

**Friends of Hellhole Canyon  
Open Space Preserve**  
P.O. Box 221  
Valley Center, CA 92082

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[www.HellholeCanyon.org](http://www.HellholeCanyon.org)

July 11, 2018

NeySa Ely, CEO  
San Pasqual Valley Preservation Alliance  
1835A South Centre City Pkwy #435  
Escondido, CA 92025

Dear Ms. Ely

In June 2018 the Board of Friends of Hellhole Canyon (FHC) voted unanimously to join the San Pasqual Valley Preservation Alliance in their opposition to the Safari Highlands Ranch (SHR) development. This proposed development intends to build on approximately 1100 acres of pristine habitat just north of San Diego Safari Park. This land is within the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) and is home to hundreds of oak trees including rare Englemann oaks. The project is proposing the construction of 550 homes in an area where the county general plan currently allows for 27. FHC is especially concerned with maintaining the wildlife corridors that the MSCP was designed to protect. This project would severely constrict mountain lion, deer and other wildlife movement in the area and thus reduce the benefit of Hellhole Canyon and other open space preserves in the region because without free movement they become genetic islands for the species they support. In November 2016 the voters of San Diego County overwhelmingly rejected Measure B which had been mounted in an effort by Lilac Hills Ranch to build 1700 homes in an area designated for 110. We believe along with San Diego voters, the Sierra Club, the Endangered Habitats League, the Buena Vista Audubon Society and other conservation groups that this type of urban sprawl threatens our quality of life by decreasing our natural habitat. This type of inappropriate development also increases taxpayer burden by passing on costs for additional fire stations, schools and highways needed by poorly planned housing schemes. These so called ranches typically destroy the natural features that they are named after. SHR will obstruct any *Safari* from seeing wildlife, degrade the *Highlands* and definitely not be any kind of working *Ranch*.

  
Joaquin Aganza  
President  
Friends of Hellhole Canyon