San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
P. O. Box 10973, San Bernardino, California 92423-0973

RECEIVED
2019 AUG 19 PM 2:42
LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION

August 19, 2019

LAFCO Commissioners
1170 West 3rd Street, Unit 150
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0490

By email to: lafco@lalfco.sbcounty.gov

The San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society (SBVAS) is the local chapter of the National Audubon Society for almost all of San Bernardino County, and has about one thousand members in the County. Our missions are the protection of natural habitat for birds and other wildlife, and public education about the environment. We are a 501c(3) organization.

SBVAS is opposed to the "Annexation to the City of San Bernardino and to SBCFPD Zone FP-5 San Bernardino and Detachment from County Service Area 70 (Spring Trails Specific Plan)" per the LAFCO agenda for 21 August 2019. SBVAS's comments on the Spring Trails EIR were filed on September 11, 2011 and will not be reiterated at length here

While we are very concerned about the project's impact on wildlife, we are far more concerned about the potential danger to human life. Over the years, I have reviewed dozens, possibly over a hundred, development plans, primarily to assess their impacts to wildlife. However, of all the plans I have reviewed, SPRING TRAILS IS THE DEVELOPMENT MOST LIKELY TO CAUSE LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE because residents will be subject to both significant fire and earthquake danger.

The land in question is in the State designated High Wind/High Fire Zone; it has burned repeatedly in the last few decades; fire personnel were unable to save homes in the area in 2003; and yet the project has won the necessary approvals up to this point. If all the homes are built and sold, several hundred people will be jammed onto essentially one way out during a fire evacuation, in violation of the basic fire safety principle that calls for at least two routes out in nearly opposite directions. Fire trucks will be trying to access the area by the same route. Given the contours of the valley where most homes would be built, Santa Ana winds will funnel through that very evacuation route, increasing the danger to people trying to get out of harm's way and to fire personnel trying to get in. The recent fire in Paradise, California, showed the power of fire in the face of high winds: commercial buildings with state-of-the-art fire suppression systems burned to the ground; cars melted into unrecognizable blobs. Local officials seem to have forgotten the enormous devastation of the Old Fire in 2003 that destroyed 975 buildings and cost 6 lives when they approved this project. It could happen again quite easily.

In addition, there is significant earthquake danger. While homes may be built to withstand a significant shock, the way in and out for people and many utilities will be across the San Andreas Fault. In the event on the long overdue major quake on this segment of the fault, the land will likely slip sideways by several feet, severing the road access as well as utility lines such as sewer and water, leaving residents stranded and in danger.

For these reasons, the San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society urges that the proposed Annexation to the City of San Bernardino and to SBCFPD Zone FP-5 San Bernardino and Detachment from County Service Area 70 be defeated. Save San Bernardino from its own city council.

Sincerely,

Drew Feldmann

Drew Feldmann
Conservation Chair

RECEIVED

2019 AUG 16 AM 10: 21

LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION

August 13, 2019

To: LAFCO Commissioners

From: Stephen O'Neill

Subject: Spring Trails Development annexation

Sir(s) and Madam(s),

As a long time homeowner on Martin Ranch Road abutting the proposed development, I would like to register my strong opposition to this annexation.

There are many reasons why this is a very bad idea. To list just a few: Increased fire and earthquake danger (five line faults in the general area) with limited access and egress from the site. The zoning for this area is one home per 5 acres and this project will put 220 homes on 10,000 sq. ft. or smaller lots. This density will put an enormous number of vehicles (an estimated 3600) on adjacent roads with all the attendant noise and pollution associated with such developments. Increased cost for the city of San Bernardino to provide fire, police, code enforcement and road repair, among others, will inevitably be passed along to present homeowners. This project will provide no additional funding to the city.

To re-iterate: This project has been voted down a number of times in the past for many of the reasons listed above. What will it take to finally accept the idea that this is a poorly thought out development?

In closing, I would also like to mention the fact that you are public servants and scheduling an important meeting like this on a Wednesday morning at a time when many of us must be a work is not in the public interest. This is an issue that needs to addressed, by the public, in the future.

Respectfully,

Stephen O'Neill

Judy O'Neill

[redacted]

Schell, Angela

RECEIVED
2019 AUG 15 PM 2:06
LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION

From: Terry Vancurler [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2019 1:15 PM
To: Schell, Angela
Subject: FW: Spring Trails Development Project Annexation Opposition

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Terry Vancurler
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2019 1:02 PM
To: lafco@lalfco.sbcounty.gov
Cc: Terry VanCurler
Subject: Spring Trails Development Project Annexation Opposition

Terry & Gloria VanCurler
[redacted]

We are in opposition of this development due to the following issues.

1. The parcel is in a State Designated High Wind/High Fire Zone.
2. The parcel has burned twice in the last 16 years (2003 and 2007).
3. The parcel sits on 5 earthquake faults of which 3 are active.
4. Both access roads are located on the San Andres fault and the project has not attained easements rights through private parcels for these access roads.
5. Fire personnel were unable to save homes on 1 and 5 acre parcels in 2003. The are to be 10,800 square ft lots.
6. Fire response time is 12 to 13 minutes flashover only takes 8 minutes.
7. The City is already 11 million dollars short on this years budget and has cut all departments by 8%.
8. The City currently has a code backlog of 4,00 complaints and is negligent in serving its current residents.
9. The County currently keeps West Meyers Road open during storms causing mud flows. The City will be unable to do so.
10. The county residents surrounding the project Do Not Want to be annexed into the City, thus leaving County pockets.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

RECEIVED
2019 AUG -7 AM 9:18
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Sam Martinez and Commissioners,

LAFCO is the last chance to oppose a very bad annexation of a County Parcel into the City of San Bernardino, the city that has no money for services, i.e. police and code enforcement at the present time. The Police Department is drastically understaffed and Code personal is non- existent. The last public information was that they were 4,000 code complaints not serviced.

The County Parcel to be annexed is located in a City General Plan that requires a one acre or larger parcel. The reason for this is: the area is in a "High Wind, HIGH Fire Zone, with Three Active Earthquake faults and many wild animal living in the open spaces here. The parcel abuts the National Forest. Some endangered species and protected habitat are also located here.

The Spring Trails Development has been turned down twice by the County and then the developer went to the city, where City Planning Commissioners also twice rejected the project. Approaching the past City Council a number of years ago the developer got the vote of approval. The present City Council and Mayor, having very little knowledge of the history regarding the negative opposition to this development or the threats and dangers to public safety posed, voted to ask for annexation so the Developer can build High Density Homes on smaller lot sizes, and the city will change the zoning to higher density.

Our 5th ward Councilman Henry Nickels opposed the vote for annexation. He is not willing to risk the lives of future residents buying into an area with so many hazards that can cause injury or death. Safety first is a major concern.
What is happening here is the donations given to elected City Officials have moved this project to the present course of action. Please don't let this happen; do the right thing and not vote to allow a bad project to get annexed into the City.

I would like to have the commissioners tour the area to see first hand the threats of the terrain and environmental hazards. I am available any time to schedule this. The attached sheets highlight some of the major concerns and problems with this parcel. Please take the time to review them.

Thank you for taking the time to review all of this information.

Sincerely,

Richard Kaplan

Richard and Lynette Kaplan
[redacted]

Enclosures: map, concern list

LAFCO SPRING TRAILS ANNEXATION

Concerns:

Fire Safety

Density of housing not defendable-220 homes/1320 people
Limited and dangerous access roads-built on 3 active faults
Code enforcement of "green" belt-Their proposed fire safety fix.
HOA and LLMD enforced and funded
Slopes burn rapidly
Fire burns up slope-125.1. acres of internal slopes
Half the project is slopes
Tract burned in 03' and 07'and during the Panorama Fire
Fire Dept. couldn't even protect homes on 1 acres parcels.

Access Roads

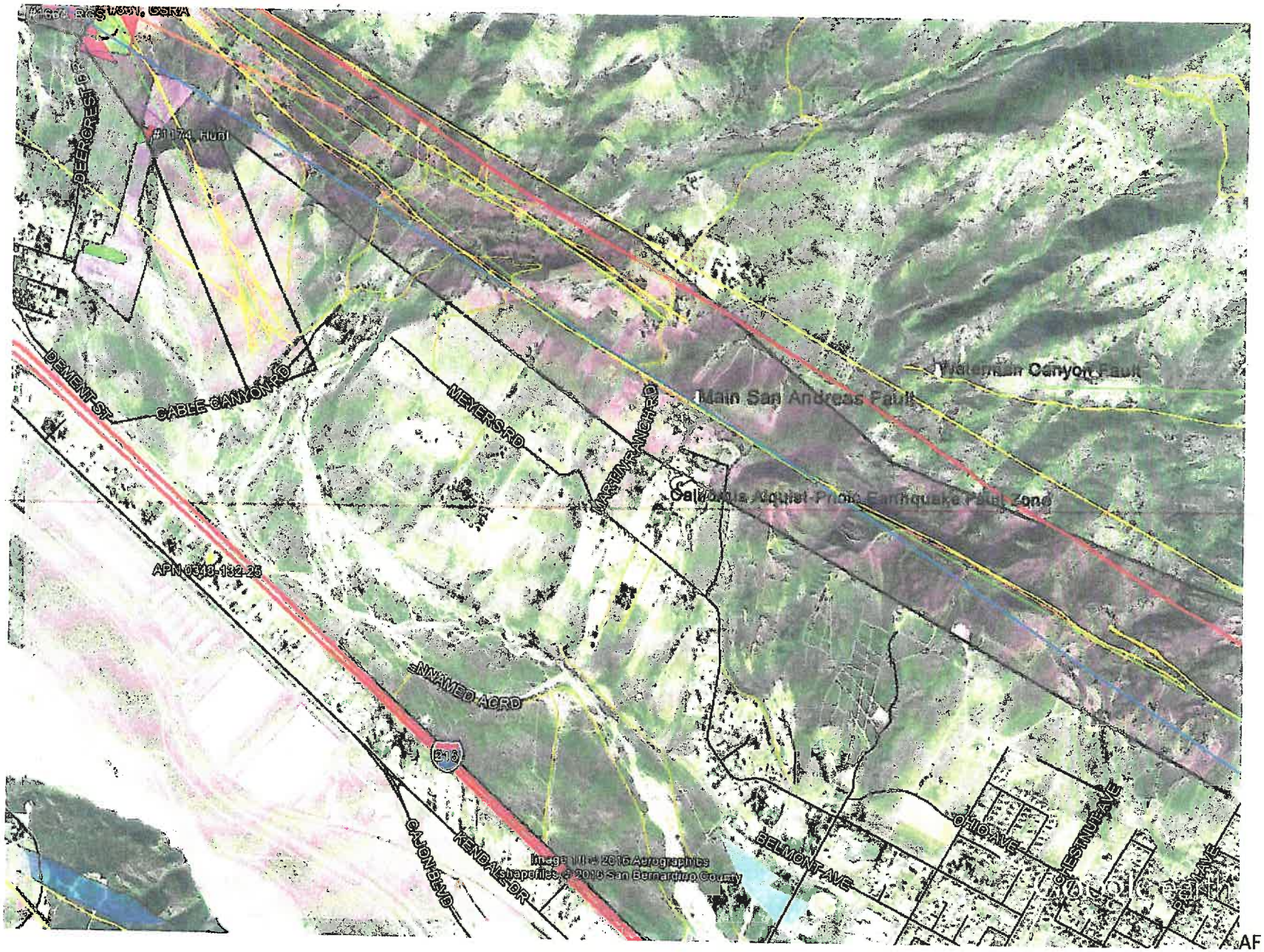
Developer does not own the proposed access roads
Roads in project are built on earthquake faults
This could mean 3,600 more vehicles down West Meyers Road per day
County currently cleans off storm runoff-City does not have staff for this.
Freeway entrances already at "F" rating
Cul-du-sacs = slow fire access and response

Services

City does not have the funds or staff to service this area. 11 million short this year with 8% department cuts to an already bare bones staff.
Average police response call here is now more than 6 hours
City doesn't have code officers to enforce code violations-fire, health, safety
City will be assessing $385 additional taxes with 3% yearly increase
Animal control, weed abatement, street cleaning, park maintenance
School impacts-approx. 700 new students
Street lighting
Maintaining the proposed "detention" basins-weeds/vector control
Detention basin maintenance-staff? Again code and labor to maintain

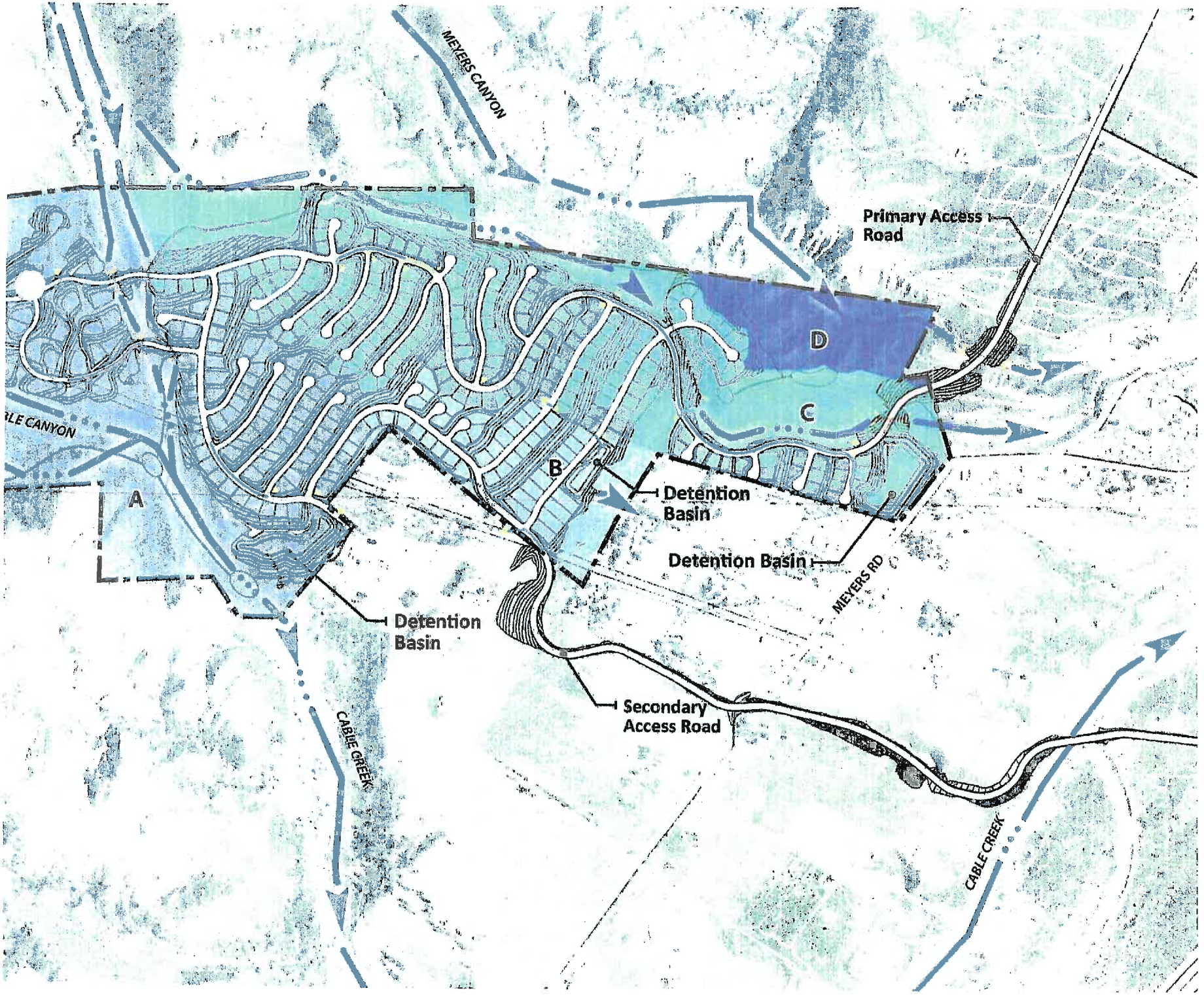
Utilities

Put in in phases=no power=no water
Water line will be run up West Meyers Road
Water lines will run across fault lines



EARTHQUACK FAULT
IN SPRING TRAILS PARCEL

nage Plan



Legend

RCP

RCB

STORM RUNOFF @ PARCEL

COUNTY RD CREW @ PARCEL

Co ROAD CREW @ PARCEL

<TRUCK TRUCK @ PARCEL

Schell, Angela

RECEIVED
2019 AUG 19 AM 9:00
LAFCO - LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

From: Andy Lyman [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2019 11:25 PM
To: Schell, Angela
Cc: [redacted] Laura; Hank Mitchell; [redacted] Ken & Juanita Rasmussen
Subject: Spring Trails LAFCO 3188A

8-20-19
RE: Spring Trails Specific Plan LAFCO 3188A

Dear Laftco Commissioners

Below are my comments and concerns all pointing to my disapproval of the project going forward as planned:

EXTREME FIRE HAZARD: due to high winds and slope.
Difficulty getting homeowner insurance to even write policies Tile shingles blow off, hurricane clips on bottom will not suffice.
I would suggest stucko undereaves for added protection from fires. The less exposed wood the better.
Faultlines would trap folks. Especially given the likelihood of fires with an earthquake. Result could be devastation and loss of life.
Winds are stronger than anyone can imagine. Just half mile away they are drastically reduced. Most do not realize this.

How could a HOA provide affordable maintenance when the substrate used for trails blows away. Long term sustainable maintenance??? This concerns me.

Housing density is not in harmony with surrounding area nor general plan. Why not reduce density?

Traffic concerns around already lacking infrastructure near the school and on/off ramps. Quality of life will decrease due to impact.

Infrastructure items such as roads, open space, parks etc should be done at time of building. Monies given to City as credit etc... will not be spent as intended due to lack of general funds and other more pressing city interests.

I am on a private water well. I am concerned about groundwater reduction due to rooftops and pavement. This impacts percolation. How will I be compensated if my well goes dry due to the project impact of groundwater levels?

How will I access my home on [redacted] without creating an undue traffic shortcut in the section of Martin Ranch Rd above the switchback. There are a few residents that need good access in this area. Is the developer planning on paving this section of street which is not addressed by the plan? My suggestion is to have the developer do this as a culdesac rather than going through and be paid for by the developer. To me this is just a little goodwill the developer could provide to the residents currently on the upper bench who will be greatly impacted by the project.

Another concern is moving dirt on the abandoned military base which is located within the project. This could be very dangerous. How would toxic waste or military ordinance be handled if discovered?

Thankyou for reading my concerns and suggestions.

Regards,

Existing Concerned Resident:
Andy and Laura Lyman
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone