

9-28-15

Dear Mr. Eichar and Ashley Gungle,

Please excuse the long form of this letter.

I feel it's necessary to give you some fairly recent history of San Diego County, in order for you to

really appreciate the magnitude of your position and decisions regarding the NOP known as Harmony Grove Village South.

Much of the history below is as recent as the 1980s.

I remember the days when San Diego was the jewel of the southland. No resemblance to Los Angeles.

In those days, members of the Board of Supervisors,

San Diego City council members and the like, were very

much afraid that San Diego and the surrounding county

could become a smaller version of Los Angeles.

Citizens of those days hated LA with its urban sprawl, strip malls and terrible freeways, as much as we hated the Dodgers and Rams.

Development was restricted in many ways and

developers cried for a change in rules. They won influence and eventually restrictions were lifted.

What's left in San Diego County today is a version much like Los Angeles.

The San Diego environment didn't get much

consideration in those days.

There was lots of open space and wildlife.

It seemed plentiful and would last forever.

An example of little environmental concern back

then is the wetlands.

They weren't considered valuable and were destroyed.

Examples are Mission Bay where the Navy was allowed to

dump toxic waste. It was then back filled and made

into a public park.

Again in South Bay where the shipping industry "Rohr"

did the same, Del Mar Race Track , Encinitas lagoons.

Those wet lands were back filled and built upon, in

spite of the huge, diverse number of birds and

animals. Our wetlands actually held the world record

for the most species of birds spotted at one time, in 1

hour.

Today we understand how vital the wetlands are as fish

nursuries and feeding grounds for birds that only

survive there, as well as migratory rest areas for others.

They also serve as controls for coastal flooding that

wasn't understood back then.

Even in the heart of City Heights where I spent my

early years, formerly East San Diego.

We could walk to South Bay, Encanto, Mission Valley and

all the way to Ocean Beach.

All on open space and canyon lands teeming with wild

life, creeks, and the San Diego River.

Later I lived in La Mesa where I could ride my

dirt bike all over where the houses, apartment

buildings and trolley are now. I could ride to Casa De

Oro and Spring Valley and almost to San Diego

El Cajon Blvd.

I moved to East County El Cajon. I rode my dirt bike

to the head waters of the San Diego river to go

fishing. I rode to the sand Pits in Santee where the

river flowed through and kids spent the summer in open

space with a river to play in. I rode to Miramar with

hundreds of acres of open space all with canyons and

creeks. Also to Spring valley, never touching a city

street while riding to any of these places.

Every single route I just mentioned has been

developed. Not in a good way either.

All of it was built with little planning for the

wildlife corridors that could have sustained the way

things were.

It's very unfortunate because San Diego is a very

unique animal habitat.

The biodiversity here was unlike anywhere else in the world.

We have killed off huge numbers of different types of

animals and habitat. None of the corridors I mentioned

are open any longer.

For reference, you can look up Lucy the beloved white

deer of Mission Valley.

The point is, there is very little open space left due

to mismanagement.

Because development is just reaching North County in a

big way, you have the chance to stop more destruction.

Save what's left for future generations. Force growth

to areas where the damage can not be undone.

Harmony Grove Village took 400 acres of corridor and

uninterrupted water shed. The wild life was slaughtered

on the road once development started.

Much of it was pushed onto my land as well as the

Highlands Preserve. There was chaos and death for many

months while the new animal density settled in.

If not for the valley corridor that is now threatened

by Kovacks development of Harmony Grove Village South,

that wildlife would have nowhere to go. No way of

escape.

That valley is rich with threatened animals

and Gnat Catchers and birds of prey.

They can't all move to the preserve as it

already is to it's limit because of the Harmony Grove

Village project.

We even are home to a neighborhood Mtn. Lion. It must

travel to exist.

Stop the madness of high density homes in our rural area.

We have taken our more than fair share of homes to protect what's left.

The agreement of the general plan for Harmony Grove

Village got amended to a much higher density than we

agreed to take.

Now Kovacks wants to do an even more

outrageous density with no way to way to escape the

many fires that are prone in this area.

To make a secondary access means more mutilation of

habitat in the very last corridor the is contiguous of

the highland valley preserve and Elfin Forest

preserve.

I have lived there since 1987. I have been trapped

there by traffic during fires when there were only a

few houses.

Harmony Grove Rd. was built for a couple hundred cars

a week.

After San Elijo was built it increased to 5000 a day.

It's a slaughter house now and head on collisions are common.

Now that Harmony Grove Village is going in, it will

increase to 7000 or more a day.

If you allow the proposed density of 452 homes at HGV

south, the traffic will be 8000 or more per day.

What gall to ask us to take on that much traffic.

All so some developer can cash a fat check while

ruining our way of life. At the same time creating a

death trap for us all.

I also have the Escondido Creek that crosses my

property. When it floods I do not have access to my

home.

No planners have considered the impact it causes me.

Escondido planners forced all the runoff of the city

right into my front yard.

The board of supervisors allowed Harmany Grove village

to do the same with huge impact on my property.

Now when we get a half inch of rain my property and

bridge floods out because all the water is directed to

my house.

If HGV South goes in at the proposed density, my

property and access to it, will flood at a quarter

inch of rain.

Please stop this project. It is killing everything

special about this area and causing me harm to my

property.

I'm afraid to let my kids drive or stay home alone due

to the entrapment issues presented by these new

developments. Please help us!

Sincerely,

Patrick Molenaar

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