



Katherine Douglas

General Public Comment -

From: Helen Larsen <helenlarsen79@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, July 23, 2023 8:36 PM  
To: sbcob  
Subject: As Santa Barbara has increased in population severe problems have occurred

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To Whom It May Concern:

We now have dangerous traffic problems w. abrupt traffic slowdowns which cause more frequent accidents. The auto drivers moving here from more crowded areas bring with them their rude driving manners, annoying other drivers. Many citizens have remarked we have become a "little LA"!!

There is not only our concern while attempting to drive on the 101, or State St. or Foothill Rd./Cathedral Oaks Rd., many of us feel we are risking our lives while simply trying to accomplish our jobs and/or daily chores on these roads. BTW, have you noticed there is not enough parking available? Workers must park many blocks away from their job locations! The worst aspect of the crowding that is now happening in what was once a lovely coastal town is we do not have enough services to take care of the folks who live here, particularly noted, is the huge shortage of specialty doctors. It is a three-month wait!!!! I was speaking about this travesty to one of my own doctors who is a General Practitioner, who exclaimed his exasperation with knowing his patients are no longer receiving the specialty medical attention as soon as they should receive attention.

My own case is a primary example in that some time recently I suffered a compression fracture of my 4<sup>th</sup> vertebrae. Daily, I am suffering the pain associated with such a fracture. We just determined two days ago, I might receive better, more immediate care in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Spokane, Washington, or even Seattle, Washington.

When builders bring their plans to our Building Dept., it seems most every building project is stamped okay. However, again, whatever allows that project to occur, no one has investigated—done any research—in the neighborhoods affected by over-building thus forcing intense competition for housing, driving prices up, but also making auto travel more difficult. The medical doctor with whom I was speaking said many in the medical field cannot afford to live here! We are enduring the consequences of poor planning by the powers that be.

I realize the problem I am presenting is huge and will require a change in the way building permits are so easily rewarded. I am willing to volunteer my own precious time to collaborate with others to resolve these problems.

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