

PULSE OF THE PUBLIC

The Sonoma Court ruling on the SDC

■ ■

EDITOR: The community supporting a more thoughtful use of the SDC area near Glen Ellen won in court on April 26. Hooray! Judge Bradford DeMeo found that the emperor had no clothes. Our “emperors” in Sonoma County government have taken Gov. Jerry Brown’s high-minded redevelopment program and converted it into a cudgel of Specific Plans that Permit Sonoma has used to beat down community resistance and keep state money flowing into county coffers.

The SDC Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report that Judge DeMeo found seriously deficient looks extremely similar to the Springs Specific Plan Draft EIR, both written by Permit Sonoma to meet the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) legal requirements.

Both documents deceptively used smaller numbers of projected houses than allowed by rezoning. Thus environmental impacts appeared to have lesser impacts than could actually occur.

Both documents used the Sonoma County invention of “self-mitigation” to dispose of many other environmental impacts. This concept asserted that policies and plans were in place that in the future would mitigate problems caused by the building project. Traffic congestion and wildfire evacuations fell into these categories, diminishing the need to perform any further analyses.

Both documents explicitly excluded considering cumulative effects of nearby development upon traffic congestion. The SDC EIR did not include the 600 homes of the Hanna Project, and the Springs Specific Plan Draft EIR did not include the new 120 room hotel when it evaluated two of the three alternative options.

Both documents failed to demonstrate a complete analysis of Alternatives. SDC didn’t even include the comparison report in the EIR. The Springs Plan Draft EIR only included tables without showing any of the calculations leading to those tables.

Both documents provided grossly inadequate estimates of wildfire evacuation plans. The SDC EIR used a model from a third party with no description of how (or

had seen me go down without regaining my upright position.

He just wanted to know how he could help. We chatted for a while and then he asked if I was ready to untangle myself and said he would be there as my support to lift me up. I forgot about my fall and focused on this kind gentleman, and he was indeed, a gentle man. He was so kind to a total stranger.

What a beautiful moment and powerful restoration of faith in humanity. After he left, a woman who had seen the accident from the rearview mirror of her car, returned to help me. She offered me a ride home since I wasn’t in a position to walk. Again, she was a concerned, caring person who wanted to help someone she didn’t know. Her kindness and soothing voice were strong medicine for the bruising I incurred.

I was so overwhelmed by how people in Sonoma put themselves out with so much concern to a total stranger. Sonoma in such a special place and I am forever thankful for the love that we experience in times of need.

Certainly we live in difficult times with changing values. How fortunate we are to live here where our humanity is acknowledged, often with a smile, nod and much kindness.

Margo Ginsburg

Sonoma

True mission of school resource officer

EDITOR: In a recent letter written by an El Verano citizen representing the BIPOC community regarding the Sonoma Unified School District putting a strain on a particular minority group has been misrepresented, with factual safety overlooked.

Having a public servant on school campuses must maintain safety as a priority. It is negligent and lacks accountability to categorize those who serve to protect us with the percentage of highly publicized cases involving police abuse and criminalization of minority communities.

I have met this officer assigned to the local schools within the Sonoma Unified School District. He is genuine, dedicated and, more importantly as a necessity to his new role, he is tactically sound if presented with critical incidents facing our schools and

if) that model worked properly. The Springs Draft EIR used the “self-mitigating” approach by quoting three inappropriate policies with no further analysis.

Thus both the SDC EIR and the Springs Specific Plan Draft EIR will need to be rewritten, so that they meet their legal requirements under CEQA. It’s time for Permit Sonoma and our county supervisors to see themselves first as representatives of county citizens, and not as enablers for developers and state agencies.

Thank you.

Paul Rockett

Sonoma

Sonoma, a city with soul

EDITOR: I was standing and then I wasn't. I went down on a misstep and found myself on the hard surface of a local street. Yes, I was bruised and bleeding as I attempted to shield my face that didn't need any more evidence of one who lives life in the fearless lane.

ThenIsawthemanonabicyclewho

communities. That is the unspoken side of what a school resource officer must face. He or she must decide instantly to sacrifice their lives for all that are served. School violence and mental illness have no preference to what minority will be represented, only that it will impact innocent children and the staff who intercede.

In closing, it will be literally impossible for one public servant to collaborate with schoolchildren and staff on one hand and prevent critical incidents on the other, when so many children are involved. This program must be expanded to be effective.

Bob Canchola

Sonoma

[Copyright \(c\) 2024 Sonoma Index-Tribune. Copyright Notice / Privacy Policy. Edition 5/8/2024](#)

[Powered by TECNAVIA](#)
