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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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October 28, 2015

MON-Var.Var.
SCH# 2015101025

Jacqueline Onciano
Monterey County Planning Department
168 West Alisal Street, 2nd Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Ms. Onciano:

COMMENTS TO 2015 MONTEREY COUNTY HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 5, in the process of reviewing the 2015 Monterey County Housing Element Update. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated, and efficient transportation system that helps enhance California's economy and livability. We review general plan amendments, land use projects, transportation improvements, etc., to ensure consistency with state planning priorities. We offer the following comments to your document.

- Page 4 – Caltrans supports policies that encourage consistency with other planning documents, particularly the AMBAG Sustainable Communities Strategies.
- Pages 6, 8, 48-49 – While it is true that a Housing Element update does not create development entitlements (and the associated impacts), one particular location identified as a target area in the plan causes significant concern for Caltrans. Specifically, within the North County Land Use Planning area is a development proposal being discussed by CHISPA as a potential site; we are compelled at every opportunity (including this process) to discourage additional housing at this location at this time.

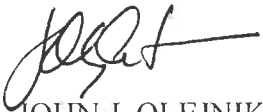
The proposed 168-unit development (currently called Castroville Oaks) is located along State Route (SR) 156 just east of Castroville Boulevard and adjacent to the Monte Del Lago community. The additional traffic to a highway already experiencing significant operational issues outweigh the competing interests. While sympathetic to the regional housing needs; our consistent message about this particular location is that any future development should only proceed after the SR 156 improvement project is completed.

*"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system
to enhance California's economy and livability"*

Jacqueline Onciano
October 28, 2015
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If you have any questions, or need further clarification on items discussed above, please don't hesitate to call me at (805) 542-4751.

Sincerely,



JOHN J. OLEJNIK
Associate Transportation Planner
District 5 Development Review Coordinator

cc: Orchid Monroy (D5)
Hank Meyers (TAMC)