

3/22/2004
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Mrs. Henry H. Mauz, Jr.
1608 Viscaino Road
Pebble Beach, CA 93953
March 20, 2004

Thomas A. McCue, Senior Planner
Monterey County Planning and Building Inspection Department
2620 1st Avenue
Marina, CA 93933

Dear Mr. McCue,

The presence of horses in the Del Monte Forest has been an important element in the fabric of Pebble Beach for over 80 years. Samuel F.B. Morse chose the location of the Pebble Beach Equestrian Center in the heart of the community to enhance this equine existence.

THERE MUST BE AN EQUESTRIAN CENTER IN PEBBLE BEACH. The existing facility has provided services to all levels of equestrian ability from pony rides for toddlers, first lessons to young children, coaching riders of hunters and jumpers, 3-day eventing, dressage, to the training of Olympians. Pebble Beach boasts a reputation in the horse world for world-class shows and events as well as accomplished trainers and teachers. The facility provides boarding for horses of every discipline. Thousands enjoy the beauty of the trails on horses owned by or boarded at the equestrian center. Residents depend on it to shelter their horses and ponies.

It is imperative that the Pebble Beach Company's Del Monte Forest Preservation and Development Plan includes a relocated equestrian center that will be completed before the building of the new golf course necessitates the demolition of the existing one. The Sawmill Gulch, as the only site offered by the Pebble Beach Company, can house a modern facility that would adequately house privately owned horses as well as mounts for guests at the Inn and the Lodge. I urge the County to approve this portion of the plan.

The DEIR did not address the relocated equestrian center as an individual entity but through scattered information presented by common impacts of affected projects. We had only 6 weeks to review 1200 pages. Several impacts offered questionable mitigation, including the handling of waste products generated by the new equestrian center. The DEIR states that one mitigation is that feed free of noxious weeds be fed to animals at the facility and a week in advance to visiting horses. The DEIR does not address a plan for monitoring this and other mitigations - who? What? Where? When? How will they be enforced?

The Collins Polo Field is the closest approximation of a Central Park in the community. Countless horses are exercised there. Dogs are trained and retrieving balls almost daily. Toddlers learn to run in the grass. Children play games. Students from RLS play lacrosse, soccer and many other games in practice and competition with other schools. The polo field provides an airy, green space open to all who live, work and play in Pebble Beach. There is no equivalent area addressed in the DEIR. The relocated equestrian center should include a field adequate for recreational pursuits. It would not provide a community center green space or a convenient playing field near RLS, but it would be an asset for use by the forest residents.

Being able to board my horse in the forest and roaming the trails was a deciding reason for my living here. There is no place like it!

Sincerely yours,

Peggy Mauz
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