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March 22, 2004

Mr. Thom McCue, Senior Planner
Monterey County Planning and Building Inspection Department
Coastal Office
2620 First Avenue
Marina, CA 93933

Re: Draft EIR for the Del Monte Forest Preservation and Development Plan

Dear Mr. McCue:

As a horsewoman riding at the Pebble Beach Equestrian Center (PBEC) since 1978 when I first moved to Carmel and a homeowner in Pebble Beach since 1993, I would like to speak to issues in the DEIR that relate specifically to equestrian matters. First of all, I am in support of the relocation of the Center to the Sawmill site and am grateful to the Pebble Beach Company (PBC) for their dedication to maintaining historic equestrian activities in the Forest for generations to come. However, there are certain issues in this document that need to be addressed:

1. The Pebble Beach Equestrian Center (PBEC) and twenty-six miles of forest trails have been in existence for over seventy-five years and have been managed responsibly by both the Pebble Beach Company (PBC) and the leaseholder of the equestrian center. Let **them** keep doing their job. | 1

2. Requiring man-made wetlands from early last century quarry activity to be preserved is both a detriment to operations as it is ridiculous. First of all, at the current site we have six riding arenas for 150 horses. With the restriction of the maintenance of these "fake" wetlands, we will be reduced to three riding arenas on the upper site and a greatly reduced recreation area below. It would seem to me that if it were necessary to have man-made wetlands on the site, one could put them in an area that will not restrict riding and recreation activities. | 2

3. The trail system is a resource for residents and visitors alike. The PBC has worked to create and expand the trails in the Forest for as long as it has had an Open Space program; and the Pebble Beach Riding and Trails Association (of which I am a member) has worked with the Company since 1988 to continue to maintain the trails on a monthly basis. They do a fabulous job. Restricting equestrian use on the trails following inclement weather or closing the Green/Red or Crawford Trail is both unnecessary and unfair. Actually, I would propose that certain portions of the Green Trail (near "four corners") be improved to facilitate safe passage for riders going down to the beach—a ride that has been enjoyed by thousands of visitors for three-quarters of a century. Single-track trails are not "hurt" by horse traffic. In truth, horse traffic helps maintain them from overgrowth by often-times non-native species. Let's redirect our efforts to eradication of non-natives and keeping illegal bicyclists and motor bike riders off these lovely trails for the safety of hikers and riders alike.
4. Lastly, I have been at PBEC under the management of Dick Collins, Abby Foss, Derek diGrazia and Tim Postel. Each one has done his/her part to enhance the site as well as the stature of the organization. Tim Postel, specifically, has done a tremendous job of both improving our physical plant as well as putting our Center "on the map" as a world-class equestrian operation. Our horse shows are considered some of the best run and most competitive in the nation; and people "line up" to be able to board their valuable and much-loved animals at our stables. Let's not hamstring the Center or its operator by mandating precisely what feed must be fed—it is my understanding the "weed-free feed" is not currently available in our state. Also, a program is currently in place to recycle manure to organic farmers. I think that it is inappropriate for the DEIR to require PBEC to direct how manure should be disposed of.

Yours sincerely,



Mary Wiltse