

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#1

Wednesday,
October 16, 2019

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE
CLERK OF THE BOARD

From: Cox, Greg
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 8:23 AM
To: FGG-DL, LSDOCS
Subject: FW: Oct 16 Board of Supervisors Hearing Item # 1 San Marcos Highlands Annexation Agreement
Attachments: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors.docx

From: Lisa Holley <lisa.k.holley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 10:03 PM
To: Cox, Greg <Greg.Cox@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Jacob, Dianne <Dianne.Jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Fletcher, Nathan (BOS) <Nathan.Fletcher@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Cc: Barry, Robert <Robert.Barry@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: Oct 16 Board of Supervisors Hearing Item # 1 San Marcos Highlands Annexation Agreement

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Please accept this letter submitted in regards to the Oct 16 Board of Supervisors Hearing Item # 1 San Marcos Highlands Annexation Agreement

Thank-you,

Lisa Holley

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed annexation request for the City of San Marcos for their San Marcos Highlands project. We ask that you deny the annexation request.

The project plans to build 189 homes, almost 70% of which will be on County land. Land that is currently zoned for only about 20 homes. That is a mighty large sphere of influence. We feel that the County needs to follow its General Plan and use the density they assigned the property.

In the 1979 Final Addendum to the EIR, concerns were addressed about conflicts of interest between the County and San Marcos, LAFCO included the following mitigation measure on page 4.

C. ADDITIONAL MITIGATING MEASURES,

"(g) To mitigate potential conflict with the County's Growth Management Plan, the Commission will discourage future annexation proposals which are inconsistent with the County's designations of Estate or Rural Development."

Urban sprawl is seen as a state wide problem and is defined as the irregular and disorganized growth occurring without apparent design or plan. The description goes further to define this growth as the **unnecessary loss of open space lands**. Our County Plan addresses these concerns but that plan is presently at risk of being ignored.

The argument most often heard in regards to justifying this kind of growth is that we need more housing units to accommodate an ever growing population. But most cities can accommodate growth without outward expansion. One of the hallmarks of Smart Growth is that it is consistent with the General Plan. This proposed development is **not** consistent with the General Plan. This development is not Smart Growth.

Smart Growth considers logical boundaries to support traffic (currently abysmal in the San Marcos area) and in these times, fire services and evacuation. I know there is a debate on whether continuing to build into open spaces helps with wild fire containment (the only fuel for the fire to burn are the houses themselves) or whether it just means more people are at risk, evacuations need to occur more often and start earlier, and the houses they may indeed burn down anyway. That has certainly been played out multiple times in the last 10+ years. The current proposed development is in a high fire risk area.

And then there is the water shortage. And we know that that is a complicated question of supply and demand. Although in general terms, it is puzzling for a citizen to hear that they need to really cut back on water, and then see another thousand homes go in. The loss of open space lands reduces the available watershed. Which disturbs our ability to capture water into the water table and support the downstream marsh lands. Like a domino effect, this is not just about building another development, the effects are many and far reaching. Smart Growth considers those impacts.

We urge you to reject this annexation and the proposed EIR. We urge you instead to support Smart Growth plans that are consistent with the General Plan and take into consideration all effects and their compounded impact on the future.