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TO: JENNIFER GUETSCHOW, COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

FROM: ROB FITZROY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER *RF*

DATE: AUGUST 1, 2022

SUBJECT: DRAFT EIR - DANA RESERVE SPECIFIC PLAN

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Draft EIR for the Dana Reserve Specific Plan. Our July 21, 2021 Notice of Preparation letter identified various considerations for incorporation into the EIR. In addition, at the July 21, 2022 Study Session held by LAFCO, several legally required factors were presented and discussed, these can be found in the LAFCO Policy and Procedures document available on our website. These findings were also transmitted via email on January 11, 2022. LAFCO must make findings per government code section 56668 during its decision-making process, and as a Responsible Agency will rely, in part, on the information in the EIR to do so.

At the July 21, 2022 Study Session, the Commission expressed concern about the sustainability and ongoing availability of water for the project. It is understood Nipomo Community Services District (NCSD) would provide water to the site via its legal entitlements, infrastructure, and obligations to purchase water from the City of Santa Maria, as documented in the Draft EIR. However, what is not clear is the status of the water reliability of the source of the water from the City of Santa Maria and the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin itself. Presumably water would be sourced from the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin, but it is also possible the supply may come from other sources such as surface water from Twitchell Reservoir. The EIR should expand on this and discuss the reliability of the sources(s), and per factor in government code section 56668 (L) describe adequacy and availability of water supply for the project.

We look forward to ongoing coordination. Thank you.