



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND**

5 August 2016

Mr. James R. Mitchell
Director, Community Initiatives Team
56th Fighter Wing
14185 West Falcon Street
Luke AFB AZ 85309-1629

Ms. Jamie Sullivan
City of Surprise Planning Department
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise AZ 85374

Re: FS16-334; Tierra Verde West

Dear Ms. Sullivan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Preliminary Pate Application for Tierra Verde West. The site is located on 79.57 acres at the northwest corner of 155th Avenue and Happy Valley Road. The request is to develop this parcel into 237 single family residential dwelling units with a density of 2.98 du/acre. The site is located approximately 4 miles outside the Luke AFB Auxiliary Field #1 2004 65 Ldn, "high noise or accident potential zone" as defined by A.R.S. § 28-8461 and is inside the "territory in the vicinity of a military airport" also defined by A.R.S. § 28-8461.

In an effort to promote a more compatible co-existence Luke AFB follows the guidelines in the Graduated Density Concept (GDC). The GDC proposes, in the absence of a more restrictive state, county or municipal general or comprehensive plan, graduating densities away from the 65 Ldn as follows: a maximum of 2 du/acre from the 65 Ldn to 1/2 mile, a maximum of 4 du/acre from 1/2 to 1 mile, and a maximum of 6 du/acre from 1 to 3 miles. Tierra Verde West meets these guidelines.

As described in the preliminary development narrative, this request will not negatively impact the flying operations at Luke AFB. Since Tierra Verde West will be located inside the "territory in the vicinity of a military airport," it will be in close proximity to the Luke AFB Auxiliary Field #1 and will be subjected to noise from approximately 13,000 flight operations per year, with some as low as 1,500 feet above ground level. We recommend you review the sound attenuation requirements found in A.R.S. § 28-8482. In addition, a strong notification program on the part of the applicant is essential to inform potential residents about Luke AFB operations.

If there are any questions, please contact my Community Planner, Ms. Barbara Plante, at (623) 856-9981.

Sincerely

for Barbara Plante
JAMES R. MITCHELL

cc:

Colonel David G. Shoemaker, Vice Commander, 56th Fighter Wing

Ms. Cindy L. Calderon, GS-13, General and Environmental Law Attorney, 56th Fighter Wing