



SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER

Regional Groups Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties: Los Serranos, Tahquitz, San Bernardino Mountains, Mojave, Moreno Valley, Big Bear

February 20, 2017

City Council
65-950 Pierson Boulevard
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240

BY EMAIL

Re: Item 19, Extension of Time for TTMs 35009 and 35448, Rancho Royale Specific Plan

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Council:

I'm writing for the Sierra Club to respectfully urge the Council to deny the appeal for an extension of time for the above-referenced Tentative Tract Maps. We concur the Planning Commission's action and with issues raised by other non-governmental organizations as well as those raised by concerned citizens and landowners.

In the time since the project's approval, the finalization of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species HCP (MSHCP) as well as the more recent designation of the Sand to Snow National Monument have positioned Desert Hot Springs to join other Coachella Valley communities as a truly premier gateway resort.

Accordingly, the City has both an obligation and an opportunity to update the Rancho Royale development to ensure that this entry point to Sand to Snow be developed in a sensitive manner reflecting the site's unique attributes as a destination for residents or visitors attracted by the open space and recreation -- attributes made available by protective designations since the City's review and approval.

In addition to points made to the Commission and Council by others, we urge the City to address the Land Use Adjacency Guidelines and other measures required under Sections 4.4 and 4.5 of the MSHCP which honor the valuable open space and other values of the reserves established under the MSHCP.

Again, we urge the City to deny the extension of time, so that the City can fully consider all relevant issues. Thank you for the opportunity to make input on this important matter.

Very truly yours,

Joan Taylor, Conservation Chair
Tahquitz Group of the Sierra Club, 1850 Smoke Tree Lane, Palm Springs, CA 92264

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City of Desert Hot Springs
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

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