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November 19, 2009

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors 330 Fair Lane Placerville, CA 95667

Attention:

Ron Briggs, Chairman

Subject:

Mixed Used Development Proposed General Plan Amendment

Dear Chairman Briggs,

The El Dorado County Farm Bureau has reviewed the draft General Plan Amendment to address changes to the Mixed Used Development (MUD) zoning. We have participated in numerous hearings at the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors regarding our concerns that MUD projects adjacent to agricultural lands be limited. Whether MUD projects occur in Community Regions, Rural Centers, or Rural Regions we seek to prevent incompatibilities to agriculture which can be created by increasing residential densities on adjacent lands.

We reviewed the Board's motion of October 13, 2009, concerning the proposed amendment and offer the following wording for your consideration:

Within Community Regions, the maximum allowable residential density for a mixed-use development shall be 16 dwelling units per acre. Within Rural Centers, or where commercial designated lands proposed for mixed-use development are located adjacent to an Agricultural District or to lands designated as Agricultural Lands in the General Plan, the maximum allowable residential density for a mixed-use development shall be 4 dwelling units per acre.

This language would address the Farm Bureau's concerns in addition to the concerns that you and Supervisor Sweeney expressed. As the Camino/Pollock Pines Community Region discussion continues, this would specifically protect those lands "adjacent to commercial lands" that could be developed for MUD projects, providing the assurances that we are seeking.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the General Plan amendment and hope our remarks are helpful in developing direction and ordinance language that allows MUD projects to occur where appropriate without negatively impacting agricultural operations.

Sincerely,

Julie Austin, President

CC:

Bill Stephans, Agricultural Commissioner Roger Trout, Planning Director

EVATE 11-25-09

Protect, promote, and enhance the economic opportunities and long-term viability for El Dorado County farmers, ranchers, and foresters.

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