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Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

17-0001/PD17-0001/TM17-1531/Cameron Ranch

1 message

Mikol Maitland <mmaitland@archtterradesign.com>
To: planning@edcgov.us

Wed, May 9, 2018 at 10:17 AM

Dear Members of the El Dorado County Planning Commission,

I am a CA licensed architect who resides and works in El Dorado County and I am writing in reference to the upcoming hearing on the Cameron Ranch project (File 18-0578).

Although I am not anti-development in any means as it would have a detrimental effect on my business and livelihood, I am concerned about the quality of projects being presented and passed through the Planning Commission without regard for the quality of architectural design, and this project falls right into the wheelhouse of this debate.

For years we have been undermining the integrity and character of our neighborhoods by allowing developers (who hire non-licensed individuals or "designers") to design projects with absolutely no regard for architectural design character or integrity. I understand that there are very few guidelines within the County that allow the Planning Commission to hold developers to a higher standard, but the community should demand better from the El Dorado County committees and commissions (Design Review Committee, Planning Commission, and Board of Supervisors) who oversee the protection of property values and quality of life in our County.

I have read through the public comments on many proposed housing and commercial developments in the past few years, but the integrity of the project design and how it integrates into the character of El Dorado County has rarely been addressed. It's long overdue to start having the discussion to develop strong design standards to apply to the development projects in the County. The regional Design Review Committees, Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors need the tools to hold the developers accountable and better define the character of our community going forward.

A good start to this debate would be to send this project back to the drawing board.

Sincerely,

Mikol Maitland, Architect

Shingle Springs, CA