



County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED MAZ Properties Inc Advanced Wastewater Treatment Project Case No. 15CUP-00000-00029

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Project proposes to upgrade existing, aging septic system components serving farm employee dwellings and agricultural support buildings that include restrooms. The project includes a treatment module to provide advanced treatment for existing sewage effluent before conveyance to a new consolidated leach field.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located on the Gaviota Coast approximately 1.5 miles west of Refugio Road and is commonly known as 14000 Calle Real, APN 081-200-028, in the Third Supervisorial District

PUBLIC COMMENT: Santa Barbara County P&D is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of 19NGD-00000-00014. You may comment by submitting written or oral comments to the project planner identified below prior to the close of public comment on November 21, 2019 at 5 p.m. Due to the non-complex nature of the project, a separate environmental hearing will not be held.

PROJECT DETAILS: Approval of a new wastewater treatment system to replace the existing septic systems, which currently serve the El Rancho de Tajiguas “village” area Building #s 6, 8, 9, 11 (2 units), 13, 20, 21, and 22, (farm employee residences on both sides of Tajiguas Creek), as well as Buildings #16 (ranch office), #17 (agricultural equipment storage), and #19 (agricultural barn), which include restrooms. No other development or changes are proposed onsite and no other development would be served by the proposed system. The project includes:

- Replacement of existing septic tanks in the same locations, if needed, based on condition;
- Installation of new wastewater effluent lines and possible use of some existing wastewater line segments (depending on condition and location);
- Abandonment in place (allowed by EHS) of the three gravel leach fields that would no longer be used;
- Construction of an advanced wastewater treatment system module that would provide tertiary level treatment of wastewater effluent from the afore-mentioned farm employee dwellings and agricultural buildings; and
- Provision of a consolidated leach field for disposal of the tertiary treatment water, to be located in the vicinity of the most southerly existing leach field.

- Implementation of a restoration plan to avoid and offset project impacts, including removal of invasive species (arundo) and planting of compatible native species within the Tajiguas Creek riparian buffer area.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: P&D has prepared a Draft Negative Declaration (14NGD-00000-00014) pursuant to Section 15073 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA. P&D's issuance of a Negative Declaration affirms our opinion that any significant adverse impacts associated with the proposed project may be reduced to a less than significant level with the adoption of mitigation measures and that the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Negative Declaration prepared for the project identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and monitoring requirements for identified subject areas. Significant but mitigable effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas: **biological resources, geologic processes and water quality**. If the project description changes, P&D will require a reevaluation to consider the changes. This reevaluation will be subject to all regular fees and conditions. If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed project.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: If a copy of the Negative Declaration is not attached, the draft ND may be obtained and all documents referenced in the ND may be reviewed at Planning & Development offices located at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara **AND** on our website at: www.sbcountyplanning.org/environmental/active.cfm. Draft documents are also available for review at the Goleta library, 500 North Fairview Avenue, Santa Barbara, CA 93117.

HOW TO COMMENT: Please provide comments to the project planner, Natasha Campbell (phone 805-570-4871 or 805-568-2000, reception), fax 805-568-2030, email ncampbell@co.santa-barbara.ca.us) prior to the close of public comment on November 21, 2019 at 5 p.m. Please limit comments to environmental issues such as traffic, biology, noise, etc. You will receive notice of the dates of future public hearings to consider project approval or denial.