

Sierra Club Lake Group

PO Box 1011 Kelseyville, CA 95451

September 10, 2005

Emily Minton, Associate Planner
Community Development Department
255 N. Forbes St.
Lakeport, CA 95453

Re: Meadow View Subdivision; SD 05-09, IS 05-56

Dear Ms. Minton:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this subdivision. On reviewing the plans, I have one serious concern regarding the "drainage channel" on the site.

The covering letter states that this unnamed watercourse "is an ephemeral stream that is a tributary to Cole Creek . . . with limited habitat for spawning fish from Clear Lake." Please be advised that during observations conducted last spring by the Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch (*Lavinia exilicauda chi*) this "species of special concern" was been observed spawning in very similar habitats in the near vicinity of the project site, and it is quite probable that it does make use of this ephemeral stream. Indeed, most of the hitch seen in the Cole Creek drainage were not observed in the creek itself, but in transitory watercourses much like this one, or on waterlogged ground outside the boundaries of any stream. Details are available on the Chi Council website, www.lakelive.org/chicouncil/2005results.htm.

The maps provided for this subdivision do not indicate the location of the stream, and it is possible that it lies within the "drainage easement" and "pond" areas designated for preservation. If so, and if grading and other development activities are conducted with due regard for maintenance of the integrity of the watercourse, the Sierra Club Lake Group would recommend a Negative Declaration on this project. Otherwise, the plans should be redrawn to preserve the stream; if this is not done we recommend that an Environmental Impact Report be prepared.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Brandon

Chair, Sierra Club Lake Group

cc. Peter Windrem, Chi Council Chair