



"Sharlene"
<sharlene.mccaslin@sbcglo
bal.net>

11/13/2011 08:52 PM

To <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

cc

bcc

Subject Monday's agenda item

1 attachment



General Plan amendments2.doc

Hi Suzanne-

Please share my attached comments with the Board . Thank you.

Sharlene

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY
2011 NOV 14 AM 10:35

**COPY SENT TO BOARD MEMBERS
FOR THEIR INFORMATION**

DATE 11/14/11

Sharlene McCaslin
PO Box 1512
Placerville, CA 95667

November 12, 2011

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors:

In 2004 the voters approved the El Dorado County General Plan. After it was approved the Board increased allowable density of commercial and industrial coverage on parcels from 23 million square feet to 94 million square feet at build out (called Floor Area Ratio – FAR). The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the new FAR listed twenty-six individual items that were identified as significant and unavoidable impacts. These impacts included insufficient water for the building/development that was forecasted, among other serious concerns. The EIR for the increase in build out was approved anyway because “the benefits outweighed the impacts.” (Benefits to whom, I might ask.)

On Monday, November 14th at 2:00 pm the Economic Development Advisory Committee and County Planning Staff will ask the Board of Supervisors to approve a laundry list of General Plan and Zoning amendments designed to remove the remaining taxpayer protections and grease the skids for developers. These two groups haven’t agreed upon the changes, yet the Board is being asked to vote on a resolution of intent put forward by the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

The Board will also be asked to approve another expensive Environmental Impact Report (EIR) less than five years after the last one. It appears that the purpose of requesting a new EIR is to have the public pick up the tab. That way any future (private) development can just tier off the publicly-funded report, saving developers from paying for their own Environmental Impact Reports. All this will be done under the guise of bringing the county into compliance with state and federal mandates.

The whole thing stinks. The Board is being asked to make the changes to the General Plan to allow building high density, compact, mixed-use developments in order to get “free” money (that is federal money – taxpayer money – your money and my money) for developers who agree to build high density, compact, mixed-use developments. What kind of circular logic is this? If the developers agree to build these high density, compact, mixed-use developments which will destroy our rural county and its natural resources, they will be rewarded by not having to follow the protections formerly afforded by CEQA; the protections that allow each of us to appreciate and enjoy the natural beauty of our county.

The last General Plan was voted on by the taxpayers. It looks like this time the amendments are being crammed through over the holidays before the public gets wind of it. If you want the rest of the county to look like El Dorado Hills and its Town Center then you will be happy to see this type of development coming to your area soon. If not, stand up and ask the Board why they are playing favorites with their developer friends, while sacrificing the rural lifestyle many of us cherish and want to see protected.

Sharlene McCaslin