



**EQUESTRIAN
COALITION**
OF ORANGE COUNTY

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Anaheim, CA 92808
(714) 998-6865

May 1, 2010

Fred Whitaker, Chair
City of Orange Planning Commission
City of Orange
300 E. Chapman Avenue
Orange, CA 92866

Re: Ridgeline Equestrian Estates Approvals

Dear Chairman Whitaker and Planning Commission Members:

Since 1995, the Equestrian Coalition of Orange County has provided a unified voice concerning issues that enhance, affect, or threaten equestrian lifestyles in Orange County.

The Coalition has never advocated the disruption of an entire community in favor of equestrian facilities. We believe there is always a balance between the needs of equestrians and the needs of the general populace.

The Equestrian Coalition of Orange County is unanimous in our support of the Orange Park Association Board of Directors in its efforts to safeguard and protect its community against inappropriate development. We do not agree that a mile of inaccessible horse trails that go nowhere and include an unsafe street is suitable mitigation for 52 acres of recreational open space. We therefore support the OPA Board's effort to achieve a fair and equitable replacement of the 52 acres of recreational open space that will be lost at Ridgeline if houses are permitted.

We also support the OPA Board's position not to "sell out" for promises of continued use of the horse arena on the Sully-Miller site. The board is correct in its insistence on adequate mitigation that will benefit all residents and recreational users in East Orange.

Sincerely,

Marc Hedgpeth
President