



CARPINTERIA~SUMMERLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

April 8, 2014

Joyce Gerber, Planner
Building and Safety Division
Planning and Development Department
County of Santa Barbara
123 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Development projects 11CDH-00000-00054, Single Family Dwelling; 11TPM-00000-00006, Lot Split and 11CDH-00000-00006 Gabion Wall Permit at 2825 Padaro Lane.

Subject: Support the Denial of Appeal 13APL-00000-00029 for development permits at 2825 Padaro Lane

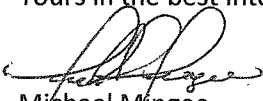
Ms. Joyce Gerber:

We have been made aware of an appeal to applications associated with the property addressed as 2825 Padaro Lane. The Fire District is concerned with any situation which will increase pedestrian traffic in an area in which vegetation is likely to continue to increase in density. Our concerns revolve around the likelihood that vegetation growth does increase the probability that once a fire is ignited it will quickly increase in intensity and spread rapidly. Our focus of effort has consistently been the requirement for residence to provide "defensible space" surrounding their homes and accessory structures. Additionally, other areas of particular concern are trails in the wildland urban interface, roadside clearance of evacuation routes and creek beds.

Environmental concerns associated with wildlife survival and ecologically sensitive vegetation particular to waterways has restricted any efforts to prevent the escalation of fire by reducing the density of vegetation in these environmental sensitive areas. In as much as the conditions along the lower portion of Toro Canyon Creek fall within a riparian sensitive area, the Fire District is not supportive of any improvements that would introduce or generate increase human use in such a highly vegetated area.

For those seeking access to beaches in Summerland there already exists a well-used and non - environmental sensitive parking area and beach access trail across from 2700 Padaro Lane which is not more than fifteen hundred (1500') feet from Toro Canyon Creek.

Yours in the best interests of fire and life safety,


Michael Mingee
Fire Chief

"Pride in Service"