

More Mesa Preservation Coalition
P.O. Box 22557
Santa Barbara, CA 93121

June 28, 2010

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: California Coastal Commission (CCC) Suggested Modifications to County and Montecito Land Use and Development Codes (LUDC)

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

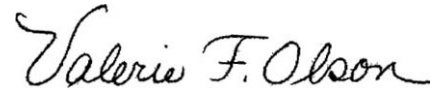
I am writing on behalf of the More Mesa Preservation Coalition (MMPC), a group of almost 1000 community members whose mission is to preserve all of More Mesa in perpetuity. Although MMPC is not affected by all the many and varied issues considered in the referenced document, we would like to voice our support for, and comment on, those that we feel, impact us directly. Therefore, we would like to submit the following comments on issues of concern to us. Specifically, we support:

- Policies that give ample and early opportunity for public comment. Our experience has been that, there often is not an opportunity for the public to comment. And, in general, the public part of the process does not occur early enough in the process to effect change, if that is what is necessary.
- Public noticing of follow-up CDP's. Again, we have found that environmentally damaging changes are often inserted (without any public notice) after the initial stages.
- Policies concerning lot splits and lot line adjustments that require there be no impact to environmentally sensitive habitat (and their buffer areas) and riparian corridors (and their buffer areas). In projects we are familiar with, terminology containing language about “minimizing” has been used as license to ignore these important environmental considerations.

However, because MMPC a small non-profit, with limited financial resources, we do have serious concern about the effect of strict definitions of “Principal Permitted Uses” (PPU) on simple and straightforward restoration projects. As part of our work toward preserving More Mesa and its environs, we do occasionally participate in, and see future greater participation in, these types of projects. If current recommendations are accepted, the financial resources required to go through the permitting process would most likely make it impossible for us to engage in, or even propose to do, these types of simple projects. In light of how much restoration is carried out in our area of the South Coast, we suggest that an additional PPU having to do with restoration projects be amended to all zones.

The More Mesa Preservation Coalition would like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed LUDC amendments. We look forward to the Board's deliberations on this important issue.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie F. Olson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

Valerie F. Olson
President, Board of Directors
More Mesa Preservation Coalition
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