

From: Sheila Lodge [sjlodge@cox.net]  
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 4:49 PM  
To: sbcob  
Subject: Item #8, March 17, 2009, agenda

#8

March 16, 2009

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

RE: # 8) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT File Reference No. 09-00184

HEARING - Consider the appeal filed by James Marino on the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission's approval of the Herb Parker art exhibit installation



Dear Chair Carbajal, Vice-Chair Centeno and Supervisors Wolf, Farr and Gray:

Here is yet another time that the Botanic Garden had pushed ahead with a proposal for the landmarked portion of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden (SBBG) that is inappropriate, and it has been granted a categorical exemption by the County. The landmarked portion is only roughly 1/3 of the total SBBG. There is no need for such "art" to be displayed in the meadow, the heart of the historic garden, or anywhere else in the landmarked portion of the SBBG.

In addition to violating the SBBG's landmark status, such an installation, designed to attract many more visitors to the SBBG, has the potential to cause significant safety concerns in case of a fire. I had to evacuate during the Tea Fire, and it literally took me ten times as long (possibly more, but I don't want to exaggerate), to go from Foothill Lane to Mission Canyon as in normal conditions. It was creep a car length and stop, creep a car length and stop, as cars on Foothill leaving the Riviera area merged with those leaving upper Mission Canyon.

The Oakland Firestorm of 1991 was a fire which killed 25 people and injured 150 others. People died because they simply couldn't leave the area fast enough. They panicked, couldn't find a safe route out, ran into one another and died in their cars. Density of use MUST be kept low in Santa Barbara County's high fire areas.

I urge you to grant the appeal and require the project go through complete environmental review.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sheila Lodge  
805-966-5586

3/17/2009