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Preserving natural habitats, watershed resources, and trails

March 10, 2008

Jocelyn Swain, Associate Planner
City of Lancaster
Planning Department
44933 Fern Avenue
Lancaster, CA 93534

Via fax (661) 723-5926 and Email
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re: General Plan Amendment 04-05; Zone Change 04-06, Tentative Tract Map 62757;
EIR SCH NO. 2006061101 (Southwest Corner 65th Street West and Avenue J)

Dear Ms. Swain and Whom It May Concern,

Antelope Valley Conservancy, a charitable land trust serving the Antelope Valley region, representing the interests of dozens of regional agencies and hundreds of supporters, respectfully requests the City of Lancaster Planning Department, Planning Commissioners, and our honorable City Council Members **to decline permission** for General Plan Amendment (GPA 04-05), Zone Change (ZC 04-06), and Tentative Tract Map 62757. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

It is the position of Antelope Valley Conservancy, as resolved by its board of directors, that the Environmental Impact Report insufficiently assesses the negative impacts of the proposed project on biological resources, environmental conditions, and community character. A change from RR2.5 (Rural Residential, minimum lot size 2.5 acres) to R-7000 is irresponsible for the public good and the regional economy, and would produce negative and irreparable impacts on air quality; water quality; water supplies; soil quality; aesthetic quality; sound quality; safety infrastructure; traffic infrastructure; wildlife corridors; the Dark Sky Initiative; local cultural resources; quality of life of the existing community; and integrity of neighboring Significant Ecological Areas.

As the board of Antelope Valley Conservancy has previously proposed for your kind consideration, patchwork urban sprawl in the western Antelope Valley, and its influence radius, encroaches on rural communities that provide important buffers to natural lands and functional wildlife corridors, and therefore comprises severe and negative impacts on and net losses of Biological Resources.

The EIR itself finds the project **inconsistent** with City of Lancaster Goal 1, "To ensure that Lancaster manages land use and development in a manner as to place the highest value on people and their quality of life." Antelope Valley Conservancy respectfully requests that permission for General Plan Amendment (GPA 04-05), Zone Change (ZC 04-06), and Tentative Tract Map 62757 be denied.

Antelope Valley Conservancy
Board of Directors

by Wendy Reed, President