



EXECUTIVE OFFICE
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July 24, 2008

Keith Boggs
Deputy Executive Officer – Economic Development
1010 10th Street, Suite 6800
Modesto, CA 95354

RE: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the West Park Specific Plan Project

Dear Mr. Boggs:

The City of Ceres appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation for the West Park Specific Plan project. Generally, we feel the Notice of Preparation is complete and the EIR will study and mitigate to the extent feasible, environmental impacts associated with this unique development proposal.

The City of Ceres comments revolve around the traffic and circulation component of the EIR. It is our understanding that this project will utilize multiple modes of transportation, such as rail, heavy and light duty trucks and passenger vehicles to move goods and services from this area. Because of this, the City of Ceres has concerns about the transportation network that will serve the proposed project. Primarily this revolves around Fink/Crows Landing Road as it traverses the County from the project site into Ceres/Modesto, Beard Industrial Park and the Highway 99 corridor. The City would like specific study within the traffic and circulation section of the EIR to discuss what impacts the project will have to Fink/Crows Landing Road, major roadways and intersections that connect from that corridor to the State 99 corridor and areas in the north and east sides of Modesto. The EIR should also delineate what types of traffic will use these corridors, i.e., heavy trucks, light trucks, passenger vehicles etc... In addition to identifying impacts, mitigation measures will need to be incorporated that address those impacts, identify timing mechanisms for mitigation measures and indicate who would be responsible to make necessary improvements.

The City of Ceres looks forward to commenting on the DRAFT EIR for the West Park Specific Plan Project. Should you or the consultant have any questions regarding our comments, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Barry Siebe
Planning Manager