LHC-WG

June 5, 2018

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Board of Directors and LHCOSP Planners
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022-1404

Re : Community Petition Signatures Opposing the Red Barn Access Area Drafts

MROSD Board Members and LHCOSP Planners:

Hundreds of community members are opposed to the Red Barn Access Area plans and have signed the attached "Red Barn Access" petitions which we wrote and circulated from May 16, 2018 through June 5, 2018.

Currently, 625 signatures have been gathered by volunteer community members in La Honda, San Gregorio, Pescadero, Half Moon Bay, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, and other local areas. Petitions were also located at the La Honda Country Store, Alice's Restaurant, Skywood Trading Post, and San Gregorio Store. We are continuing to collect signatures and will present the total amount at the MROSD Board Meeting in La Honda on June 12, 2018. Please do not add people to any mailing list, as we specified "no mailing list" on each petition. We requested residence addresses **to show the local opposition**, as these *are* the people *most* impacted by the proposed development and increased traffic on Hwy. 84.

Issues of concern from the community include:
• Not consistent with MROSD's Coastside Protection mission to "protect and restore the natural environment, preserve rural character" of open space land.
• Lack of notification to and input from the local community most impacted.
• Existing traffic studies may not represent a thorough understanding of the significant risks to public safety and may not take into account the most recent public records of incidents/accidents from the California Highway Patrol, Sheriff, and fire department, as well as consideration of *unreported* traffic incidents/accidents and violations (passing, u-turns, excessive speeds, etc.) at and/or near the Red Barn site on Hwy. 84.
• Additional traffic to this site significantly increases the risk of automobile, motorcycle, and bicycle accidents.
• Increased risk of fire danger : car fires / collisions are a leading cause of roadside fires.
• Impact to sensitive species and wildlife habitat in proposed access area.

We support the **alternative access points** to *view* the Red Barn area which are *already planned* such as the trails *from* the La Honda Creek OSP parking lot on Sears Ranch Road *to* the Red Barn area. MROSD could **preserve** the Red Barn historic site and natural habitat by providing limited **permit-only parking at** and/or **docent-led access to** the Red Barn area from the existing driveway rather than constructing the proposed hazardous driveway which leads into a blind curve and could potentially endanger the community and visitors to the area. Also, LHCOSP public access from a parking area at the Driscoll Event Center would be safer, less intrusive, and more cost-effective.

We urge the Board of Directors to consider this significant local opposition and to work *with* the community. ***Please uphold your Good Neighbor Policy and the mission of the Coastside Protection Program****: "To acquire and* **preserve** *in perpetuity open space land and agricultural land of regional significance,* **protect** *and* **restore** *the natural environment,* **preserve *rural* character***, encourage viable agricultural use of land resources, and provide opportunities for* **ecologically sensitive** *public enjoyment and education."*

Sincerely,
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La Honda Residents