



Santa Lucia Chapter
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April 7, 2014

Re: 4/8/14 Agenda Item 19: Hearing to consider an appeal by MWF Properties LLC and McDonald's USA LLC of the Planning Commission's approval of a request for a Minor Use Permit.

Dear Supervisors,

We are writing in support of the findings of your Planning Commission and the comments of the Air Pollution Control District in the matter of permitting a drive-thru window for a proposed McDonald's restaurant in Los Osos.

The city of Monterey has calculated that spending 5 minutes at a drive-thru for lunch each weekday equates to 1,300 minutes, or more than 21 hours, a year. As determined by the Human-Environment Regional Observatory (HERO) program at Clark University in Worcester, MA, on an average day, 272 cars and 131 trucks used the drive-thru at a popular local fast food restaurant. The total idling time for those vehicles was over 2,200 minutes, or 37 hours, burning 21 gallons of gasoline and releasing over 400 pounds of carbon. A full year of operation would result in the emission of over 73 tons of CO₂, generated by a single drive-thru operation. There are 78 drive-thru's in Worcester, MA. Should the County disregard the goals of its Climate Action Plan and permit this drive-thru, it could not very well deny any other on the basis of non-conformity with the CAP.

As the APCD noted in its comments to the Planning Commission:

“The CAP recommends the design and construction of projects in a manner that supports alternative travel modes and decreases reliance on single occupant motor vehicles; therefore, the APCD does not support this type of development.

For these reasons, we ask that you deny the appeal by the applicant and uphold the decision by the Planning Commission not to allow a drive-thru window.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Andrew Christie, Director
Santa Lucia Chapter