



LEONA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL

P.O. Box 795 • LEONA VALLEY • CA 93551

February 28, 2011

Jodie Sackett
County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street
13th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90012

MAR 2 2011

Re: Tentative Tract 0066952
Valley Vineyards
Leona Valley, California

Dear Mr. Sackett:

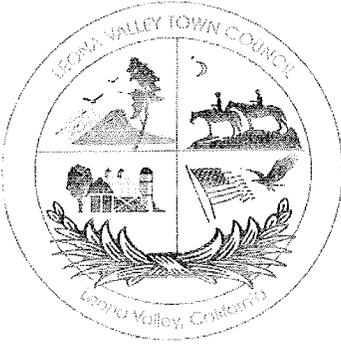
I want to keep you advised about the status of the Valley Vineyards project from the perspective of Leona Valley citizens. As you know, we had our monthly Town Council meeting on February 14, 2011. We had invited the developers of Valley Vineyards to give a presentation to the community based on their representation that a hearing before the Commission had been scheduled for March 2.

We had a very good turnout of approximately 150 to 175 people. Bill Ford of Valley Vineyards gave a very short presentation and then asked for questions. We had a two hour session of questions and answers. Residents expressed their concerns on a variety of topics. Most noteworthy were the density and clustering (the miscalculation under hillside management), the gated aspect, the septic system, availability of water, vineyards (not considered open space), traffic lights, public trails and the necessity of an EIR.

Aaron Green, Valley Vineyards' lobbyist, discussed the millions of dollars of revenue that would be generated for the schools, fire department and parks. While Mr. Ford tried to give the impression that these funds would benefit Leona Valley, the audience knew that these funds would go to the county and not be earmarked for use in Leona Valley.

Pursuant to insistent questioning, Mr. Ford stated that the project would be done in small pieces, that is, when lots were sold, and that the infrastructure would not go in at the beginning. He said there is no urgency to getting started. He said that the proposed septic system has been used successfully in Malibu (specifically, Paradise Cove) and Catalina.

At the end of the meeting, a show-of-hands vote was taken asking how many people were in favor of the Valley Vineyards project at this time. It was unanimously (with 1 or 2 abstentions) not in favor. When asked how many were in favor, no one raised their hand. The Town Council



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conducted a written ballot type of survey the next day during the State special election. Again, the results showed an almost unanimous rejection of the project.

On February 15, while we were conducting the survey, we learned that Valley Vineyards would be giving a presentation to the Westside Union School District (our local school district) that night. I attended the meeting and felt that our community's overwhelming rejection of the project was misrepresented by Valley Vineyards. I spoke briefly and informed the Board of our true feelings.

In sum, the majority of Leona Valley residents feel that the development is not in keeping with the character of our community and that approval of it would set a dangerous precedent for allowing similar projects in rural areas. In reviewing past correspondence, I see that we sent a letter very similar to this one to your department in April, 2007, four years ago. The community response to this project has been consistent over that entire period of time.

If we can provide any more information that would be helpful to you, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Elliott".

Bill Elliott
President, Leona Valley Town Council

cc: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich