

January 2, 2010

Mr. Jodie Sackett,

Thanks to you and the Planning Commission for providing the opportunity for public input on this proposal by Mr. Malloy to build Fairmont Butte Motorsports Park.

I am strongly in favor of allowing Mr. Malloy the opportunity to construct his road course as outlined in his proposal.

I would like to say that first and foremost I consider myself an environmentalist and am also a 30-year member of the Sierra Club and other conservationist organizations in California, the U.S. and internationally.

I am also a vintage racing enthusiast and car owner and travel throughout the country participating in various vintage racing meets.

That is why I am thrilled at the prospect of Fairmont Butte Motorsports Park and the California Poppy Reserve working together to provide a win-win agreement that would preserve and protect the Poppy Reserve and also allow the **strictly controlled footprint** of the Motorsports Park.

Nowadays environmentalism seeks a good balance between progress, conservation of our natural treasures and sources of revenue to pay for this luxury.

What a wonderful opportunity for the Reserve, the Motorsports Park, Los Angeles County and the immediate environs and communities to strike an accord and working alliance in perpetuity under the guidance of the Planning Commission that will benefit all involved.

Respectfully Yours

Carl Schulz

Indio, California

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Simi Valley  
December 10, 2009

Dear Mr. Sackett,

I write regarding the proposed Fairmont Butte Motorsports Park development. My interest is due to my lifelong interest in preserving nature (I joined the Audubon Society at age 11), my profession as an historian and archeologist, and hobby of vintage auto racing.

I favor the proposed development. Too often I have seen the environment wrecked by development, and ultimately there will be development unless human population growth is suddenly reversed and people stop coming to Southern California. Mr. Malloy's proposal is one of the most favorable types of development possible for this land use.

On November 7<sup>th</sup> of this year I birded the general neighborhood of the development and also the area of Willow Springs Raceway; I have been birding the Antelope Valley several times a year since 1954. At Willow Springs Raceway I found the same species in similar numbers that I found there in the 1950s (at that time the raceway had no buildings, no paved parking area and was used only a few times a year). While I wasn't able to directly access Mr. Malloy's property,

I drove to the gate and walked through the nearby Joshua Tree habitat. I viewed the Butte and some of the property through a birder's telescope. It is certainly true that one might see any of the foraging raptors mentioned in the SEA report from the property, and I think the same would be true some years after Mr. Malloy's development. While possible, I doubt that any California Condor has been seen at the Butte in many decades; no such sighting has been reported recently (the released birds of the Sespe/Hopper Canyon area were sometimes seen no nearer than Pyramid Lake in the years immediately following their release). I could find no Burrowing Owl there recently, but I don't doubt reports of them. We had two pair here in Simi Valley within a fifth of a mile of my home in the 1990s which were displaced by new housing projects; had we had a racetrack on the same ground they might still be there. I have seen Merlin, Prairie Falcon and Peregrine at the golf course near my home in the last three weeks. These birds would not be here if there were not adjacent undeveloped hillsides, but they are here, despite housing projects, malls, and industrial parks. We had a roost of Ferruginous Hawks here until the last large fire scorched the hillsides—a much greater danger than Mr. Malloy's proposed development. Of the other uncommon species mentioned I found Mountain Plover in an irrigated field a few miles from the site. The development is extremely unlikely to impact Lawrence's Goldfinch, a wandering local species that needs some shrubbery.

Naturally I am concerned about the adjacent Poppy Reserve, but I do feel that J. Rhyne's letter is exaggeratedly alarmist. To begin with, the race facility most certainly would not have cars and motorcycles actually running "day and night, 365 days a year." No racetrack I know of (Willow Springs, California Speedway, Laguna Seca, Sears Point) gets anything like that much usage! Noise pollution can be and is abated at these and other tracks through decibel regulations. Exhaust emissions and often noise are less than from the highways that pass by them, or the airports near them. And I feel that numbers of visitors to the Poppy Reserve are likely to increase with the presence of the track due to the reasons stated severally in the documents already on file (not that I think more people are a benefit to any preserved wild area!).

I am not in fact familiar with the existence or extent of any archaeological remains present on the property. As a PhD in archeology, I have participated in digs of Native American sites (one of them in downtown Santa Barbara, CA) and in the Old World. It is always possible that there are hidden cultural treasures (which means more than artifact \$\$) to be found beyond what a ground survey by qualified persons anticipates when extensive construction disturbs the ground. It is very unlikely that grading at Fairmont Butte's gentler slopes will reveal any. If it does, of course the site should then be properly dug. To stop any construction on a site that is not already known to be significant simply because it might be is to stop all construction.

To close, let me say that I am often an idealist and extremist. I would like to see zero development of all as yet undeveloped land in the world. But reality forces us to make decisions that are best to meet the needs and desires of our growing population. Mr. Malloy's proposal, which has clearly been put together with great care and attention to all concerns, is very likely the best this land will ever see.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Michael A. Jacobsen

(Retired from the College of Environmental Design, Cal Poly University, Pomona)