



Public Comment # 29
 County of El Dorado Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edgov.us>
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Public Comment Item 29 - Serrano Village Appeal

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Presumably when the County prepared the development and design standards the County believed that those standards were in the best interests of our community. However, the County staff reports and recommendations often present the default option as granting waivers to allow large developers to do what they want on their property and not follow the County standards. In reality the default is that everyone follow the County standards. While you have the discretion to grant waivers to the standards you have to find that: there are special conditions or circumstances peculiar to the property which would justify the waiver; strict application of the design or improvements would cause extraordinary and unnecessary hardship in developing the property; and the waiver would not be injurious to adjacent properties or detrimental to the health, safety, convenience and welfare of the public. You are under NO obligation to grant a waiver, but you are under an obligation to make sure that any waivers you do grant are done for a good reason and are not detrimental to the community. I understand why the large developers keep asking for waivers, because they want to build more wealthy people homes so they can make more money. What I do not understand is why the County keeps granting the requested waivers. How is building housing that both does not comply with our County standards, and that most people who work in El Dorado County cannot afford, in the best interests of our community? Do you truly believe that turning the Western Slope of El Dorado County into a Sacramento suburb where people that work and shop in Sacramento commute to at night to sleep, is what is in the best interests of our community? If not, then you should deny the requested waivers and make the developers follow our County standards. If instead, you no longer believe that the County standards are in the best interests of our community, then you should change the standards rather than granting every large developer that comes along waivers.

Additionally, as someone who watched in full all three Planning Commission meetings on this topic, it was a complete debacle that could have easily been avoided if County staff/council had allowed the commissioners to make and vote on their motion to deny granting the waivers to the County standards, finding there were not special conditions or circumstances peculiar to the property which would justify the waivers, the strict application of the county standards would not cause extraordinary and unnecessary hardship in developing the property, and the waivers would be detrimental to the convenience of the public. The developer could have then appealed the decision to the County Board of Supervisors if they wanted to do so, and all of the mess that occurred would have been avoided. I hope that there were some lessons learned as a result of this debacle and we will not see the same sort of behavior by County staff/council again in the future.

Thank You

Nicole Gotberg

Placerville Resident, District III