Dear Mayor Barrett and City Council Members,

I am forwarding a letter received from Thomas Cova, an expert in emergency evacuation. Dr. Cova was referred by the Cal Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), in response to resident's concerns that the Sid Commons development is proposed within a Cal OES High Hazard Area for flooding, with only one route available for egress. Emergencies that require mass evacuation plans include flooding, fire, earthquakes and toxic spills from the freight railroad. The challenge of mass emergency evacuation is compounded by the fact that the property is bounded by the SMART tracks (high fencing), and the river. Emergency evacuation is a separate issue from the Emergency Vehicle Access that was evaluated by the Fire Marshal in the DEIR, which looked at access for an ambulance or fire truck to get into the development.

After the experience of having 200,000 residents in Sonoma County mass-evacuated during the 2019 fire season, it is critical that Emergency Evacuation from this proposed development is properly analyzed in the FEIR, prior to approving the project.

Best regards,
Kallie Kull
January 29, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regard to the Sid Commons Apartments proposed development near the Oak Creek Apartments in the City of Petaluma. This area shaded below is bounded by the Petaluma River on the east and the railway on the west. For this reason the only egress is via Payran Street east or west. All households north of Cedar Grove Park/Rocca Dr. up to and including Oak Creek Apartments share these same two exits. Payran Street therefore constitutes a bottleneck if this area was evacuated. Hazardous events that might result in an evacuation include flooding along the Petaluma River, earthquakes, fire or a railway hazardous materials spill. There are more than two hundred existing households in this community which could generate over four hundred vehicles during an evacuation. This traffic would be in addition to any traffic already using Payran Street as an evacuation route and community connector. Because of this community’s unusually constrained egress, additional homes in this area could compromise public safety, and further study of the impact of additional development should be conducted.

Respectfully,

Thomas J. Cova, Evacuation Consultant

[Image of map showing the area of interest]

Area of interest north of Cedar Grove Park and Rocca Dr. up to and including Oak Creek Apartments and the site of the proposed Sid Commons Apartments. Because of this community’s unusually constrained egress, additional homes in this area could compromise public safety, and further study of the impact of additional development should be conducted. (Thomas Cova, National Evacuation Expert, 1/29/2020)
http://mrw.elsevier.com/gisy/editors.html

http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.12...

http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/9781118...

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/...


http://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/3/10/1662/


https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10694-0...

Research Statement

My research and teaching interests lie at the nexus of hazards, transportation, and geographic information science. I am interested in all three of these areas separately, but topics that incorporate two or three are especially interesting. A prime example is the role of transportation in emergencies, which may involve relocating people to safety or deploying resources to a disaster site. My primary
focus is advancing the field of regional evacuation analysis. The methods that I've developed are explicitly geographic and rely on integrating techniques in operations research and geographic information science.

Research Keywords

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<th>Hazards, Risks &amp; Disasters</th>
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<td>Emergency Management</td>
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<td>Geographic Information Science</td>
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Presentations


Grants, Contracts & Research Gifts

Evacuation decision making of hospital administrators in Hurricane Harvey. PI: Kimberley Shoaf. Co-PI(s): Thomas J. Cova. National Science Foundation, 10/01/2017 - 09/30/2018. Total project budget to date: $49,301.00