



**ECOS Land Use Committee Meeting Agenda  
Monday, August 10th, 2015  
Mogavero Notestine Associates  
2012 K Street, Sacramento  
6:00 – 7:30 pm**

Cheryl McElhany, SOLOS (Saving Our Lakes and Open Spaces)  
Linda Klein, SOLOS (Saving Our Lakes and Open Spaces)  
Brandon Rose, ECOS  
Robert Meagher, ECOS  
Robert Coplin, ECOS  
Alex Reagan, ECOS  
Ron Maertz, ECOS  
Rob Burness, ECOS  
Barry Wasserman, ECOS

6:00 p.m. Welcome, Introductions, Check-Ins, and Changes to Agenda

6:05 p.m. Rancho Murieta project, proposal for development of 1500+ homes  
Cheryl McElhany, President of Saving Our Lakes & Open Spaces (SOLOS); and  
Linda Klein, SOLOS

Saving Our Lakes & Open Spaces (SOLOS) is a newly-formed Nonprofit Political Action Committee. Here is some info from [their website](#):

*We are residents of Rancho Murieta who are dedicated to responsible development that preserves and protects our lakes, open spaces, trails, pristine views, solitude, and quality of life for all.*

*Primary Goals*

- To inform all residents about the proposed development plan for RM North, and create an understanding of the significant problems the proposed plan will create for all residents.*
- To organize an opposition campaign to the proposed development plan and to offer a plan with acceptable alternatives for residents and*

- *To pursue an initiative that will protect and preserve our lakes, adjacent open spaces, and hiking/biking trails in perpetuity for the enjoyment of all residents.*
  - Application is in for 3,900 new homes.
  - Rancho Murieta is within the urban services boundary, meaning it is considered an urban water district area, but is still rural.
  - Lakes are the reservoirs for residents
  - Water provided by Consumnes river
  - Have reservoirs that hold additional water, has its own water treatment plant
  - Reservoirs are beautiful lakes. There are five, but 3 are large and deep. Lots of trails
  - Lots of fish, Swainson's Hawks, Egrets
  - Deer Creek adjoins it.
  - Adding the newly-proposed units would move Rancho Murieta from a Rural Water district to an Urban Water district, meaning that the
  - Much of the development is planned around the three largest lakes.
  - The initial 1977 5,000 build out plan is unrealistic and outdated.
  - SOLOS wants to see responsible development and they don't think building around the lakes this way is responsible.
  - There are 300 acres around the lakes planned for residences.
  - Some of the land in question adjoins the Deer Creek Hills conservancy.
  - SOLOS is hoping to purchase some land near/part of the Deer Creek Hills land to preserve it.
  - Deer Creek Hills is part of Sacramento Valley Conservancy

#### ECOS comments

- There has been a lot of sentiment from Rancho Murieta to keep trails private
- Part of Sac Valley Conservancy's vision is to establish an 'open space/trail link' that goes from Rancho Murieta through Deer Creek Hills to Consumes River and then to Sacramento River.
- It is difficult to argue for preservation of a space that isn't accessible to the public. Putting effort into an open space that doesn't have a public benefit. It's not a priority for funds to preserve open space from which the community would not benefit.

#### SOLOS Response

- SOLOS isn't concerned with long-distance hikers on the trail; it's the fisherman who over-fish.
- SOLOS would like to work on giving more access to trails/lakes, etc.

## ECOS

- ECOS would only want to help if there is some kind of public access, even if controlled. (Deer Creek hills requires a permit and/or docent.
- ECOS thinks maybe there can be some polling done to make sure other residents are open to making land more accessible.
- We also need to look at how they plan to grade for the homes next to the reservoirs.

SOLOS will be meeting with Aimee Rutledge soon. They may be tapping on our shoulder in the future re endorsement, questions asked re environmental regulations, etc.

We can participate in certain meeting but we are not prepared to advocate at this time until we know what the community can bring forth.

7:00 p.m. Project Updates – Aspen 1 – New Brighton, Connector, Housing Elements, Sports and Entertainment Complex, Sacramento Commons, Elk Grove SEPA, Russell Ranch DEIR, Mather South NOP, City General Plan Update, County Zoning Code Update, Other Projects  
Ron Maertz, Rob Burness, Alex Kelter, Molly Basinger and Others

7:15 p.m. Update on CEQA Revisions  
Andy Sawyer has provided the following email update in his absence tonight:

*One of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) cases before the California Supreme Court has been decided. (City of San Diego v. Board of Trustees of California State University (No. S199557, decided Aug. 3, 2015.)*

*The case involved expansion of California State University (CSU) San Diego. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the expansion determined that it will contribute significantly to traffic congestion off-campus in the City of San Diego. Although the CSU Board has substantial state and non-state funds to expand its campuses (\$9.9 billion), the CSU Board declined to use those funds, or any of CSU's financial resources, to reimburse other public agencies for CSU's share of the cost of mitigating its projects' off-campus environmental effects. Instead, the CSU Board took the position that CSU may not lawfully pay to mitigate the off-campus environmental effects of its projects unless the Legislature makes an appropriation for that specific purpose. Finding mitigation to be infeasible, the CSU Board approved the project based on a statement of overriding considerations.*

*The California Supreme Court rejected the argument. Just because the Legislature has not earmarked funds for mitigation does not mean there is*

*no funding available for mitigation. Mitigation may be paid for from the funds appropriated for the project—there is no requirement that limits funding for project mitigation to funds specifically appropriated for mitigation. Distinguishing between on-site and off-site impacts for this purpose is inconsistent with CEQA.*

*Although the opinion focuses on the specific arguments made by the CSU Board, it is a positive development. In particular, it may be helpful in dealing with other arguments where public agencies seek to impose arbitrary limits on mitigation measures.*

- 7:20 p.m. Project Monitoring – Review Robert Meagher’s changes to Project Monitoring spreadsheet. Discuss criteria for project importance. Please review our cubby.  
([https://www.cubbyusercontent.com/pl/ECOS+Project+List/\\_1b05859a14244240b38a93db8d940d94#ECOS%20Project%20List](https://www.cubbyusercontent.com/pl/ECOS+Project+List/_1b05859a14244240b38a93db8d940d94#ECOS%20Project%20List))
- 7:25 p.m. Other Business and Announcements  
Upcoming Agenda Items
- 7:30 p.m. Adjourn