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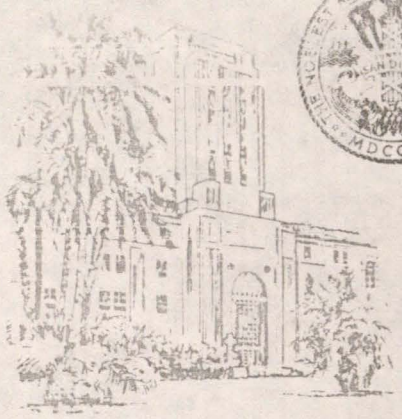

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1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY • SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101 • (619)531-5544

January 22, 1992

Ms. Lynne Jeffries
816 Delaware Street
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Dear Ms. Jeffries:

Thank you for your letter regarding private inholdings in the Central Mountain Subregion. I appreciate your taking the time to write and express your feelings on this issue.

The moratorium you have requested cannot legally be put in place at this time. Moratoriums can only be declared in cases of health and safety hazards, neither of which apply to the area in question. However, the Board of Supervisors took several actions which we believe will go a long way towards protecting the land.

The following information appeared as a "letter to the Editor" which I sent to publications throughout the County. If you have not read it already, I hope you will take the time to do so now. This information outlines those actions the Board of Supervisors took to help protect the wildlife and habitat in the Central Mountain Subregion:

It is with great concern that I have read editorials and listened to testimony from citizens attacking the County Board of Supervisors for inadequately protecting the Cleveland National Forest. These individuals have summarily dismissed the fact that the recent actions of the Board led to the largest downzoning in the history of the County of San Diego. This particular downzoning reduced the number of homes that can be built on a piece of property, which in turn will help protect our local wildlife and its habitat.

Remember that these are properties which are individually owned. The rights and needs of these individuals cannot be ignored. Ideally, all the privately owned land inside the boundaries of the forest would be acquired for the public. Those men and women who are working towards those acquisitions should be commended.

Recycled paper

To the extent that the Board can assist in that endeavor, we have, and we will. Until such time as the funds are raised to purchase the privately owned properties, the recent downzoning and stringent permitting processes which the County requires will help act as safeguards for the protection of the resources of the Central Mountain area.

I ask you to note that of the 41,747 privately owned acres outside the country towns, 33,991 of those (81 percent) were downzoned from four and eight acre minimum lot sizes to 20 and 80 acre minimum lot sizes.

Under the old plan, just under 27,000 acres were marked with the (23) National Forest/State Park Land Use Designator. This designator is used to identify those lands most desirable for public acquisition as park land. The Board increased this to 40,839 acres now covered by the (23) Designator.

In addition, a special scenic preservation policy was created, in which development is discouraged along prominant ridgelines and other significant scenic areas. This policy covers the entire Central Mountain sub-region. While riding and hiking trails have been approved, off-road vehicle trails were not.

The wildlife and habitat corridors, which run through the Cleveland National Forest, are a valuble regional resource. Protection of those resources is certainly a priority for this Board, as evidenced by the actions I've outlined above.

Those who accuse my colleagues and me of having "caved-in" to a small special interest group are misinformed. For six months we listened carefully to all the special interest groups: the environmentalists, the people who live in and around the country towns, the landowners, and many other groups that wished to address the Board on this issue. Their input was important, and it gave us valuable insight. We weighed the testimony and we took the action we felt would increase protection of the natural resources in the Central Mountain sub-region, while also being sensitive to the rights and needs of property owners.

This Board is committed to working in the best interest of the County as a whole. I believe that this goal has been, and will continue to be met.

Sincerely,

Leon L. Williams
Supervisor, Fourth District

LLW:cmc