

O-3.2 Hidden Valley Zen Center

Comment Letter O-3.2

From: [Margaret Decker](#)
To: [Gosar, Kristin](#)
Cc: [Horn, Bill](#)
Subject: DEIR Public Comments for Newland Sierra : General Plan Amendment and Specific Plan PDS2015-GPA- 15-001 (GPA); PDS2015-SP- 15-001 (SP); PDS2015-REZ-15-001; PDS2015-TM-5597;
Date: Sunday, August 13, 2017 4:03:58 PM

August 13, 2017

Dear Ashley Smith and Mark Slovick, and all the officials copied on this letter;

I am writing on behalf of Hidden Valley Zen Center and their concerns over the proposed development project entitled Newland Sierra.

O-3.2-1

I am appalled that we are going over this again, so soon after a ballot initiative made it clear that dense development is neither appropriate for the area nor desired by the community. The number of housing units is outrageous. The argument that this would solve any sort of housing crisis is specious because the price of the units is far beyond what is needed. If this were affordable housing we might have a conversation, but this luxury development will do nothing to help first-time home buyers or middle class renters.

O-3.2-2

As far as the situation of the Zen Center--they are actually a retreat center. Much of what they do is outdoors; they really do practice silent meditation (a lot of it!), and the noise of construction would destroy the peace that sustains their community and ministry. Add to that the traffic, which, as you know, the roads there are completely unable to handle, and the existence of the Zen Center is really in jeopardy. This project will ruin their religious work, it will destroy the nature of the area, and it will solve no problems.

O-3.2-3
O-3.2-4
O-3.2-5

We should not have to be saying this again, but development needs to be reasonable, that this plan is anything but.

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The Rev. Meg Decker

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