



## COUNTY OF SAN BENITO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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March 3, 2010

CCMA RMP/EIS Comments  
Attention: Planning Coordinator  
Bureau of Land Management  
Hollister Field Office  
20 Hamilton Court  
Hollister, CA 95023

10 MAR -9 PM 1:00

Dear Planning Coordinator,

Thank you for your time extension to allow the County to comment on the Clear Creek Management Area Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (CCMA RMP and EIS). The Board will be reviewing this matter again on March 9 and 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is our understanding that additional requests have been made by the public to extend the comment period an additional ninety (90) days. We strongly support the extension of time for the public, due to the great economic impact that the permanent closure of the Clear Creek Management Area will have on the public.

At the Board of Supervisors meeting on March 2, 2010, public comment was received by the San Benito County Board of Supervisors regarding this project. These comments are summarized as follows:

- The public, especially the economic community, needs more time to comment on the document.
- Significant revenue will be lost by local and regional businesses due to the closure.
- Alternative A (the no-action Alternative) is the preferred alternative.
- Due to the temporary closure of Clear Creek, the Hollister Hills OHVA is full by 10:00 a.m., and frequently has to turn people away, further hurting the economy of the area, and forcing people to go further away for OHV activity.
- Resource damage is occurring due to the temporary closure, both within Hollister Hills, as well as the general area.
- More independent research and peer review needs to be done regarding the specific health risks of the asbestos, and more research needs to be conducted on the difference between asbestos and chrysotile, as the latter appears common to many counties and appears to be more benign.
- The EPA study needs to be peer reviewed.

- The BLM did not do an adequate job of seeking out comments from the business community.
- Private property owners in the area are having trouble accessing/afraid to access their properties for risk of being arrested.
- Not enough community outreach has been done.
- The dust readings are flawed, due to the readings being taken from the dust clouds of other riders.
- The comment period (90 days) should better reflect the time it took to prepare the document (18 months).

Thank you again for the time extension. Comments on the EIS from the County will be forthcoming. Again, the Board would like to reiterate the community's desire to extend the comment period by an additional 90 days, due to the significant recreational and economic impact that the closure to the Clear Creek Management Area will have on San Benito County and the region.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Reb Monaco".

Reb Monaco  
Chair  
San Benito County Board of Supervisors