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Edcgov.us Mail - comment on rezone Z19-0001/Tentative Parcel Map P19-0001/Paye



PC 9-24-20  
Item# 3

Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

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## comment on rezone Z19-0001/Tentative Parcel Map P19-0001/Paye

1 message

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**Rob York** <ryork@berkeley.edu>  
To: planning@edcgov.us

Thu, Sep 10, 2020 at 6:09 PM

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rezoning referred to in the subject line.

I am against rezoning for the following reasons:

- Cumulatively, the conversion of forestland to non-forest use represents a significant loss of carbon sequestration potential. The conversion itself represents a loss of carbon to the atmosphere, and the loss of forest represents a loss of long-term carbon sequestration through the growth of trees, and their potential for storage in forest products.
- This rezoning will represent a further development of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). WUI development adds to the already challenging issue of addressing wildfire risk to communities.
- Wildfires are an inevitable occurrence in the proposed area. The standards for fire safe clearing around residences are clearly not enough to provide neighborhood or community-level protection from wildfire. 5 and 10 acre parcels may result in small islands of fire safe clearing around residences, but the majority of the area will not be maintained with adequate clearing that protects the broader community.
- The development that would follow this rezoning only adds to the significant challenge of wildfires impacting forested, rural communities.

The only mitigation I can think of that can justify a conversion of open space into small parcels in a forested environment, during this ongoing emergency of wildfire behavior that California faces is the following. It would have to be required that the defensible space requirements immediately surrounding houses (within 100') be applied to the entire area that is being rezoned. Even this is uncertain to be effective, because it is obvious to anyone who is familiar with the standards that fire safe clearance standards and regulations are not enforced.

Thank you again for this opportunity.

Robert York, PhD  
Professor of Forestry, University of California at Berkeley  
Professional Forester #2699  
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