

I-212 Robert Jakubowski

Comment Letter I-212

-----Original Message-----

From: bob_jakubowski@cox.net [mailto:bob_jakubowski@cox.net]

Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 7:47 PM

To: Smith, Ashley

Subject: Newland Sierra Project

Dear Ashley Smith,

As a former Hidden Meadows Homes Association board member, I'm appalled that this project came up again. Especially having been rejected once as not suitable for urban development and in gross violation of the County of San Diego General Plan. It appears that the behind the scenes scheming is alive and well.

The Merriam Mountain Project was rejected in 2010 because the slim majority of County Supervisors did their job and recognized that this location is totally unsuitable for such a dense development. I have read where a Newland representative mentioned the Hidden Meadows community across the freeway as an example. There is no comparison. Hidden Meadows has about 1400 homes on 4200 acres with a population of 3500 people. The Newland development is proposing 2135 homes on 2000 acres and over 6000 people.

This will not only create over the top traffic, but also a dangerous fire evacuation problem.

The Mountain Meadow and Route 15 interchange is already congested by traffic to and from Temecula and destinations north and south.

The Merriam Mountain project rejected in 2010 attempted to get around fire evacuation by a burn in place plan (stay in your fire safe home?) The Newland plan would create a real burn in place scenario as thousands of people would be gridlocked trying to exit from both sides of the freeway.

Since 1913, there have been over 23 major wildfires in San Diego county killing dozens of people and resulted in extensive property loss. The 2003 Cedar and 2007 Witch Creek fires were the worst with 22 people killed. Yet this project proposes further expansion into known fire zones. Everyone has seen newscasts of how fast a firestorm can overcome firemen and civilians.

Finally, there's a lot easier land to build on closer to San Diego. You shouldn't have to blow up and flatten a beautiful mountain full of boulders like Merriam .

The fine particles will be inhaled for years by children with asthma, seniors with COPD and otherwise healthy people who will eventually be getting sick. Hidden Meadows would be downwind for the 10 years of this totally out of place development with no real benefit to the county's plan of locating housing closer to places of work in San Diego.

I strongly recommend that the County Supervisors and Planners, do their jobs and protect the people that put them in their positions and reject this unjustifiable and absurd project.

Sincerely,

Robert Jakubowski

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