

Lia Graham

Public Comment



#7

From: Kendra O'Connor <koconnor@bunssb.org>
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 5:13 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Laura Capps
Subject: ATP letter
Attachments: ATP letter.pdf

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Kendra Duncan O'Connor

Dear Chair Williams and Supervisors,

I apologize for submitting this comment late and hope you will allow it to be submitted into the record. The Active Transportation Plan (ATP) is informative and hopefully some of the recommended projects will come to fruition in the near future, especially in the Eastern Goleta Valley. The massive high density housing outlined in the updated Housing Element will create major transportation problems with increased vehicle/bicycle/pedestrian collisions. Adding 4,700 new residential units within a few square miles in the Eastern Goleta Valley will have impacts that cannot be mitigated with our current infrastructure. Years of project construction will pose additional danger to those walking and biking in the area. I urge the county to actively pursue grant money along with high development impact fees to construct safe routes for all modes of transportation.

Additionally, future updates to this plan should correctly identify area boundaries and physical characteristics of each subregion, especially The Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan (EGVCP) area. The community plan area begins on Camino Cielo and encompasses steep mountainous slopes, the rolling San Marcos Foothills, multiple watersheds, gently sloping More Mesa with deep canyons, environmentally sensitive habitat, hillsides flanking the 101, high ocean bluffs and Hope Ranch. The Ranch is a neighborhood located entirely within the EGVCP area and is no different than any other HOA with private streets and CC&Rs. Proposed homes in the Ranch must follow the same county permitting and design review process as everyone else in the Eastern Goleta Valley. Hope Ranch is also not immune from any new state mandated housing laws or multimodal bike lanes on the two public roads bisecting the neighborhood all the way to the beach. It is unfortunate that this ATP along with other recent county plans make a point of excluding the HR neighborhood while ignoring the natural beauty of the whole Eastern Goleta Valley, describing it only as “mostly flat with low elevation.” I am hoping this incorrect description is an oversight and not a way to quietly justify upzoning for massive development.

I appreciate the work involved creating planning roadmaps for the future of our county. But more needs to be done to implement these projects if county staff continues to plan for the Eastern Goleta Valley to absorb 90% of the South Coast RHNA allocation. Safe modes of transportation for all residents along with updated vehicle infrastructure is critical for a sustainable safe community.

Sincerely,

Kendra Duncan O'Connor