Subject: Commons Development Appeal

From: Veronica Olsen
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2020 12:27 PM
To: Barrett,Teresa <tbarrett@cityofpetaluma.org>; King, Dave <dking@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>
Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@cityofpetaluma.org>

Subject: Sid Commons Development Appeal

Dear Mayor and City Council,

As a citizen of our beautiful City, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed development, Sid Commons and its appeal.

The cost of this proposed development to Petaluma will outweigh any benefits, now and into the future. It is not insignificant that Petaluma Planning Commission unanimously voted against overturning the PUD on Parcel (09) that protects 15 acres of riverfront land.

Sid Commons Development - Costs that Petaluma cannot afford:

- High risk of flooding in mid-town and downtown Petaluma due to extreme weather events and sea level rise
- High risk of financial liability due to flooding for the City of Petaluma, businesses, taxpayers and citizens
- Loss of protected parcel (09) = losing the ability to sequester carbon, to protect Heritage Oaks and to protect against flooding
- High emissions and traffic—approximately 600,000 added car trips a year (minimum of 1650 trips a day x 365 days)
- Neighborhood and community opposition as demonstrated at the Planning Commission meeting, on social media and by Johnson’s community outreach meetings
- Not walkable, bikeable, nor transport oriented and therefore not sustainable
- One road out = liability for emergency evacuation such as floods and fire

2020 is the beginning of no ordinary decade. It is the last opportunity our species has to pull back from the climate change catastrophe. We need to take swift measures to build resiliency for catastrophic weather events associated with climate change and sea level rise. The scientific experts such as US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Services, US Army Corps of Engineer hydrologists, various California bodies and scientists have all asserted that development should not be pursued in flood hazard areas.

Thank you for attention and time in reviewing my concerns about this critical matter.

Regards,

Veronica Olsen