

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#06

Wednesday,
May 24, 2023

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE
CLERK OF THE BOARD

DISTRIBUTED 5/23/2023

From: [Camille Perkins](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] 5/24/2023 Board of Supervisors Meeting, Item 6
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 9:11:19 AM
Attachments: [2023 05 24 CP Comment letter re MSCP to BOS.pdf](#)

Dear Clerk:

Attached please find a letter to the Board of Supervisors concerning our (negative) experience with the MSCP. Please could you distribute the attached letter to the Board of Supervisors and include it in the public record.

Sincere thanks in advance.

Kind regards,
Camille Perkins

TO: County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Camille Perkins

RE: MSCP Program Failures Resulting in Environmental Harm and Harms to Surrounding Communities

DATE: May 23, 2023

From a longtime property-owner perspective (70+ years), the MSCP is a failed program that neither serves the environment nor surrounding communities. Changes need to be made.

Under the MSCP, land is removed from private ownership and held mostly by private land managers, not governmental entities. Land managers blaze trails, build structures, open their properties to 24-hour use, direct the public onto private properties and are rarely on premises. Trailblazing has financial benefits to land managers: e.g., trail user groups pay key ownership expenses, like insurance. Not only are these trails environmentally harmful, surrounding communities and property owners are left with trespassers and crime from unapproved trails.

Using federal funds, non-profit funds, and state prisoner labor, land managers have conducted projects that breached contracts and environmental laws, abandoned project debris and waste into watersheds resulting in a dam breach, eroded roadways, environmental and watershed damage, hundreds of thousands of dollars of expenses paid by SDG&E ratepayers, and a dam that remains undermined on the land manager's property, putting everyone/everything downstream at risk. All with no consequences and oversight.

Creation of the North County MSCP continues the land grab with devastating community impacts. The Steering Committee is comprised primarily of habitat organizations and others who financially benefit from placing environmental restrictions on the maximum number of acres possible (appropriate conflicts checks were never run). Landowners have no representative yet bear all burdens of the plan.

This bias was made clear in April 2023 public meetings where County staff announced plans to treat "Surrogate Species"/"Indicator Species", like Mule Deer, as covered species under the MSCP even though populations are not threatened nor require preservation. This is ridiculous as deer are now suburban nuisances, highly acclimated to people, and dependent on irrigated home landscaping to sustain the population.

Inclusion of deer is a strong indication of nearby homes/development, not habitat quality, and needs to be removed from the North County MSCP, along with other non-threatened species. The Surrogate Species/Indicator Species rule will most affect the areas best suited to development—immediately adjacent to existing, often very dense, homes.

Please:

1. Stop the North County MSCP Overreach—don't draft a plan that goes beyond the already extensive government mandates, e.g., no protection of "indicator species" that aren't threatened, like deer.
2. Steering Committee and key decisions must include a landowner representatives and formal mechanisms for landowner input.
3. Increase standards, enforcement and penalties for land managers. There needs to be appropriate oversight and existing systems are not working. Bad apple managers must be removed from management, as County agreements allow.
4. Stop hurting existing residents and harming safety and quality of life.

Thank you for your attention.