



LandWatch
monterey county

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February 11, 2005

California Coastal Commission
Central Coast District Office
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

[Sent By FAX: 831-427-4877]

RE: Sunridge Views – Request for Reconsideration
Permit Number: A-3-MCO-04-054-R
Hearing: Wednesday, February 16, 2005 / ITEM NO: W11a

Dear Members of the Commission:

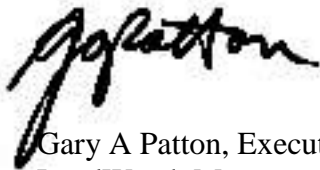
LandWatch urges the Commission to follow the recommendation of its staff, and to deny the request for reconsideration. We agree with the staff that there is no error of fact or law that has the potential to alter the Commission's decision (and no new information that could not have been presented at the earlier hearing). We believe, therefore, that granting reconsideration would be inconsistent with the provisions of Coastal Act Section 30627, and the Commission must deny the applicant's request to hear the Sunridge Views appeal all over again.

This vote is a critically important one for the future of the Monterey County Coastal Zone, and we urge the Commission to maintain the integrity of the Commission's process. Every applicant would like "two bites at the apple," but the Commission's procedures properly say that second hearings on matters already decided are only permitted in very unusual circumstances. This is not such a case. The staff report reviews each of the applicant's claims, and demonstrates that these claims do not warrant reconsideration, under the provisions of the Coastal Act.

LandWatch has many members from North Monterey County, and our North County members, in particular, are critically concerned about continuing water overdraft in North Monterey County, and especially in the Coastal Zone, where seawater intrusion problems are greatest. Some LandWatch members have had their wells fail, as the level of groundwater has dropped. Some have had water quality problems in their wells. All of them believe that preventing the further deterioration of the groundwater aquifers that serve North Monterey County should be the County's highest priority in the North County Coastal Zone, and that further groundwater overdraft should be prevented, unless and until the current overdraft is eliminated by the provision of a secure, available, and long-term water supply.

On behalf of its members and supporters from throughout Monterey County, and particularly from within the North Monterey County Coastal Zone, LandWatch urges the Commission to deny the request for reconsideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Patton". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Gary A Patton, Executive Director
LandWatch Monterey County