



Charlene Tim <charlene.tim@edcgov.us>

PC 8/13/15 agenda item 3, acquisition of property for plant preserve

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To: Charlene Tim <charlene.tim@edcgov.us>
Cc: Mary Cahill <mcahill@cameronpark.org>

Wed, Aug 12, 2015 at 8:28 PM

To Members of the El Dorado County Planning Commission,

I am writing in regard to item number 3 on your August 13, 2015 Planning Commission Agenda, relating to the acquisition of real property for Rare Plant Mitigation Land. Though this item is on your consent calendar, I hope you will consider modifying the proposed action to incorporate the matters brought forward by the Cameron Park Community Services District in their letter dated August 11, 2015, and my comments below.

The Cameron Park Community Services District (CPCSD) is requesting the property be allowed for a multi-use purpose, and I believe this should be incorporated as part of the conditions of the purchase, however I would like the multi-usage of the land to be greater than the CPCSD proposal. For example, I would like to have an area of land preserved, through county ownership or a county owned easement, for a pathway and local public use from Rasmussen Park, a public park that borders Mira Loma Drive, through the subject property to public roads Auburn Hills Drive and Drummond Way/Carousel Lane, which connect to public owned Meder Road. If there was such a pathway, then persons living in Cameron Park east of Cameron Park Drive, and in Shingle Springs, would have a walk-able and bicycle means of getting to Rasmussen Park without having to venture onto Cameron Park Drive, a heavily traveled major arterial roadway that has no walking/biking path.

Once the county transfers ownership to either the state or federal government, the county will lose any opportunity to control, direct or have a say in how the lands that have rare or endangered species are used. The best example of how this type of scenario has hurt the county is evident by looking at the property situated between the end points of Palmer Drive in Cameron Park and Wild Chaparral Drive in Shingle Springs, now owned by the BLM and formerly owned by an entity of Bruce Ashwill that had a tentative map (Ponderosa 50?) for residential development that contained a condition for a connecting roadway. It is in the best interests of the county to connect Palmer Drive and Wild Chaparral Drive as a frontage road on the north side of US Highway 50 as an alternative roadway to connect the Cameron Park Drive and Ponderosa Road freeway interchanges, and it was always planned as such. But when the property was transferred to BLM without any condition to allow a local roadway across the land we lost our local control. Now the county is in the unfortunate situation of having to "negotiate" with both the state and federal governments to "acquire" the land for a connecting roadway.

I hereby request the Planning Commission approve conditions or reservations to the purchase of the property that will allow multi-use of the property by local government and the citizens of the county. This might require a continuance of the item in order to incorporate conditions and reservations to the purchase of the property, and if so please take such action.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Beal

Cameron Park resident and property owner