

Orcutt Trails Commission
123 E. Anapamu Street, 2nd Floor, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

December 10, 2015

Hon. Janet Wolf, Chair
Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara County
105 E Anapamu Street, 4th Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: Support for Rice Ranch Trails

Dear Chair Wolf and Members of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

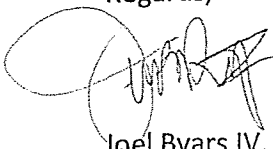
The Orcutt Trails Commission, would like to express their support of the trails component of the Rice Ranch Specific Plan Amendment. Shea Homes and its planning firm, Forma, and County Parks have assisted in designing the new trails component of the Specific Plan and spent considerable time with Commissioners at meetings and on site and Shea produced maps of various alternatives to arrive at the design currently under consideration.. Over the last two years the best trail locations and trail designs to address stakeholder requests and neighbor concerns have been arrived at.

Most recently at our December 10th meeting, The Commission heard from Oakhill neighbors and particularly Mr. and Mrs. Teixeira who brought privacy concerns to the Commission. County Parks presented alternatives that include moving the proposed trail as mapped further away from the Teixeira property and other Oakhill neighbors and by providing for vegetative screening at the Teixeira site. The Commission recommends approval of the modification to the trail alignment.

Through this cooperative effort, we were able to design a trails plan that ultimately will include nearly 9 miles of trails, a significant improvement for the Orcutt area. The Commission was also pleased with the inclusion in the trails plan of a 5-K loop designed for high school cross country team use, and were impressed at Shea's desire to place trails sensitively, in consideration of nearby neighbors of Rice Ranch.

We ask that you consider the benefits these trails will provide County residents as you review the Rice Ranch Specific Plan.

Regards,



Joel Byars IV, Chair, Orcutt Trails Commission