

July 5, 2016

Clerk of the Board
Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: 1154 Channel Drive, Santa Barbara, CA (APN 009-352-019)
Case Number: 14CDH-00000-00014 (Olsten Montecito Trust)

Dear Chairman Adams and Supervisors:

My wife and I own the property at 1159 Hill Road immediately adjacent to the project site at 1154 Channel Drive (Project). We have been involved in providing feedback to the County decision makers regarding the Project since it was first introduced at the Montecito Board of Architectural Review.

The Montecito Community Plan's number one goal is to protect public and private mountain and ocean views. This Project blocks more mountain views from Channel Drive than the existing house on the site as well as doubling the blockage on our historic ocean views. Additionally, their landscape plan further blocks any remaining view left from already doubling the second-story expansion. The plan consists of 6 California sycamore trees, maxing out in height at 110 feet, and New Zealand Christmas Trees at 82 feet tall on either side of their second story. These trees will completely block the historic ocean views from our home and would cast our home and those on both sides of us into perpetual shade throughout all seasons of the year. Their plan, for their privacy, amounts to 100-foot green wall of trees between our property and the ocean. Such a condition is absolutely unacceptable.

Recently the Project owners hired an attorney that likes to say the applicants have worked with their neighbors and tried to be cooperative and responsive to feedback. Unfortunately, the reality is that between the January MPC hearing and the March MPC hearing, they did not reduce the second-story by even a single square foot despite clear comments from the MPC requiring such a reduction before project approval and they have erected the "wall of trees". The MPC saw clearly the adverse impacts on the community and specifically neighbors like ourselves and voted against such harsh impacts.

This Project symbolically represents a general shift from understated semi-rural Montecito style to overbuilt Orange County beach city style. Montecito applauds its Planning Commission decisions in January and March of this year to keep Channel Drive as the low profile relaxed beach community that makes it a jewel of the California coastline. We support the MPC's denial of this Project and protection of the current setting of Channel Drive. Please honor their decision and support their Project denial.

Sincerely,



Tom Sturgess

1159 Hill Road Santa Barbara, CA 93108