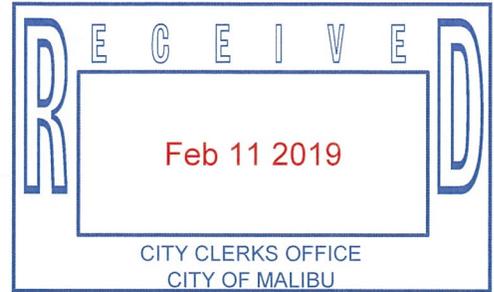


Kelsey Pettijohn

Subject: Public Comment Letter on Murphy Way Connector Project
Attachments: 2019-02-11 MRCA to City - Clarifications & Review Extension.pdf



From: Elena <eger@smmc.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 9:42 AM
To: Heather Glaser <hglaser@malibucity.org>
Cc: Joseph T. Edmiston, Faicp <edmiston@smmc.ca.gov>; Rorie Skei <skei@smmc.ca.gov>; Jeffrey K. Maloney <maloney@smmc.ca.gov>; Paul Edelman <edelman@smmc.ca.gov>; Jessica Nguyen <jessica.nguyen@mrca.ca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment Letter on Murphy Way Connector Project

Dear Ms. Glaser,

Attached is the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's public comment letter to the Malibu City Council at its public meeting tonight, February 11, 2019.

Sincerely,

Elena Eger
Special Counsel
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265
310.589.3230 x 136

<p style="text-align: center;">FILED City of Malibu Office of the City Clerk</p> <p>Meeting Date <u>2/11/19</u></p> <p>Agenda Item # <u>2.A.</u></p>

Date Received 2-11-19 Time 9:42 am
ERB meeting of 2-12-19
Agenda Item No. 2A
Total No. of Pages 4



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Ramirez Canyon Park
5810 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265
Phone (310) 589-3230 Fax (310) 589-3237

February 11, 2019

City Council Members
City Clerk
City of Malibu
23825 Stuart Ranch Road
Malibu, CA 90265

Sent by email to Hqlaser@malibucity.org

Escondido Canyon Park to Murphy Way Connector Project

Dear Malibu City Council Members and City Clerk:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) submits this letter in response to the allegations made during the City Council's discussion at its January 28, 2019 meeting regarding the MRCA's Escondido Canyon Park to Murphy Way Connector Project (Project). We submit this letter to the City Clerk as public comment and request that it is provided to each councilmember and read into the record at the City Council's meeting on February 11, 2019.

Allegation: MRCA's Project is a new project submitted to the City post-Woolsey Fire.

Facts: The MRCA's Project is not a new project. MRCA filed a permit application for the Project on **July 20, 2016**, more than two years before the Woolsey Fire. Part of the City's Coastal Development Permit (CDP) process requires an environmental document, as applicable, and the City has determined that a mitigated negative declaration meets that requirement for this Project. To comply with the City's requirements and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), MRCA is circulating a draft mitigated negative declaration for public review and comment.

Allegation: MRCA is giving inadequate time to City residents for public review and comment on the environmental document for the Project.

Facts: MRCA provided more time for public review and comment on the mitigated negative declaration for the Project than statutorily required. CEQA requires 30 days for public review and comment pursuant to California Code of Regulations Section 15073. With understanding and empathy for the Malibu community's loss due to the Woolsey Fire, the MRCA offered 45 days for public review and comment, 15 days more than the 30 days required under CEQA.

Malibu City Council Members
Malibu City Clerk
February 11, 2019

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Allegation: The MRCA is trying to “push this [Project] through at this [post-Woolsey Fire] time” (quoting Councilman Peak; brackets added).

Facts: The MRCA’s Project is over nine years old. The attached timeline for the Project shows that the Project began in 2010, **nine years** ago. Even after the MRCA submits the approved environmental document to the City, the MRCA still has to complete additional steps in the City’s CDP process before implementation of the Project.

Because the MRCA supports public participation as an essential part of the CEQA process, the MRCA is extending the public review and comment period on the Project for an additional 45 days, that is, from January 4th to April 4th, 2019, for a total of 90 days, three times the review and comment time required under CEQA. Notice of the public review and comment period extension will be provided as statutorily required, including publication in the *Malibu Times* and direct mail to owners and occupants of property contiguous to the Project site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rorie Skei". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rorie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Skei".

Rorie Skei
Chief Deputy Executive Officer

Escondido Canyon Park to Murphy Way Connector Trail Project Planning Timeline

