

ATTACHMENT 14

Public Comments to the Planning Commission

Public Comments from September 2, 2015 Planning Commission



To; Santa Barbara County Planning Commission,

Board of Directors

Pegeen Soutar
Chairperson

Paola Dela Cruz
Vice Chair

Jacob Lebell
Director

David Hubbard
Director

Ethan Bertrand
Director

Staff

Rodney Gould
General Manager

Angela Kamm
Executive Secretary

District Clerk
Vacant

Luke Rioux
Fiscal Officer

Anne E. Aziz
Recreation
Coordinator

Adam Porté
Adopt-A-Block
Supervisor

**"MORE THAN
JUST PARKS"**

Upon review of the proposed Isla Vista Master Plan, September 2015 (IVMP), the Board of Directors of the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District (IVRPD) respectfully requests that the plan be sent back to the community for discussion and comment. Many things have changed since its creation, rendering the document full of inaccuracies and impossibilities as it pertains to IVRPD owned land. As a co-sponsor of IVMP, we are willing, and requesting to be the lead agency in facilitating the community review and discussion process, as we propose revisions as they pertain to parks and recreation. Below you find a partial list of our concerns.

- Estero Park is totally encumbered for 25 years due to State grant money used for the renovation of the park, and an existing 25 year lease on the recently constructed Ed Saint George Youth Center
- The County and community fought hard to retain the building at 970 Embarcadero Del Mar, which was recently renovated to serve as the community resources building
- The building at 976 Embarcadero Del Mar has been designated the site of the Isla Vista Community Center, and the County has appropriated 483K for its renovation, thus eliminating the need to rezone the land at Estero Park and 961 Embarcadero Del Mar
- The Redevelopment Agency has been dissolved, leaving the majority of the proposed improvement projects financially unfeasible
- Perfect Park now contains the Isla Vista Love and Remembrance Garden, which was a labor of love by the community to honor the 6 slain victims of the tragedy that occurred on May 23, 2014, rendering that space unavailable for the relocation of the Anisq'Oyo' Park Amphitheater
- Metered parking around the perimeter of the downtown parks would obstruct views, impacting the aesthetics of the central parks, and would also create a safety hazard for bicyclists.

While we recognize and appreciate the time and resources that have been expended on the current revision of the IVMP, and recognize that at its heart it is an effort to correct long standing neglect and insufficient planning that our community has endured, we also feel strongly that it does not reflect the current reality and future vision of the community that is working diligently for positive change in Isla Vista. Thank you for considering our concerns, and we look forward to continuing our shared work in planning for a better Isla Vista.

Sincerely,
Pegeen Soutar
Board Chair
Isla Vista Recreation and Park District

Santa Barbara Planning Commission
123 East Anapamu St. #3
Santa Barbara, California 93101

August 31, 2015

Dear Planning Commissioners,

We apologize for not attending the previous hearing on the SEIR for the IVMP, however, the vast majority of us were not informed of the meeting or that changes were being proposed for the IV Master Plan. We want to state that we are not against thoughtful development that acknowledges we are a beach side community, and retains the key components of that designation. It is the scale and character of the development we are opposed to. Therefore, we are sharing our concerns with you on the following points in the Master Plan.

- **Density:** At the time the IVMP was written, UCSB's Long-Range Development Plan had not been finalized. The community and the Planners did not realize that 6500 more students, staff and faculty would be added to the immediate IV area in the developments currently under construction by UCSB. Also, at the time of the IVMP development, it wasn't possible to take into account the hundreds of units that Goleta has also added to the immediate neighborhood. All of these new residences in the surrounding areas have an impact on the community of Isla Vista. We are concerned that the Master Plan has suggested an additional infill of over 1447 Units. This will result in a 30% increase in population and the added density will stress the limited infrastructure, i.e. fire, water, policing, traffic, etc. Packing too many people into an already limited space is a recipe for disaster.
- **Safety:** Safety is a big concern. The Master Plan does not have an Emergency/Evacuation Plan. Ingress of emergency vehicles and egress of residents from Isla Vista are inadequate for current, let alone increased population. In an event of a disaster, all residents of Isla Vista would be at great risk. Who is going to be liable for injuries that may occur?

Social unrest is already an issue in Isla Vista. Increased density in IV translates into increased social problems. Parents and the students attending UCSB and SBCC living in and around Isla Vista have expressed deep concerns about their safety. The Master Plan does not take into account the social ramifications of the proposed zoning changes.

- **Parking:** We disagree with the parking survey in the IVMP. The claim that there is 15% parking vacancy rate for parking does not reflect our actual experience in Isla Vista.

A number of the IV beach access points are routinely unavailable to parking, contradictory to the IVMP findings.

An unintended consequence of necessary sidewalk installations, is forcing even more cars onto the streets due to codes that prohibit cars from parking

across sidewalks. Already you see cars parked on lawns throughout the community,

Adding to our already existing parking problems, most new housing developments in IV are providing inadequate parking, and those who do provide parking are charging for it. Many students cannot afford this, pushing still more cars into on-street parking. Increased development will only add to this problem.

A well-crafted parking permit program could help to alleviate this situation. However, the parking permit program proposed in the IVMP would only be enforced from 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. Two concerns are: This does nothing to alleviate the problem of UCSB students who drive from other areas of the County that park in IV to avoid paying UCSB parking fees. Visitors that come into Isla Vista to participate in "the festivities" (often involving alcohol) would be forced to get into their cars before 3 a.m. to avoid getting a ticket, which will create safety problems for them and for the community.

- **Housing:** The IVMP does not take into account the current Stage III drought conditions. An increase of 1447 housing units is not feasible at this time and most likely not in the future. Drought conditions are viewed by experts as a reoccurring condition.

Downtown buildings in the IVMP call for two to three stories. The resulting four story buildings do not represent what was called for in the plan. The character of Isla Vista will be lost if we continue on the current path toward these large, box buildings. These have not proven to be successful. Even popular business destinations struggled to survive the high rents and have left, for example, Crushcakes.

In closing, we would like to remind you of the paragraph on Page 9 of the IVMP that states, *"It is specifically intended that most elements of change identified in this plan will occur in reasonably small increments, such that the community will see the effect of each change, and determine if the results are satisfactory, or the course of change needs to be adjusted. The ability to observe and steer the process of change and growth as it unfolds is essential in managing a complex urban system."*

Thank you in advance for considering our concerns. We request the County and the Planners bring the IVMP back out to the Community so we can revisit it. We would also like the opportunity to comment on the pieces of the plan that have already been implemented.

Please postpone adoption of the IVMP and the proposed changes until the community has a chance to give feedback.

Sincerely,
Isla Vista Community Members:

Santa Barbara Planning Commission
123 East Anapamu St. #3
Santa Barbara, California 93101

August 31, 2015

Dear Commissioners,

Yes there are good things in the Isla Vista Master Plan: more bike paths, bike racks for all rentals, more trees, drought-wise plantings. And we do need more sidewalks. But we are more than 15, 000 now (packed into a half square mile) and the number of us grows each year.

But what's on the horizon with this out-of-date updated Master Plan/SEIR? More hulking, commercial rentals with fancier exteriors and high rents... and more shopping. **IV is officially one of the densest populations for its size in CA, and maybe the country.** Re-zoning for *even higher densities* is like turning up the gas on a pressure-cooker.

Why are people outside IV afraid of coming here? Not because there aren't enough shops and high-rises or our facades aren't attractive enough! But because we have too many stressed out people who can't afford high rents so they double and triple and even quadruple-up, which multiplies the chaos. Imagine living two, three, and more, to a room? Brand new or spruced up rentals don't usually come with cheap rents. If you're broke, you do whatever saves money, including parking on the street to avoid paying for a space. Would land-owners be charging for spaces if there was adequate parking as your Parking Surveys claim? Walk through IV and you see cars parked on dirt slopes, non-parking portions of apartment lots, in other people's designated spots, two cars nose-to-tail in one painted space, and other inventive work-arounds. Our families and friends often have to park blocks away when they come to visit, or squeeze in any which way they can. Would any of this be happening if, as your Surveys claim, we had adequate parking?

Low-incomes/high rents, lack of services encourage alcohol and rowdy behavior, especially among young people on their own for the first time. We need to encourage the more home-like, family-of-peers atmosphere of Housing Co-ops plus incentives for land-owners to refurbish existing buildings to encourage them. Co-ops take better care of their buildings. And people living there watch out for each other.

We are not the community from years ago in the Plan. Many of those people are gone. Especially since last May, we've been working hard to respond to the wound to our community with the murder of several students. Who's going to explain to parents of the next injured or dead son or daughter, how it was that millions could

be ear-marked for more shopping and street-narrowing, instead of, eg, a fully-supported sobering center, mental health service, and rape crisis center?

We are in danger of Lake Cachuma running dry, it's at 20 % right now. That's an emergency. Fires are common in IV. Who's going to be financially liable for the next disaster that more services, and an evacuation plan could have helped us avoid?

On the other hand, after forty years, SB County Supervisors stepped up this summer to support our new Community Center project. Instead of leveling the buildings on the Loop, they're going to be the site of teaching and healing programs. *This* is the kind of change we need more of!

So dear Planners, instead of more *build-out* and *in-fill*, we want to build more trust and goodwill. We want to fill in the gaps of unmet needs. We want to carry forward more projects like Meet Your Neighbor, alternative Halloween and Deltopia events, feed-the-hungry programs, clean-up teams picking up beach and street trash, and more..

If you approve the Master Plan as it stands, I can promise you we will strongly, cooperatively, oppose it, all the way to the Coastal Commission.

So come back to us with a properly revised, fully updated, re-mapped Master Plan/SEIR that takes our actual present day to day experience in IV as a starting point. A Master Plan that recognizes and is shaped by feedback on all the big recent changes, that helps to create that more peaceful future we all want, but can only bring about *by working together*.

Thank you, M. Maia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Maia', written over a horizontal line.

IV Community Network member, Alumna UCSB, IV Community Center project committee member, and very long-term resident

September 2, 2015

Santa Barbara Planning Commission
123 East Anapamu St. #3
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I have owned and lived in my house in Isla Vista for 30 years. I am writing to request that the decision regarding the amendments to the Isla Vista Master Plan be postponed. The master plan itself is flawed and out-of-date. A lot of change has taken place in Isla Vista since it was originally written. Much of the report is no longer relevant. These issues should be addressed before the plan progresses any further.

Page 9 of the master plan says that the community should observe the incremental changes and adjust the plan as needed. This is what we need to do now. There are major issues which need to be addressed in light of more current information, including density, safety, parking, and further development with the recurring drought conditions. The safety of Isla Vistans in an emergency is of particular concern since there are limited routes for ingress and egress and housing for thousands more people is being developed around Isla Vista.

The plan should be sent back to the community for input on revision. Meetings on the plan should be properly noticed and should take place in Isla Vista.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Dixon".

Sue Dixon
6882 Del Playa Dr.
Isla Vista, CA 93117

Community Members and Long Term Residents

Janet Stich, Former PAC Member,

Rick Stich,

Pegeen Soutar

Jon Soutar

M. Maia

Susan Whisenand

Kathryn Miller

Bruce Murdock

Bonnie Murdock

Cat Neushul

Andrew Neushul

Peter Neushul

Cathy Neushul

Florence Klein

Melissa Hedges

Anne Renaud

Jenny Dugan

Dave Hubbard

Steven Fisher

Ruth Bartz

Ken Warfield

Rodney Gould

Diana Puetes Collins

Paola Dela Cruz

Josh Redman

Carlos Lopez

Sawyer Maghsoodloo

Sia Shelby

Liza Flores

Marjan Abubu

Liza Flores

Nawar Nemeh

Cynthia Jimenez

Zuleima Vasquez

Savannah Castaneda

Mohsin Mirza

Francella Fierro

Selena Gonzalez

Natalie Gomez

Alejandra Melgoza.

Honoree Tuazon

Alex Welch

Julian Gould

Aaron Jones

Isabelle Martinez

Gabriel Prugin

Public Comments from November 4, 2015 Planning Commission

November 4, 2015

TO Members, Staff of Planning Commission, Santa Barbara County

FROM Ruth Ann Bartz, 6894 del Playa, Isla Vista, California

SUBJECT Parking in Isla Vista

Dear Members,

The situation of parking in Isla Vista has reached a critical point. While there are many aspects of parking in IV, I want to specifically address the issue of beach access parking.

Of the three or four beach accesses in IV, only one still has available parking for beach users who are using a car. And that is the beach access that is at Camino Majorca, across from my house.

I am not able to be physically present today for this meeting; I have a long standing, all-day commitment. And I do have some questions about the County's parking plan.

My first question is : Why is there available parking at only one of the beach access points in Isla Vista (at Camino Majorca)? The other access points are inaccessible except by walking or biking. So what is the County's plan to open those other spaces, making them available for beach users.

My next question is : At the Camino Majorca beach access, sometimes there are open parking spaces. And sometimes not, when these spaces are filled by weekend partiers, sometimes by renters.

How does the County plan on keeping the Camino Majorca parking spaces available for beach use? And not used by stored cars, for example.

Just one idea... maybe a system of no night time parking (between the hours of midnight to 5 a.m?). This would probably limit the storing of cars.

Thank you for your time
ruth bartz

ISLA VISTA RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT
DPT EMBARCADERO DEL MAR, ISLA VISTA, GA 35117
www.ivparks.org 805-968-2017 FAX 908-2820

Board of Directors

Pegeen Soutar
Chairperson

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Vice Chair

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Recreation
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Adam Porté
Adopt-A-Block
Supervisor

"MORE THAN
JUST PARKS"

10/27/15

County of Santa Barbara
County Planning Commission
c/o dvillalo@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

11-4-15

Dear Commission Chair Cecilia Brown,

I am writing you at the direction of the Board of Directors of the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District (IVRPD).

During the IVRPD Board meeting of September 1, 2015, the County's proposal to finalize the Isla Vista Master Plan of 2007 (IVMP), with only minor modifications to parking and zoning, inspired a greater review of the IVMP by the IVRPD Board and the community. It was determined that the IVMP as it pertains to IVRPD is no longer accurate, as much of the affected IVRPD owned land has been developed and/or encumbered.

During the meeting, Chapter 1, page 9 – "Why a Long Range Plan?" of the IVMP was cited, in particular the following verbiage:

"It is specifically intended that most elements of change identified in this Plan will occur in reasonably small increments, such that the community will see the effect of each change, and determine if the results are satisfactory, or the course of change needs to be adjusted. The ability to observe and steer the process of change and growth as it unfolds is essential in managing a complex urban system."

As co-sponsors of the plan, the IVRPD Board of Directors are respectfully requesting the IVMP, as it pertains to IVRPD, be revised to reflect the current circumstances. Further, the IVRPD Board of Directors is requesting IVRPD be the lead agency to gather input from the community on all matters related to recreation and parks in the IVMP.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.



Rodney Gould
General Manager
Isla Vista Recreation and Park District
805-968-2017 office
805-722-7120 cell
rgould@ivparks.org

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OCT 27 2015

S.B. COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
HEARING REPORT



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SEP 02 2015

S.B. COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING SUPPORT

To; Santa Barbara County Planning Commission,

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Board Chair
Isla Vista Recreation and Park District

Santa Barbara Planning Commission
123 East Anapamu St. #3
Santa Barbara, California 93101

August 31, 2015

RECEIVED

SEP 02 2015

PLANNING
DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION

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across sidewalks. Already you see cars parked on lawns throughout the community,

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Please postpone adoption of the IVMP and the proposed changes until the community has a chance to give feedback.

Sincerely,
Isla Vista Community Members:

9/2/15 IVMP Update

Additional signers to letter of
Concern from IV community.

Carlos Lopez

Sawyer Maghsoodloo

Tasia Shelby

Liza Flores

Margan Abubu

Nawar Nemeh

Cynthia Jimenez

Zuleima Vasquez

Savannah Castañeda

Mohsin Mirza

Francella Fierro

Selena Gonzalez

Natalie Gomez

Alejandra Melgoza

Matias Eusterbrock

Letter of Concern
Another signer:

Spencer Conway

Santa Barbara Planning Commission
123 East Anapamu St. #3
Santa Barbara, California 93101

August 31, 2015

RECEIVED
AUG 31 2015
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Commissioners,

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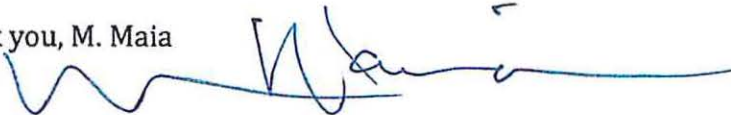
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September 2, 2015

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Sue Dixon
6882 Del Playa Dr.
Isla Vista, CA 93117

Community Members and Long Term Residents

Janet Stich, Former PAC Member,

Rick Stich,

Pegeen Soutar

Jon Soutar

M. Maia

Susan Whisenand

Kathryn Miller

Bruce Murdock

Bonnie Murdock

Cat Neushul

Andrew Neushul

Peter Neushul

Cathy Neushul

Florence Klein

Melissa Hedges

Anne Renaud

Jenny Dugan

Dave Hubbard

Steven Fisher

Ruth Bartz

Ken Warfield

Rodney Gould

Diana Puetes Collins

Paola Dela Cruz

Josh Redman

Carlos Lopez

Sawyer Maghsoodloo

Sia Shelby

Liza Flores

Marjan Abubu

Liza Flores

Nawar Nemeh

Cynthia Jimenez

Zuleima Vasquez

Savannah Castaneda

Mohsin Mirza

Francella Fierro

Selena Gonzalez

Natalie Gomez

Alejandra Melgoza.

Honoree Tuazon

Alex Welch

Julian Gould

Aaron Jones

Isabelle Martinez

Gabriel Pragin

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