City Council,

Hello! I’m writing to let you know I’m against the housing development Sid Commons, which is proposed to be on 15 acres of floodplain along the river. I’m concerned about the environmental damage this may cause, the flooding issue, and that building along the river will negatively affect the character of our town.

In general, as a home owner here, I’m concerned by the overwhelming number of new housing projects going into Petaluma. I wonder if any of you can tell me how many new units--apartments, single-family housing, etc.--are going in and what kind of population increase will come from them? I would like to see numbers. Is there ever a cap for how big the city is going to grow, or are we just going to get bigger and bigger?

My family lives in Petaluma because of its character, charm, and personality. We love living in a town with a unique history and friendly population, and feel rooted in our local community. I’m concerned that under your watch, Petaluma is rapidly changing into a suburb of San Francisco. I’m also skeptical that putting in all this new housing will do anything for the housing crisis, as the cost of rent is still likely to remain high and out of reach for many lower and middle class people.

Traffic is becoming an increasing problem, and it’s disheartening to see every spare lot in every neighborhood break ground for apartments and townhouses. Off the top of my head, I can think of at least 10 cases were old farmhouses or other charming buildings are rapidly being surrounded by ugly townhouses. Quiet neighborhoods are becoming crowded with new residents, and the new housing is exacerbating the class differences that already exist between the West and East sides of town.

The enormous developments on Lakeville and Corona streets are changing the nature of those areas forever, and it makes me sad every time I drive by them. It feels like a money grab on the part of developers, and it’s your job as the City Council to think of the long-term impact of all this sudden growth. It should be done responsibly, with an eye toward protecting the town's character, our natural resources, and quality of life of our residents. Right now it seems like anything and everything goes.

Thanks,

Joy Rankin