

I-382 Robert L. Suttie

Comment Letter I-382

Dear Ms. Smith,

August 11, 2017

I would appreciate your including my wife, myself and most of the others living in Champagne Village in expressing our opposition to the Newland Sierra Project. Sympathizing with the volume of correspondence you must be receiving, I will keep this short and to the point.

I-382-1

One area which I believe is most critical is the impact on the traffic in the surrounding area. I am referencing the Newland Sierra project EIR, specifically the Transportation and Traffic Summary, Section 2.13.1 pages 2.13-1 thru 2.13-6. The EIR admits that the project would have "significant direct and/or cumulative impacts" on all the surrounding road segments. For many of the impacts, "no feasible mitigation exists" which results in the "impact as significant and unavoidable." Most of the mitigation measures require significant cooperation and approval from several governmental agencies, the most significant being Caltrans. These mitigation measures all require budgetary provision and approval, which will take years and may in fact never be approved, such as the creation of an adequate Interstate 15 interchange and bridge. Today, the interchange is extremely jammed during rush hour traffic, as evidenced in the EIR Street Segment Operations. Traffic mitigation measures must be implemented before any additional housing projects are approved in this area.

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I-382-4

Let me share my personal experience. We have had several evacuations from our homes in recent years, granted due to emergencies, but nonetheless real. Most notable being the Witch Creek fire in 2007. There have been other emergencies, like a recent accident on Interstate 15, which also required redirection of traffic onto the only alternative roadway. In all of these situations, Champagne Boulevard was at a complete standstill preventing anyone from being able to exit the area. When we received the reverse 911 call to evacuate during the Witch Creek fire, we left immediately along with a few thousand others. It took us 45 minutes to travel approximately 2 miles south to reach Deer Springs Road, and an additional 15 minutes to enter south bound I-15. During our sitting on Champagne Blvd., I said to my wife, this should not be happening. The risk of loss of life was very real. Had the fire turned more south, many could have lost their lives being trapped trying to escape. The issue is too many people and not enough alternative routes, and that was 10 years ago. Adding a very dense community to this area is very dangerous. Anyone approving an additional 2,100 dwelling units in this area, in my opinion, is absolutely cold and calloused (possibly criminal) regarding the possible loss of life, and is ignoring the negative impacts to existing surrounding residents.

I-382-5

As I opened with, I have many other concerns regarding the opposition to the Newland Sierra project, but most of them you have no doubt already received from others. While I sympathize with the County's concern over inadequate affordable housing, this area is not appropriate for significant development given the topography and other environmental impacts.

I-382-6

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my input. You do not have to take the time to respond other than confirm you received my comments, and that they are duly noted on your summary of opposition input.

I-382-7

Sincerely,

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