

5.25.2025 LTE Press Dem BOS at fault

Putting developers first

EDITOR: The supervisors, including Rebeca Hermosillo, brushed aside concerns raised by residents of Oakmont, Kenwood, Glen Ellen and the Springs, implicitly endorsing building hundreds of homes and a hotel on the Sonoma Developmental Center property (“Rebuked by judge firm gets do-over,” May 11). I expect this kind of gamesmanship from Permit Sonoma, but for the supervisors to go along, is a betrayal.

Worse, they chose the same company that wrote the first environmental impact report, which has a vested interest and may try to paper over issues raised by residents. The supervisors accepted Permit Sonoma’s superficial justification of the cost to bring another firm up to speed. They expressed no concern for the inevitable social and financial cost of the dissension and litigation the next EIR will surely bring.

The core problem is the supervisors turning over the job of developing a project that is supposed to reflect the wishes of the community to Permit Sonoma. This agency believes the construction community is all that counts. If the supervisors had the courage to do the right thing, they would have heeded the concerns of Sonoma Valley residents and given the job to an organization that would sincerely work with all concerned on how to deal with the state requirements and devise a project that is best for all the community.

HUGH HELM

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