

Dear LA County Department of Regional Planning,

I am writing to share feedback on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) concerning the proposed Royal Vista Residential Project No. PRJ2021-002011. As an engaged community member, I value the chance to convey our perspectives on the project and its potential consequences.

The proposed high-density development, (reaching 800 units with the inclusion of the Sunjoint development on Lake Canyon), poses a considerable threat to our community's welfare. This threat is evident in the expected increase in crime rates, the introduction of at least 2,000 vehicles causing traffic congestion and emitting pollutants, and the irreversible harm to our wildlife habitat. This habitat, a critical corridor to the Puente Hills SEA conservation area just 1.2 miles away, is in jeopardy. Additionally, the current permeable ground serves a crucial role in filtering pollutants, replenishing the Puente Basin Aquifer, and mitigating the urban heat island effect by cooling the surrounding area.

The Draft EIR overlooks the presence of bats in the area, despite reports and evidence from residents, including special status bat species observed in the Puente Hills Significant Ecological Area. This area, crucial for wildlife, is 3.5 miles from the Royal Vista Golf Course, serving as an important wildlife corridor.

The biological reconnaissance conducted by Placeworks on July 13, 2020, for 75 acres was incomplete, missing key species such as Cooper's Hawks, egrets, and herons observed by residents daily. Placeworks documented only three mammal species on Royal Vista, neglecting several others, including skunks, raccoons, possums, rabbits, and more.

Within the golf course, there are multiple blueline streams and two ponds, which are fed from upstream drainages. Despite the delineation report claiming low water levels and the draining of the ponds in October 2022, we have photographic evidence that contradicts this, showing Pond #1 retaining water and frequented by ducks, Canada geese, and other water birds.

The DEIR fails to address the loss of this watershed and its impact on groundwater replenishment.

Thank you for addressing these concerns and your dedication to ensuring the Royal Vista Residential Project aligns with our community's values and needs.

Sincerely,