Recently had a opportunity to visit the Zen Buddhist center. It is a lovely quiet retreat center and it will be greatly impacted by the Newland Sierra plans to build over 2000 homes. Please consider that Religious Organizations and Religious practices "exercises" are protected by law: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT AND RELIGIOUS LAND USE AND INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS ACT.

No REAL environmental impact study has been done to see how this affects the quiet retreat site of the Zen Buddhist Center or how it affects habitat of wildlife and pristine areas of native plants. The construction noise and traffic will ruin the tranquility of the Center and it will no longer be able to be used as a quiet retreat site.

This plan was voted down by county residents last fall and yet it keeps coming back in another form that has no more changes or validity than the previous plan. The residents of the county do not want this urban sprawl. Roads in the area are not adequate to get residents out in case of a fire and traffic is already very heavy on Twin Trails and Deer Springs.

Please honor the original plan zoned for 99 units not the 2000 plus. Enough money has been spent and ultimately this plan will end up on another ballot which will be defeated because the Newland Sierra Plan is a bad plan and enough residents in the county know it is a bad plan in so many ways.

Verna Sundquist, Representative of Local Spiritual Assembly of Baha’i Faith of Escondido. Member of the Interfaith Leaders Team
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