



Riviera Association

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www.rivieraassociation.org

January 8, 2009

To: Santa Barbara Planning Commission
City of Santa Barbara

From: Helena Hill, President
The Riviera Association

Re: Project: 1900 Lasuen Road, El Encanto Hotel

Review of Draft Initial Study

Dear Planning Commission Members,

The Riviera Association has been involved with and supportive of the El Encanto Hotel project since its inception. However, changes to the approved 2004 Master Plan created concerns for neighbors and the association. Previously, we communicated our concerns to the Planning Commission in letters, dated July 16 and August 21, and respectfully asked that they be addressed during the discussion of the Commission.

The Draft Initial Report for your consideration has adequately addressed our concerns in the discussions of 7: Noise and 11: Transportation/Circulation, which includes a parking issue. However, we respectfully ask that your discussions also include the fire and safety issues of the Eucalyptus trees on Alvarado Place, north of the hotel entrance, and that the development continue to consider neighborhood compatibility that respects the past historical nature of the Riviera.

Due to the projected 15 months construction period, the hotel opening is now delayed well into 2010. The Riviera Association appreciates the efforts of the Orient Express Hotel, all City Commissions, and the neighbors, and encourages the Planning Commission to address all applicable issues to move the project ahead.

Sincerely,

Helena Hill,

President, The Riviera Association