands are within the priority areas identified by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS") in its "Recovery Plan for Gabbro Soil Plants of the Central Sierra

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Nevada Foothills" (2002), the lands contain populations of rare plants and the type and quality of soils targeted in the recovery effort to potentially count toward the 5,001 acres identified by the USFWS as needed for preservation. (See, e.g., Recovery Plan, p. III-7 ("To provide for additional flexibility in acquisition of property, if other parcels of comparable value are identified, we will consider them . . . For example, a small portion of the public land recently purchased in the Salmon Falls area (see Figure III-4) is outside our recommended preserve boundary but is consistent to be of comparable conservation value".)) Although BLM consults with USFWS staff prior to acquiring preserve lands, to the best of our knowledge, there has not been a comprehensive effort to determine whether the lands currently held by BLM outside the identified priority areas might also be suitable toward fulfilling USFWS's goal of 5,001 acres.

With respect to the proposed project, we concur with staff's conclusion that the mitigation measures and conditions of approval imposed by the County ensure that the effects of the project to rare plants will remain less than significant under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). We therefore urge the Board to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve the project. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Andee K. Leisy

cc: Honorable Boardmember Baumann
Honorable Boardmember Dupray
Honorable Boardmember Santiago
Paula Frantz, County Counsel
Greg Fuz, Director of Development Services

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