

From: [Spencer Barr](#)
To: [City Clerk Group](#); housingelement@countyofsb.org; pperotto@cityofgoleta.org
Subject: Housing Element Special Meeting Input
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 1:44:03 PM

Dear City of Goleta Mayor, City Councilmembers, and Planning Commissioners,

I am a resident of the El Encanto Heights neighborhood of Goleta, directly across Cathedral Oaks from Glen Annie Golf Course. I am writing in hopes you will continue to keep the land on the north side of Cathedral Oaks for Agricultural use, Open Space, and current golf course space.

I have read about proposed plans for developing this space for housing and I strongly urge you to prevent this from happening. I know we need more housing in the Goleta area, but this is not the place to develop.

A few years back during the Whittier Fire in 2017, I remember Cathedral Oaks being lined with fire truck after fire truck in preparation for the possibility of the fire moving over and down the hill toward the El Encanto Heights neighborhood. I had just moved to the neighborhood and while that fire was happening, I stopped by the fire truck line and talked with quite a few firefighters, thanking them for their service and asking about the possibility the fire would reach the neighborhood. Many of them mentioned how Cathedral Oaks was an excellent defensible position, especially since the land north was all agricultural and the golf course. At least a few mentioned that if the space ever got developed in the future, they didn't know how they could possibly defend it from fire.

In addition, the soil in the neighborhood is the dreaded Diablo Clay, which is a type of soil that expands and contracts to a great degree with either too much water or not enough. My house is built on this clay and has sunk on one side and we have visible cracks all over our house. The soil movement causes this instability. If that area is developed, the Diablo Clay soil will cause the same stability issues. Extra costs will have to be incurred to include helical piers under all the future houses/units/apartments.

The Golf Course area specifically is built on a natural drainage valley that drains into a creek that then merges into a storm drain system under Cathedral Oaks and under the El Encanto Heights homes of Savona Ave and Placer Dr. Seeing how much of a flow came down the creek during the recent severe rain storms last winter, I am sure that will cause all sorts of issues with a development in that area. The previous owner of our house told us of a severe storm cycle that caused the storm drain system to clog and back up, creating flooding in many of the houses that back up to Cathedral Oaks. In fact, the cinder block walls bordering Cathedral Oaks were built to help prevent any future flooding or debris flows.

It also seems that the proposed plans call for an extremely dense plan of units and people. The Glen Annie offramp is already extremely impacted in the mornings and afternoons. Adding thousands more people to the area will create even more massive infrastructure clogging to the area.

Thank you for considering these points and looking elsewhere for development options.

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