

Dr. and Mrs. Paul G. James
PO Box 1275
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

3/22/2004
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Mr. Thom McCue
Monterey County Planning and Building
2620 1st Avenue
Marina, CA 93933

Dear Mr. McCue:

We are thirty-year residents of Del Monte Forest and have counted among our friends SFB Morse and his family. When we signed on as residents of the Forest, we signed on to a lifestyle which was gracious, multifaceted, and characterized by respect for the beauty of the Forest and the sea. As such, we feel we are as vested as any in the Forest in decisions concerning its future.

We feel strongly that the most recent stewards of the Forest have a flawed vision. In our opinion, it would be timely for government to protect the current owners from their illusion. Remaking the Del Monte Forest into a one-themed mega golf resort ignores the sensitive environment and the diverse recreational opportunities that brought so many of us here. The ecology of golf courses is remarkably restricted to a few non-native plant types and eliminates hundreds of acres of bio diversity. The presence of another massive golf course would eliminate the polo field, the "Central Park of Pebble Beach," a critical open space, which serves many purposes on a daily basis and hosts a multitude of organized functions throughout the year. The elimination of the old Equestrian Center would do away with much of the style and history, which we so appreciate as part of the Pebble Beach community. We grant that the golf course might make short term economic sense, but so too would condominiums in Golden Gate Park. It is possible to destroy the charm of a tennis club by excessively paving over the neighborhood for a hundred courts. It is possible to take a bowling alley beyond the realm of reason by adding fifty lanes, and it is possible to spoil the appeal and charm of Pebble Beach by squeezing in another unneeded golf course. Pebble Beach should play to its strengths with emphasis on

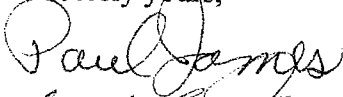

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maintaining its bio diversity, its beauty, and the charm of a space that is already critically impacted.

The Pebble Beach Equestrian Center has been a responsible Forest citizen. It represents a valuable way for people to relate to the natural world. We would plead that some way be found to accommodate the needs of the equestrian and trail walking community. A trail system for walking and equestrian use should be encouraged as a non destructive way of bringing people together with this uniquely sensitive and beautiful area. Greater equestrian and pedestrian use would discourage mountain bikes, motor bikes, and ATV's. The equestrian community, with volunteers and some paid help, regularly schedules trail cleanups and upgrades. This community is dedicated to the maintenance of our unique environment for all to enjoy. We recognize that it is a unique privilege to be allowed to enjoy our horses in such a magnificent environment. We take pride in helping to support and maintain an equestrian facility, which through our collective efforts and concerns will enhance the experience of all who enjoy the surrounding beauty.

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Sincerely yours,



Ellen and Paul James