Cooper, Claire

Subject: Preserve Petaluma

From: Stacie Navarro
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 8:23 AM
To: PetalumaPlanning <PetalumaPlanning@cityofpetaluma.org>; Barrett, Teresa <tbarrett@cityofpetaluma.org>; Fischer, D'Lynda <dfischer@cityofpetaluma.org>; Healy, Mike <mhealy@cityofpetaluma.org>; Kearney, Gabe <gkearney@cityofpetaluma.org>; McDonnell, Kevin <kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org>; Miller, Kathy <kmiller@cityofpetaluma.org>; King, Dave <dking@cityofpetaluma.org>; -- City Clerk <CityClerk@cityofpetaluma.org>
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Dear City Council Members,

I am a citizen of Petaluma writing to ask for your help. I have concerns about the development Sid Commons proposed to go before the Petaluma City Council next Monday. Though the Bay Area is certainly facing a housing crisis, there are developments being fast tracked through without support from the community (quite the contrary) — and these developments put us all at risk.

Petaluma is along the 101 corridor, which I realize has been marked as a target for development. That said, Petaluma also has a river running through the center of town. There are a handful of unmolested wetlands along the river. Because there are limited areas these new large developments due to Petaluma's urban growth boundaries, there are several proposals in action to develop on the wetlands along the Petaluma River.

The Petaluma Planning Commission and City Council doesn't have to green lighting anything that comes in front of it. Please help us to protect these precious wetlands. They act as a sponge to rising water levels, which is priceless in an area of historic (and common) flooding. A Senior Environmental Planner for Marin County, who is well acquainted with these projects and understands the pages and pages of technical data and studies, has stated that building on these wetlands (and terracing the river to protect the developments) not only puts existing neighborhoods at risk for tremendous flooding — but also our historic downtown.

In addition, wetlands also act as a sponge to carbon — helping to reduce greenhouse emissions and protecting us from rapid climate change. The wetlands are one of our best allies against climate change.

It would be irresponsible and shameful to allow these to be paved over, regardless of the pressure to build build build. Please help us preserve our precious and irreplaceable natural resources.

Do not approve developments that seemingly help the housing issues by stealing from our town’s future well being and safety.

Northern California is well known as being progressive and respectful of environmental science. I honestly cannot believe we are having to have a debate about paving over wetlands and flood prone areas in this day and age of sea level rise and global warming. Please show your support and be on the right side of history.

Thank you,
Stacie