



Department of Planning and Building San Luis Obispo County

Alex Hinds, Director
Bryce Tingle, Assistant Director
Barney McCay, Chief Building Official
Norma Salisbury, Administrative Services Officer

December 20, 1991

SUBJECT: South County Area Plan update

Dear Mr. _____:

Thank you for your letter of December 11, 1991, in which you expressed concerns regarding the capacity of the groundwater basin to provide for development that would be allowable in the Revised Draft South County Area Plan. This revised draft plan is based on the Final EIR for the Draft South County Area Plan. The Final EIR concluded that the previous studies that you mentioned in your letter had erroneously assumed that a small percentage of precipitation would percolate to the groundwater basin. The Final EIR also concluded that there is not an overdraft of the Nipomo Mesa sub-unit of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin, assuming a greater percentage of recharge to the basin, and there are no apparent signs of an overdraft occurring.

The response in the Revised Draft South County Area Plan is to cautiously acknowledge that there is an overdraft of the larger Santa Maria Groundwater Basin, and that increased withdrawals on the Nipomo Mesa could reduce the "out-flow" to the rest of the overdrafted basin. The plan calls for a variety of additional study of this situation and the implementation of supplemental water supplies. Additionally, the county Resource Management System will monitor annually the change in water supply in the area. The Board of Supervisors will make determinations whether to seek additional water supply sources, along with local water suppliers, or to manage growth to maintain existing capacities. While we can only outline a brief summary response to you in this letter, we are available, as is other staff, to address your concerns if you would like to meet with us. We will continue to review this issue through the public hearing process.

The next Planning Commission hearing is scheduled for January 16, 1991 at the Board of Supervisors chambers, County Government Center, 1050 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, starting at 8:45 a.m. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

Sincerely,

James Lopes, AICP
Land Use Element update program