

March 21, 2004

3/22/2004
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Dear Mr. McCue,

As residents of Pebble Beach, we feel compelled to write to you. We strongly oppose the expansion plans proposed by the Pebble Beach Company.

It appears to us that Measure A was a deceptive ploy which successfully outwitted most county voters. Those with whom we have discussed the matter had no idea that Pebble Beach's meaning of "open space" included not only forested areas, but also the denuding of large forested areas for exclusionary golf courses and other golf and resort related developments. Their cleverly designed pamphlets, television and newspaper ads confused the average voter into thinking that their intention was truly to preserve the Del Monte Forest. At the semiannual meeting of the DMFPO, the speaker, Mr. Alan Williams, would not give us a count of how many trees would be destroyed in the development of new golf courses and driving ranges and hotel expansions. After reviewing the DEIR, it appears that approximately 15,391 Monterey Pines, 1769 Coast Live Oak, 538 Cypress and over 250 other trees will be eliminated from the forest in the process of "improving" Pebble Beach. It is beyond our comprehension that the Del Monte Forest is being protected in any way with this number of trees being removed. Looking at an aerial map of the Monterey Peninsula, it is shockingly apparent that there is only a fraction of the original forest left. Of this small remnant, the trees are challenged by Pitch Canker Disease and Sudden Oak Death. How can the felling of over 17,900 trees "save" an already dwindling forest? We feel that the homes which supposedly were to have been built might never have been built because of water limitations. Even if they had been built, far fewer trees would have been removed. The land they have set aside as preserved areas appears to be topographically unfit for residential construction and is merely a ruse. We doubt that they ever would have developed these areas.

It is also most discouraging to learn that the land near Sawmill Gulch will become the new equestrian center. As we understood it, that land was to be preserved in perpetuity. This was an agreement made when the Pebble Beach Company quarried the area for materials to build the Spanish Bay Resort. The land has never been restored as promised. Currently, trees are being removed from this area, and we suspect they are being replanted in the newly remodeled golf course.

Before living on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula, we resided in Long Beach, CA in an area called Del Lago. There actually was no lake, but only a small pond which was fed mostly by runoff. While, living at Del Lago, we recorded over 135 species of birds including Skimmers, White-faced Ibis, Sora, Kingfishers, and Least Terns to name a few. We had lived in the general area for over 40 years and had no idea that these birds were there. While spending all of our free time enjoying the profusion of wildlife, we began to wonder why all of these species were in our pond. It occurred to us that they had no place else to go. Most of their habitat, vast wet lands, had

long since been removed, drained, and replaced by houses, oil fields, shopping centers, freeways, etc. The wildlife was left with a postage stamp sized pond where once vast wetlands existed.

It is our fear that the same scenario is happening here. Habitat is being destroyed at an alarming rate. The elimination of 17,750 trees cannot be honestly and biologically mitigated. Habitat cannot be moved to another location. Not only the trees, but the plants growing beneath the forest canopy, the soil, and the organisms will be destroyed. They cannot be relocated. It just does not happen. The forest floor has evolved over eons, not just a few years. The flora and fauna live in the forest, not on a golf course or a driving range. A huge number of native plants, including rare native orchids will lose their habitat as well as native insects, birds, and animals.

Mr. Zander the biologist hired to complete the DEIR is of very limited scientific education with only a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology. We question his qualifications in determining the future of such a diverse ecosystem. Mr. Alan Williams of the Carmel Development Company has no biological education at all as far as we know.

Enclosed, please see the photographs of the damage to Yadon Piperia that occurred in July 2003 by the Pebble Beach Company "The Stewards of the Del Monte Forest." This occurred after these Federally Endangered plants were tagged by the "biologists" for the DEIR. This is a federal offense. It is clearly evident that these people have no regard for the environment.

Our concern is that the true wealth of Pebble Beach is in jeopardy. The resorts and the golf courses are wonderful for rest and recreation for an exclusive few, but it is the location, the peninsula with its beaches, forest, and wildlife that are of priceless value and should be spared. It is our sincere hope that you will do everything in your power to protect it.

Sincerely,



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cc California Costal Commission



Yadon's Piperia Pebble Beach 7/2003



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