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November 9, 2020

Hon. Gregg Hart, Chair  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
105 East Anapamu Street, Fourth Floor  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**Subject: 785 and 805 Toro Canyon Road (APNs of 155-230-017 and -018)**

Dear Chair Hart and Honorable Members of the Board:

This letter is being submitted at the request of Mr. Glenn Alger who resides at 3030 Vista Linda Lane regarding Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESH) removal at the subject properties (785 and 805 Toro Canyon Road, APNs of 155-230-017 and -018, "subject properties"). I have examined the subject from Mr. Alger's property in the past and my memorandums regarding that work are incorporated by reference.

I would like to address a particular concern regarding a statement made by Mr. Douglas Coale of Mesa Tree Company (Attachment E of the letter from Mr. Lloyd). Mr. Coale stated that a number of eucalyptus trees on the property had died and needed to be removed. In addition, he stated that 80 percent of the aboveground native vegetation had died and needed to be removed due to the prolonged drought. He also stated that the vegetation that would be removed was native vegetation, including scrub oak (likely the same special-status scrub oak that occurs on Mr. Alger's property and is therefore ESH).

Mr. Coale is not an approved biologist on the County list and is not qualified to determine if vegetation is ESH. The evidence is that the habitat was ESH, and therefore the removal is inconsistent with County policy. In addition, removal of dead vegetation in such a sensitive location is best done in a targeted manner, as opposed to using tracked equipment and tearing up the ground surface. Contrary to Mr. Coale's prediction of "exceptional results" the site has come back with nonnative invasive species and is substantially deteriorated in quality.

Based on my analysis, a total of 1.97 acres of ESH was cleared on the subject property in 2017 and was repeatedly damaged after that time. This activity is inconsistent with County plans and policies for the area, and restoration of the habitat should be required.

Sincerely,

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