

Amy Ow

From: Camille Leung
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 10:10 PM
To: Rarden, Marc
Cc: HighlandsCAPresident@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Request for more time to review Highland Estates Subdivision Project Addendum to the Highland Estates Final Environmental Impact Report

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi Marc,

FYI, the Community Development Director has extended the comment period for the EIR Addendum by 30 days to 5pm on June 17, 2021.

Thanks

From: Rarden, Marc <MRarden@sscinc.com>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:00 PM
To: Camille Leung <cleung@smcgov.org>
Cc: Steve Monowitz <smonowitz@smcgov.org>; Dave Pine <dpine@smcgov.org>; HighlandsCAPresident@gmail.com
Subject: Request for more time to review Highland Estates Subdivision Project Addendum to the Highland Estates Final Environmental Impact Report

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Hello Ms. Leung,

Hope this finds you well.

I am a resident of the San Mateo Highlands, my family home is at 2008 New Brunswick Drive. I am quite close to the construction areas that have emerged at the foot of Cobblehill Place and Cowpens Way over the past few years as the Chamberlain Group completes their buildout in this neighborhood.

I look forward to the end of this work, but am concerned about this stage of the project for a number of reasons. As you can see from the attached, we were alarmed years ago by the lead in. The County appeared to silently usher in significant changes to the original 2010 agreement while only communicating with, and considering the request of, the developer. The changes did not appear to be in good faith, changed the envelope of the houses completely, and were done over extended time without community input. That violated the detail and spirit of the 2010 agreement. We might expect this elsewhere in the world, but here?

Now, San Mateo County's notification letter dated May 3, 2021 titled "Consideration of a proposed Minor Modification to an approved Resource Management (RM) Permit (PLN2006-00357) for the development of Lots 5, 6, 7, and 8 (BLD2016-00161 through BLD2016-00164), in the San Mateo Highlands Area" indicates we are going through this

disturbing sequence once again. It links to a 289 page addendum that explains the “minor” modification. Note: a 289 page study / explanation does not meet the definition of “minor.”

Specifically, Appendix C (BKF Engineers, Inc. Civil Improvement Plan Lots 5-8) of the Addendum shows the need for the increased cuts in the soils plan and is dated September 18, 2018. That is close to three years ago. Once again, this information wasn’t communicated to the community for **years**.

Now let’s consider where we are today. The letter was dated May 3, 2021. The community has been instructed to digest this massive amount of information and respond within less than two weeks of receipt of said letter. This is during a period where many of us are dealing with the tail end of school session during a pandemic, finalizing state and income taxes, and handling various other weighty subjects. Does that sound reasonable?

No, it does not. Let’s have some empathy and respect here. Please extend the review period for at least 45 days.

Now, if you have County’s interest at heart, please consider hosting a public session to verbally review the following:

- Given the legacy landslide on the south side of Ticonderoga Drive that has been present for decades, can you explain how this work impact that condition? The legacy landslide area is effectively connected to the proposed building area. The landslide has compromised the sidewalk repeatedly for decades and does not appear to be a complete solution. Will this new work provide a complete, insured solution?
- Who will pay for future work after the construction is completed if a landslide occurs?
 - When it comes to future payment, does it matter if the current work causes, or contributes to a future landslide?
- Who do we contact if there are traffic issues?
 - Ticonderoga Drive is a major thoroughfare for the neighborhood, it is one of two arteries that server 1300 homes with many school aged children.
 - The buildout on Bunker Hill Drive resulted in numerous violations of the promise Chamberlain Group made regarding the positioning of trucks and impact on the local elementary school, and those complaints were not resolved.
- What is the expected impact of 1300 single direction heavy truck passes?
 - Is Ticonderoga Drive rated for the loads these trucks will carry?
- Did the work lower Polhemus Road just north of Ascension Drive years ago - which resulted in a landslide that required significant local resident expense to resolve with a giant retaining structure - go through same approval process with the same oversight committee?
 - If so, why would any reasonable person trust the current proposal?

This community is concerned, but reasonable. Please honor us by extending the review period, and by hosting a public question and answer session to review common concerns such as the questions listed above.

Regards,
Marc Rarden
on behalf of the Rarden Family