



May 1, 2017

Supervisor Diane Burgis
Board of Supervisors - District Three
Contra Costa County
3361 Walnut Boulevard, Suite 140
Brentwood, CA 94513

RE: Tassajara Valley Agricultural Enhancement Area's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Dear Supervisor Burgis,

On behalf of Protect CEQA, I am writing to advocate for the certification of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Tassajara Valley Agricultural Enhancement Area that will permanently preserve 17,718 acres of public open space. As the group's Executive Director, we believe this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to preserve and memorialize pristine open space lands in the Tassajara Valley. We congratulate the County's leadership and efforts thus far in working with multiple stakeholders to develop this agreement. It's a great example of environmental cooperation and compromise that other communities across the state can model.

The MOU ensures that smart, sustainable planning will occur in the Tassajara Valley in perpetuity. The cities of Danville and San Ramon, along with the East Bay Regional Parks District, each stand to benefit significantly from this agreement. Time and time again, massive development projects are being proposed in the Tassajara Valley that would destroy one of the East Bay's last remaining undeveloped areas. The MOU prevents this issue from ever occurring again. That is why our organization is joined by the East Bay Regional Parks and open space advocates in supporting it.

The MOU sets clear restrictions and requires collaboration between each stakeholder - Danville, San Ramon, Contra Costa County, and the East Bay Regional Parks District. By applying each stakeholder's existing land preservation policies, as codified in existing zoning regulations and general plan policies, to the Tassajara Valley Agricultural Enhancement Area, the MOU memorializes each jurisdiction's respective commitment to preserving an approximately 17,718-acre area in Tassajara Valley. It

balances the rights of property owners with the concerns of environmental activists. And the permanent preservation of these open space lands will further provide future access and enjoyment by Contra Costa residents and outdoor enthusiasts throughout the Bay Area.

We, therefore, strongly encourage you to certify the Tassajara Valley Agricultural Enhancement Area's Memorandum of Understanding. We further call upon the cities of Danville and San Ramon, and the East Bay Regional Parks District to each support this opportunity. Thank you for your support and all you are doing to protect the environment in our state.

Sincerely,

Andrew Grundman
Executive Director
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ABOUT PROTECT CEQA

Since 2014, Protect CEQA is a statewide coalition of environmentalists, labor members, and concerned residents committed to protecting the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), open space preservation, and promoting smart growth development.

Cc: Contra Costa Board of Supervisors
San Ramon City Council
Danville Town Council
East Bay Regional Parks District
Contra Costa Department of Conservation & Development