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MORAGA PLANNING DEPT.

November 14, 2006

*Received after  
close of  
comment  
period*

Stacey Jung  
392 Donald Dr.  
Moraga, CA 94556

Lori Salamack  
Planning Director  
Moraga Planning Department  
329 Rheem Blvd.  
Moraga, CA 94556

Dear Ms. Salamack:

I am a junior at Campolindo High School and I am writing about my concerns on the development of the Moraga hills, or the "Rancho Laguna 2" project. My whole life, I've gone by those hills -- they are part of the world I grew up in. Recently, for a school art project, I went outside and sat for four hours straight, just painting the hills. Being out there for so long and studying the hills so much made me realize just how much it would change if the hills were to be developed. Instead of soft, rolling hills, it would be replaced by the jagged edges of roofs. Instead of seeing cows wander aimlessly and birds fly among the trees, it would be replaced by more cars and more dull, black roads. I believe that the development of these hills would cause more problems for the citizens of Moraga as well as for the wildlife of Moraga. I believe in preserving our open space.

I understand that by developing the hills, more houses will be available, but I don't believe that those houses are worth everything that would be sacrificed. A huge issue with it is the destruction of the wildlife. The hills are home to many animals, such as deer and birds, and development would destroy their living place. There is no plan for relocating the animals, and even if there was, it would be like someone coming into your house and demanding that you move so that your home could be destroyed; it would be unfair to the wildlife. Additionally, the project would eliminate native trees and plants eliminating more land in the wildlife corridor connecting Las Trampas Wilderness to the Lafayette Reservoir. The beautiful, natural art of Mother Nature would be consumed by measured, stiff man-made structures.

Another problem that would arise from the development of the hills would be an increase in traffic and population. With more houses, more cars would be coming and going, wearing the roads down faster. This would increase the repairs needed, therefore increasing the money spent on road repairs. Furthermore, the population would increase which would make our schools more crowded. If schools become more crowded, the student-to-teacher ratio would increase,

decreasing the time teachers could spend with each individual. From my own experience, classes are already quite full at Campolindo, so an influx of students attending would crowd classrooms even more. For some of my classes, there are no more seats available -- absolutely none. So then the next problem would be where to place the new students or if more teachers should be hired, the latter being yet another expense and another effect of development.

Additionally, since the area to be developed is considered a "High risk" open space, houses can only be built one every twenty acres. The proposed plan calls for thirty-five lots -- nine more homes than the maximum allowed. The land on which the houses would be developed is also unstable. Development on these unstable lands may cause water quality, sediment, erosion, geotechnical, and public-safety impacts impossible to predict which may be detrimental to not only the residents of the houses, but to others as well. Repairs, likely to be needed, would be costly and time-consuming, blocking roads and slowing down traffic.

I believe the way we can avoid all these problems would be to not develop the open space at all. It would destroy nature purely for commercial interest and gain, nothing else. The animals would have no homes to go to, the traffic and population would increase, and the instability of the land all would arise from developing thirty-five houses.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope you will consider the negative effects developing the hills would have on the wildlife and public life of Moraga.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacey Jung".

Stacey Jung

Campolindo High School Junior