

I-127 Mike Erno

Comment Letter I-127

**From:** Mike Erno <erno\_ml@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 13, 2017 5:10 PM  
**To:** Smith, Ashley  
**Cc:** Sandy Erno; Michael Erno  
**Subject:** Newland Sierra Projects

Hi Ashley. My wife and I are 11 year residents of Hidden Meadows. Our community is directly impacted by the Newland Sierra Project, formerly known as Merriam Mountain. We oppose this plan for several reasons, most of which the county has already heard about like concerns over fire protection, water availability, vastly increased traffic, environmental compliance, air pollution, traffic noise, construction noise and so forth. In addition to the obvious, We would like to also offer the following:

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1) During the Witch Creek fire of 2007, the line of vehicles trying to evacuate Hidden Meadows was backed up to the top of the mountain and that was with the CHP directing traffic. There is only one viable evacuation route and that is down Mountain Meadow Road. The route leading through Rim Rock and down through Lawrence Welk is blocked by a gate, which could possibly be opened by calling 911, but even then, evacuation going this way would be slow with only a winding two lane road going down the mountain to I-15. Bottom line... if Newland Sierra is built, then the intersection of Mountain Meadow Road and I-15 will become a traffic nightmare making evacuation from my community near impossible. This becomes a serious SAFETY HAZARD.

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2) Newland Sierra says that widening Deer Springs road to accommodate the extra traffic as a result of 2,135 more homes is "in the plan". There are many other things "in the plan". Where will the accountability rest to ensure that Newland Sierra Executes the plan? Should the board decide to vote for this project, which has been voted down twice previously, then there should be a contractual requirement for Newland to put in the infrastructure first, or areas like the Mountain Meadow Road/I-15 interchange will be nothing more than a parking lot.

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3) Why would the County Board of Supervisors vote for such a major deviation from the County's General Plan, which cost us taxpayers \$18 Million to develop? The Newland Sierra plan calls for 2,135 new homes vs 900 in the general plan. What? We need to show some accountability for the General Plan and stop entertaining major deviations. Minor fact-of-life deviations are understood. Newland Sierra's plan for commercial space is completely in-executable according to engineering analyses conducted incident to the Merriam Mountain Project. This very well respected firm was hired by the owners of the Golden Door Resort to do this study. They concluded that rocky terrain is a major problem in this area.

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We must make sure that the potential revenue increases that would accrue to the county DO NOT take precedence over public safety and well being. We've seen Newland Sierra's FAQs and answers. They say they "have a plan" to answer every concern ever raised about this project. That's hard to believe. They will tell the county what they believe the county wants the hear, after having studied why this project was voted down twice before.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Newland Sierra project.

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