



May 18, 2011

Richard Chamberlain  
Moraga Planning Department  
329 Rheem Boulevard  
Moraga, California 94556

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MORAGA PLANNING DEPT.

**RE: Lafayette Moraga Regional Trail**  
Proposed Town of Moraga Subdivision at Rheem Blvd. and St. Mary's Rd.

Dear Mr. Chamberlain,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed subdivision of existing open space located adjacent to the Lafayette Moraga Regional Trail at the southwest corner of Rheem Boulevard and St. Mary's Road. The East Bay Regional Park District ("District") has operated and maintained a segment of the Lafayette Moraga Regional Trail across this property (APN: 256 110 055) since 1977. One of the District's oldest trails, the Lafayette Moraga Regional Trail extends 7.7 miles from the Reliez Valley Staging Area on Olympic Boulevard in Lafayette to East Bay Municipal Utility District's Valle Vista Staging Area. The trail also forms a segment of the Lamorinda Loop Trail and is well-used by residents and visitors alike.

The District does not support the conversion of open space for residential development. While such conversions may provide a short-term economic windfall for the Town, the reduction in open space and wildlife habitat and the increase in density last forever. The addition of new residences immediately adjacent to the trail may also result in additional operational impacts on the District.

Recently approved projects in Moraga including Palos Colorados and the Moraga Town Center Specific Plan will provide a multitude of housing opportunities for existing and new residents alike. The District respectfully recommends that the Town keep its remaining open space intact.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,  
  
Sean Dougan  
Regional Trails Development

Cc: Jim Townsend

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