



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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FAXED: MARCH 18, 2005

March 18, 2005

Hsiao-chin Chen
Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Hsiao-chin Chen:

**Negative Declaration for Project No. CUP03-386/TR 47573
Mint Canyon (Sierra Hwy and Vasquez Way)**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The following comments are meant as guidance for the Lead Agency and should be incorporated in the Final Negative Declaration.

Please provide the SCAQMD with written responses to all comments contained herein prior to the certification of the Final Negative Declaration. The SCAQMD would be happy to work with the Lead Agency to address these issues and any other questions that may arise. Please contact Charles Blankson, Ph.D., Air Quality Specialist – CEQA Section, at (909) 396-3304 if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely

Steve Smith, Ph.D.
Program Supervisor, CEQA Section
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources

Attachment

SS: CB

LAC050225-01
Control Number

**Negative Declaration (ND) for Project No. CUP03-386/TR 47573
Mint Canyon (Sierra Hwy & Vasquez Way)**

1. **Failure to Properly Explain Responses:** Responses to each of the Environmental Checklist questions provides little or no information explaining the rationale for the response. For example, item 2.d. does not even include a response. Most other responses are phrases that at best do not respond to the question and at worst are unintelligible. Please provide adequate responses to each of the Checklist questions in the Final Negative Declaration.

2. **Failure to Include Supporting Data:** The SCAQMD requests that the URBEMIS 2002 output files be included with the draft CEQA document for this project and future projects that are circulated for public review. Without the output files the public is unable to evaluate whether the model was used correctly or appropriate assumptions were made. Further, the document simply states that the default mitigation measures of URBEMIS 2002 will be included as part of the project mitigation measures. However, since the output files, which include the mitigation measures, are “on file”, the public is deprived of the opportunity of reviewing the mitigation measures unless it specifically requests the output files. Unless the URBEMIS 2002 output files are included with the CEQA document, the lead agency should provide substantially more detail in the MND so the public can properly evaluate the air quality impacts of the project.