



## PEBBLE BEACH EQUESTRIAN CENTER

3/22/2004  
#66

March 22, 2004

Mr. Thom McCue  
Monterey County Planning and Building  
2620 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Marina, CA 93933

RE: Del Monte Forest Preservation & Development Plan

Dear Mr. McCue,

As the owner & operator of the Pebble Beach Equestrian Center, please accept these comments & concerns I have regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

The manmade wetlands on the upper and lower sawmill site will affect the recreational use of the Equestrian Center. Every effort should be made to repair the original grading error that resulted in these manmade wetlands, so that the proposed reduction of recreational use can be eliminated. 1

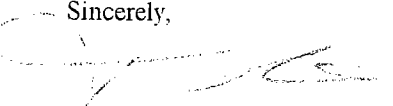
The Pebble Beach Company currently has a trail maintenance program in place to maintain & improve the trail system. It is unnecessary to restrict the current equestrian and hiking use of the trail system. For over 75 years the recreational activities and the hours of operation of the Equestrian Center have not been restricted in anyway including the use of the 26 miles of trails. To my knowledge, none of these trails or the adjacent habitat areas has suffered significant environmental damage as the result of equestrian center usage. Additionally, the DEIR doesn't address the environmental impacts of the unauthorized use of bicycles and motorized bikes on the trail system and the damage associated with this activity, but it talks about the damage the equestrians will have on the trail system. We believe the damage from bicycles is more serious than potential damage by equestrians, and that bicycle usage and its consequent damage would be reduced with the presence of the Equestrian Center in the new location. 2

It is stated that the manure be transported at least twice weekly to a landfill or other approved disposal facility. The word "approved" should be replaced with "appropriate", as there is no approval process for the disposal of manure of which I am aware. We currently transport manure to organic farmers who use it for fertilizer. 3

Weed-Free Feed is currently not available in our area and would be cost prohibited to require the Equestrian Center to use it. Weed-Free Feed imposed on outside visitors would be impossible to monitor. Additionally, the other mitigations proposed in the DEIR are sufficient to deal with the potential issue of invasive species. 4

It is clear from the 75-year equestrian history of the Del Monte Forest, that horses and horseback riding activities were a planned part of this community. I look forward to continuing to provide and preserve these traditional and historical equestrian activities for the residents, families, visitors and competitors who have enjoyed "horses in the forest" as a integral part of the outstanding recreational opportunities the Monterey Peninsula has to offer all of us.

Sincerely,

  
Tim Postel  
President