

**From:** [Brian S. Johnston, ASLA](#)  
**To:** [Fitzpatrick, Lisa](#)  
**Subject:** Lilac Hills Ranch  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2015 1:50:28 PM

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Hi Lisa,

I'm a North Oceanside resident and also a California licensed landscape contractor/designer. In my time in this industry and as an SD county resident, I have seen many housing developments come to fruition that left a LOT to be desired, both from a residents' standpoint, and from a strictly functional, circulation, logical layout perspective.

My wife and I were also residents of a neighborhood (San Elijo Hills) that has taken lessons from it's predecessors and gotten it mostly correct (and was also developed by the team that's proposing Lilac Hills Ranch). Which is a breath of fresh air compared to the conventional neighborhood developments.

Lilac Hills Ranch, in both my professional and personal opinions, far exceed in scope, content, context, and forward-thinking, any community I have seen since the Kentlands, Maryland (which, by the way, the developers studied quite extensively in designing Lilac Hills Ranch, including taking time to meet with the designers themselves to find out what they would've done differently there).

This proposal is, simply put, the best example of smart growth that San Diego or its neighboring counties have seen to date.

On a personal note, this is also a community that my wife and I hope is approved so that we may call it home and begin our family within one day.

It's no secret that our population here in the Southland is busting at the seams. In order to accommodate this continuous influx responsibly and sustainably, we need to embrace this proposal and its subsequent development, and treat it like the forward-thinking pioneer it strives to be, so that other communities are able to see how to do things the correct way. Otherwise, we WILL become what the 'concerned' residents fear: just another Orange County. Believe me, I do not want that, either. But if this proposal is studied for its merits, it is very evident that this is the antithesis of anything sprawling or conventionally resembling Orange County.

Please consider recommending the approval of this proposal based on the facts presented by the applicant and the informed, professional perspectives offered above.

Thank you for your time, and best regards,

**Brian S. Johnston, ASLA**

p: [\(760\) 659 0616](tel:7606590616)  
w: [SquareRootLandscape.com](http://SquareRootLandscape.com)



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