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<td>Ms. Jane Farwell</td>
<td>Chandra Wallar</td>
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<td>Division of Water Rights</td>
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<td>State Water Resources Control Board</td>
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**NOTES/COMMENTS:**

Ms. Farwell,

Attached please find the County's comment regarding the 2nd Revision Draft EIR for the Cachuma Lake Project. You will also receive a hard copy in the mail.

Thank you.
May 16, 2011

Ms. Jane Farwell
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Fax: 916-341-5400

Re: Cachuma Project 2nd Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Dear Ms. Farwell:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2nd Revised Draft EIR for potential modifications to Bureau of Reclamation water right permits for the Cachuma Project. At this time, the County is submitting comments from the Planning and Development Department, Fire Department, and Parks Department.

The County looks forward to continued dialogue on future projects. If you should have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office directly or Jeff Hunt, Director of Long Range Planning Division, at (805) 568-2072.

Sincerely,

Chandra L. Wallar
County Executive Officer

cc: Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development Department
    Richard Todd, Division Chief/Fire Marshal, Fire Department
    Brian Roney, Interim Director of Parks Department

Enclosures:
Planning and Development Department letter, May 12, 2011
Fire Department letter, April 22, 2011
Parks Department letter, May 13, 2011
May 12, 2011

Ms. Jane Farwell  
Division of Water Rights  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000  
Re: Cachuma Project 2nd Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)  

Dear Ms. Farwell:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2nd Revised Draft EIR for potential modifications to Bureau of Reclamation water right permits for the Cachuma Project. The Planning and Development Department offers the following comments for your consideration:

Section 6.0 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 6-1 Summary of Impacts of Different Alternatives presents Class 1 (short-term/temporary) and Class II (long-term) impacts for oak trees for all Alternatives analyzed in the Draft EIR (3B, 3C, 4B, 5B and 5C). The County commends the State Water Resources Control Board for their commitment and efforts to develop an oak tree replacement program to mitigate for the loss of oak trees under the various Alternatives.

The County has made similar commitments to the conservation and regeneration of oak woodlands through the adoption of policies in the County Comprehensive General Plan and guidelines which govern deciduous and live oak removals under Chapter 14 of the Grading Code. The Conservation Element, Oak Tree Protection in the Inland Rural Areas of Santa Barbara County, Supplement to the Mapped Areas and Communities contains policies and actions which promote oak tree protection in County inland rural areas. The oak tree protection goal for this document states,

Santa Barbara County shall promote the conservation and regeneration of oak woodlands in the County over the long term, and, where feasible, shall work to increase the native oak population and extent of woodland acreage. The highest priority for conservation, protection and regeneration shall be for valley oak trees, valley oak woodlands and valley oak savanna.1

Additionally, the goal of Appendix A. Grading Ordinance Guidelines for Native Oak Tree Removal is to “...sustain and, where possible, enhance the native oak resources of Santa Barbara County. Specifically, the program seeks to ensure that there is no net loss of native oak trees and

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1 County of Santa Barbara Conservation Element, Oak Tree Protection in the Inland Rural Areas of Santa Barbara County, Supplement to the Mapped Areas and Communities Section, adopted April 15, 2003.
that, if possible and with the help of incentives, the number and extent of remaining valley, blue, and live oak trees grow greater. These guidelines govern deciduous and live oak removals, replacing the County of Santa Barbara Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual as a standard in Chapter 14 for addressing significant environmental damage and significant environmental impact associated with native oak tree removal of protected and unprotected size, as defined in the Appendix, for agricultural and non-agricultural practices not requiring a discretionary permit.

**Recommendation**

The County encourages the State Water Resources Control Board to consider the native oak tree removal guidelines which require oak tree replanting ratios of 10:1 for coast live oaks and 15:1 for deciduous oaks for all Alternatives analyzed in the Draft EIR.

The County looks forward to continued dialogue on the Cachuma Project. If you should have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office directly, or Jeff Hunt, Director of Long Range Planning Division, at (805) 568-2072.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Glenn Russell, Ph.D.
Director of Planning and Development

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2 County of Santa Barbara, Chapter 14 Grading Code, Appendix A. Grading Ordinance Guidelines for Native Oak Tree Removal (Preamble).
April 22, 2010

Ms. Jane Farwell
Division of Water Rights
Santa Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Dear Ms. Farwell:

SUBJECT: State Water Board NOA-Cachuma Project 2nd Revised DEIR

Fire Department staff has reviewed the above referenced project and has no comments on the project as presented at this time.

Please notify the Fire Prevention Division of any changes to the project proposal. Further intensification of use or change in the project description may require additional review.

As always, if you have any questions or require further information, please call 805-681-5523 or 805-681-5500.

In the interest of life and fire safety,

Richard Todd
Division Chief/Fire Marshal

RJ: mkb
May 13, 2011

Ms. Jane Farwell
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

RE:  Cachuma Project 2nd Revised Draft EIR

Dear Ms. Farwell:

County Parks would like to provide the following comment on the Revised Draft EIR for your consideration:

County Parks has previously provided comments on the development of this environmental document in 2003 and 2007. The following general comment can be added and that is the continued consideration of the protection of recreation facilities and park operations at Cachuma when weighing the project and alternatives. The original creation of the Cachuma Recreation Area that surrounds the lake, as part of the Cachuma Project, remains an important resource for the residents of the County and the regional area. County policies with regard to Cachuma Lake include three critical areas: ensuring water quality and supply, protection of resources and the provision of recreational amenities and opportunities. We believe that working collaboratively all can be achieved.

County Parks, therefore, recommends that the consideration of project alternatives and the appurtenant impact and mitigation analysis consider the importance of ongoing cooperation between the agencies, i.e. County of Santa Barbara, Cachuma Operations Maintenance Board (COMB) and the Bureau of Reclamation. Through this cooperation much progress has already been achieved in securing the recreational resources at Cachuma for present and future users as the lake is surcharged. We anticipate that this ongoing cooperation can achieve the desired goals of all the agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we look forward to continued dialogue on the project.

Sincerely,

Brian Roney
Interim Director of Parks