


Santa Barbara County Public Works Department  
Flood Control  Water Agency

April 30, 2008

Planning Commission  
County of Santa Barbara  
Planning & Development Department  
123 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: King/El Encinal Pole Barn; AP Number 099-030-040  
08APL-00000-00010 of 08LUP-00000-00024

Dear Commissioners:

Santa Barbara County Flood Control has been asked by the Planning & Development Department to respond to the following statements that were submitted in an appeal to the subject project:

5. *The existing location of the barn violates County Flood Control District standards which provide in part: "In general, development shall be set back a minimum of 50 feet from the Top of Bank of streams and creeks". Santa Barbara County Creek and Watercourse Dev. Setback Standards; emphasis in original.*

and

11. *The creek that runs along the eastern perimeter of the existing access road is susceptible to further erosion, thereby imposing an additional threat to access to the Scheller property. This is contrary to Section 15 B-1 of the County Code pertaining to development along water courses, which provides as follows:*

**ATTACHMENT G  
FLOOD CONTROL LETTER**

*"The purpose of this Chapter is to provide controls on development adjacent to water courses in the unincorporated areas of the County of Santa Barbara. The controls are necessary to:*

*(b) prevent development on one parcel from causing undue detrimental impact on adjacent or downstream parcels in the event of floodwaters:....."*

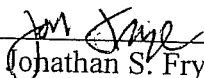
Please see below the definition of "watercourse" from Chapter 15B, "Development Along Watercourses," ("The Setback Ordinance).

The watercourse associated with this subject project does not fit within the Ordinance definition because it is not "included within the areas of special flood hazard shown in the flood insurance rate maps" and therefore not subject to the ordinance.

Please contact the undersigned should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT

By:   
Jonathan S. Frye  
Engineering Manager

cc: Florence Trotter, County Planning & Development

**CHAPTER 15B DEVELOPMENT ALONG WATERCOURSES**

Sec. 15B-1. Legislative intent.

Sec. 15B-2. Definitions.

"Watercourse" means and includes rivers, streams, creeks, arroyos, gulches, washes, and drainage channels, and the beds thereof, whether containing water or dry, and whether natural and man-made; provided, however, that for the purpose of this chapter the term "watercourse" means and includes only those parts of a watercourse which are included within the areas of special flood hazard shown in the flood insurance rate maps and to those parts of a watercourse which lie between areas of special flood hazard on the same watercourse. (Ord. No. 3095, § 1)

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