

Board of Supervisors
County of San Bernardino

ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT



RECEIVED
JUN 19 RECD
TOWN MANAGER

June 11, 2014

Art Bishop, Mayor
Town of Apple Valley
14955 Dale Evans Parkway
Apple Valley, CA 92307

Re: Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Dear Mayor Bishop:

I would like to thank the Town for the recent briefing on Apple Valley's Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and am pleased to lend my enthusiastic support for this comprehensive plan that includes lands under County jurisdiction within the Town's Sphere of Influence. This letter serves to reiterate San Bernardino County's existing policy in support of the Town's MSHCP. As you may know, San Bernardino County is also taking steps to explore its own MSHCP. These plans provide many benefits to local and regional jurisdictions, and I commend the Town for its work in proactively addressing endangered species permitting issues.

I fully support the existing Memorandum of Understanding regarding future development within the Town's Sphere of Influence. The County believes that the MOU establishes a process for the Town and County to work together and set clear permitting policies for projects, including permitting pursuant to the MSHCP, once approved. By establishing a clear, predictable, and certain permitting process between the County and Town, the approval of projects within the MSHCP boundaries will be expedited and such projects will provide economic benefits to both the Town and County.

In total, the town's MSHCP will cover approximately 170,000 acres, including approximately 69,000 acres of land currently under County jurisdiction. The 69,000-acre area consists of land that could be annexed by the town in the future. The MSHCP will evaluate impacts to state and federally listed threatened and endangered species and develop a comprehensive conservation strategy that allows for growth while protecting the area's valuable natural resources and rural setting.

In addition, the County encourages the Town to look for solutions that will provide regional benefits to surrounding high desert communities. The County recognizes that the Town's MSHCP has the potential to serve as a model plan for the Victor Valley region to build upon ensuring that each community can address conservation issues facing the region.

In light of this, the County offers its full support in assisting the Town with its efforts and ensures that the County Land Use Services Department Staff will be available to assist as the Town moves forward in the MSHCP planning and adoption process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert A. Lovingood', written over a circular stamp or mark.

Robert A. Lovingood
Supervisor, First District
San Bernardino County