

August 4, 2015

We've lived on West Lilac for more than 25 years. We considered moving into Valley Center proper in order to avoid the inconvenience of being so "rural", but decided that we prefer to drive the 25 minutes each way to get the children to school, attend events, and to stay involved with our church and friends.

We stayed abreast of all discussions and changes as the General Plan was being updated. Even when our density was reduced and it was made impossible to split and develop our land, we supported it. We live in an agricultural area, one of the few remaining in San Diego County, and continue to farm. We planned our lives around this document and expected the county to do the same. Then, Accretive Development bought up property, fully aware of the zoning limitations, and then demanded exceptions to our General Plan. Those of us who live here and attempt to farm, do so, in spite of, the inconveniences of no stores, gas stations, or entertainment. We have sacrificed those things for the solitude and quiet. Now we are having a complete city created on a few acres next to us rather than in the incorporated areas of the county per that long forgotten General Plan Document. The resulting traffic, fire danger, and strain on our already weak and/or nonexistent infrastructures will make it impossible to maintain our rural integrity. Furthermore, my family and I will be dangerously blocked from escape routes in the event of another wildfire. This process has taught us a lot about a system of government that supports big developers and ignores the private landowner.

The approval of this development was clearly failing until Accretive appealed to a few core residents of Valley Center convincing them that by granting support, they could change the course of growth in the small town even as Valley Center completed long term planning for its own development. The Accretive development has created a schism the community; between those who chose to live in a town near schools and conveniences that support the tourist traffic of the surrounding casinos and those who made a conscious decision to sacrifice convenience in favor of solitude. The reality is that now there will be major development with no relief both in the township, which will continue with its planned growth and, now, all along it's outskirts - all the way out to I-15. The county will profit in fees and taxes, but at the expense of a rural way of life that provides diversity to the growing urban sprawl. This is not "smart" growth. This is opening the door to unlimited growth. If this development is allowed to proceed by granting all requested amendments to the General Plan and zoning, the county will have no choice but to grant us all exceptions to split and develop our lands as we please.

The denial of this project should have been immediate. Instead, years of planning and promises are to be scrapped in order to reward a developer for making unwise land purchases, creating public dissension, and then asking for every planning exception and modification possible. Its time to do what should have been done years ago - say "NO" to unplanned developments. Uphold the document upon which we based our future. Preserve the rural integrity of agricultural San Diego County. Protect your constituents.

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