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To: [Andy Newkirk](#); [City Clerk Group](#)
Cc: tristan.lanza@hcd.ca.gov
Subject: I am again voicing my objection to the proposed Kenwood Village project in the City of Goleta - other locations are better suited
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I am again voicing my objection to the proposed Kenwood Village project in the city of Goleta, California. I realize that the City is looking for areas to fulfill a state mandate but this proposal is draconian in terms of scale and human and environmental impact.

It is one thing to build a 25 (or even a 45) unit building in an already congested corridor though even such a smaller development would have some environmental impact. It is wholly another matter to build 250 to 400 units.

Here are just some of the issues underpinning why a project of this density should NOT be allowed at this site (or at least be dramatically scaled down):

SAFETY/TRAFFIC/FIRE HAZARD

1. Increased traffic in the area poses a risk. The off ramp at Glen Annie/Storke (which would be the freeway offramp for this proposed development) is already dangerously backed up and poses a substantial safety risk. Adding more cars onto that offramp greatly increased the possibility of more accidents. **Furthermore, Calle Real (the street that would front and be the access into the development) is only 1 lane in each direction. Many hundreds of residents already living in the area only have Calle Real or Foothill/Cathedral Oaks as an escape route in an any evacuation. We have already experienced a big fire close to the area. What if Foothill Blvd. gets closed due to a fire (always a possibility in a fire prone area). Can you imagine 1,000 or 2,000 cars trying to get out on the one lane Calle Real at the same time? CHECK WITH YOUR OWN FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPTAINS ON THIS ISSUE! It is a death sentence in the making!!!!**

PARKING PRESSURES

2. The proposed project will not have enough parking spaces for all the cars and parking will pose a major problem in the area. **We all know that more than one person will live in any newly built units such as this and thus there will be more than one vehicle per unit. The Kenwood project could potentially add hundreds of more cars to the limited area.** Being realistic, there is no way most of the residents in such a new development are going to opt to walk or bike. Given that current neighborhood residents are already parking their own cars on all the side streets, the addition of many more cars in the same area will crowd out parking for long standing Goleta residents. Why should we create a scenario wherein people

who have lived here for years come home from work to find no place to park? Again, it will lead to people breaking rules and jamming cars into unsafe spots.

ENVIRONMENT

3. Disturbing natural wildlife habitats. There should be land left for several species. The area is already too dense and causing wildlife, like coyotes, and others to come into our neighborhood because we are destroying their homes. For the last year or two we have all those living here **have been seeing coyotes literally walk down our residential streets in broad daylight (let alone come onto our porches at night)**. Many of my neighbors have Ring videos of this. We have all seen them. They are walking down Cathedral/Foothill, Calle Real and all the side streets off from those parallel avenues. Building on one of the only remaining vacant parcels puts further pressure on the wildlife who will continue to stalk humans and pets even more than they are doing so now. And who will pay when there is ultimately an attack? **That specific parcel of land is also one of the only remaining ones in Goleta where migratory birds can hunt, etc.** And some of those birds are protected under law!!! And we all know the drastic decline the Monarch butterfly population has suffered due to habitat loss!!!! How can the City mourn the loss of Monarchs and then add to the problem? Residents of Goleta would be far better served in the long run by making that parcel a park and/or habitat area! Sorry, that is truth.

WATER

4. How much water will these units use? Although Goleta Water District may have voiced that after the miracle of the rain last winter we have water right now. But right now is short-sighted. We have learned how vulnerable Lake Cachuma (our ONLY water source) is to drought and evaporation. If temperatures continue to rise or we again have less rainfall, we are quickly back to very low lake levels. We were at 20% or so just a short time ago! And we have no back-up source. It is crazy to jeopardize the future of the entire community by excessive overbuilding that will drain the water supply in a shorter time period. Over building now will undeniably negate any temporary improvement over the water supply of the last few years.

INFRASTRUCTURE

5. The sewer system in this area is already beyond capacity. The manholes are opened on a regular basis and some type of work is done to push the waste thru. The roads are also in very poor condition, especially Cathedral Oaks. If both Calle Real and Cathedral Oaks continue to decline, it puts the residents at further risk and disadvantage. **The existing INFRASTRUCTURE was not built to handle so many people. It is not even adequate for the population we already have. At what point are the very serious infrastructure deficiencies going to be assessed BEFORE we keep building?**

TOO MUCH BAIT & SWITCH AND IT NEVER WORKS

6. **We all know this really won't be workforce or low income housing....** It never is in the end. The crazy "formulas" create a shell game with smoke and mirrors and

everyone knows it. If we really are going to argue the need for workforce housing, then do what needs to be done, namely just give some of the big employers a tax break to build workforce housing (and only workforce housing) for their respective employees and say no to the developers that want to send us down the path of an overbuilt and ruined Santa Monica/West Los Angeles. The developers have no real interest in low income housing or low cost workforce housing. Their profits are generated based on being able to sell high cash flow units. High cash flow does not equate to low rents. Projects like low income housing can only be achieved through the direct efforts of city, state or federal governments. So we all know the new housing is going to end up being rented for \$4,000 or \$5,000 per month or even more – just like all the other ones build in Goleta the last few years. Hardly what anyone would ever call affordable housing.

IN SUMMARY

It is crazy to put Goleta on the path of over building and assuming more infrastructure needs in the face of existing infrastructure deficits. It can never be undone. The people who can, will ultimately move away once Goleta is ruined and the rest will have to suffer all the consequences. I say to the Council members – “Stand up and be counted.” Give voice to all of these concerns (on a larger scale) to our State elected officials and encourage them to represent and work for us!!!!

Meanwhile, I hope you take the points we have raised in relation to the proposed Kenwood project very seriously. Please do not make this high density housing. It will FOREVER change the character of the area and will diminish the very things we value. And to no avail as none of the desired goals will actually be met, all of this is just to check off a box. I understand that the state has burdened us with an imprudent “one size fits all” dictate (one for which they have lost my vote). And I understand that the County has put a greater burden on the City of Goleta than some other parts of the County (shame on them). But the City of Goleta has the power to reconsider the specific Kenwood project and find a better location in Goleta. Quite a number of residents have already offered other suggestions for locations that make more sense for a myriad of reasons. It feels like the Council is ignoring important resident/voter input on this one.

Respectfully,
Denise Stevens
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