I urge the Mayor and City Council to reject the Sid Commons Apartment Appeal to overturn the PUD for Parcel (09). The Planning Commission’s decision is the right thing to do - to uphold the PUD that was instituted 38 years ago to protect this land and access to the Petaluma River.

This land is already protected from building, terracing, Heritage Oak tree removal, and rezoning. Bulldozing the river into a compacted, widened flood control channel to protect only Sid Commons Apartments will raise water levels downstream, increasing risks of flooding and flooding liability for the City of Petaluma and its residents.

DON’T TERRACE A WETLAND

To allow development on this parcel (09) and to build, pave, or terrace wetlands removes Petaluma’s protection from sea level rise, and its ability to sink significant amounts of carbon. If Petaluma is serious about the Climate Crisis and being a leader in Climate Change, it is imperative to uphold the PUD for Parcel (09) to protect our riparian habitat and pristine section of the upper Petaluma River. Wetlands absorb carbon!

TRAFFIC, SAFETY AND FLOODING ISSUES

Sid Commons as proposed will create 1,600+ more car trips per day. With one egress on Graylawn Avenue, safety and health are concerns for emergency evacuations in events such as flooding, fires, and medical emergencies. This proposed project has not adequately analyzed emergency evacuation for the Payran neighborhood.

In addition, “terracing the river at this site puts hydraulic pressure on the concrete weir/dam, which is key in Army Corps Flood Wall, for which the City paid $100 million. This, combined with catastrophic weather events common with Climate Change, means that building on Parcel (09) is a likely to have grave consequences for the City.

THE EIR DOES NOT ADDRESS ASPECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Sid Commons EIR has not addressed many aspects of climate change, such as new weather patterns of Atmospheric Rivers. Sonoma County is #1 in Atmospheric Rivers damage in the 11 Western States, with $5B in damages. Also, the Sid Commons EIR does not adequately address the significant Impacts on the Army Corps Flood Project, sediment buildup, or sea level rise.

I strongly urge you to deny Sid Commons Apartment Appeal and to uphold the current PUD for Parcel (09)
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