Hello Petaluma City Council,

Thank you very much for your hard work on behalf of Petaluma.

I oppose the Sid Commons development project, and ask that you do the same.

One of the most damaging transformations humans have made to our planet is specifically the destruction of wetlands. Wetlands are uniquely valuable resources, supporting a huge variety and density of flora and fauna that provides a foundation for a healthy ecosystem beyond. Wetlands serve as the heart and lungs for the planet. Wetlands play a vital role in maintaining water quality - filtering out agricultural nutrients and absorb sediments so that Petaluma's municipal water supplies do not have to. Wetlands provide a natural buffer against storm surges and rising floodwaters, helping to disperse and absorb excess water before it can harm Petalumans and our property.

Yet, humans have destroyed 85% of our Wetlands across the USA.

Petaluma is an internationally recognized location for critical wetlands, with Shollenberger Park and the Ellis Creek Trail added to the Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance in 2018, alongside other natural treasures such as Mekong River Delta, the Great Barrier Reef, the Amazon Rainforest. Just from an optics perspective, it looks pretty terrible for Petaluma, only 2 short years later, to approve a project that threatens vital wetland habitat. From a human and environmental perspective, we are doing far more damage than we are good for our community.

The last thing Petaluma should support is a development project on or near our wetlands. The upper section of the Petaluma river is an especially critical habitat particularly vulnerable to the effects of large scale development nearby. Let us focus on development projects that look to infill opportunities that are transit oriented, with all the benefits this provides for our environment, for travel to and from work and key services, for lower and middle income families, and much more.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical decision.

Best,

Eric

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