City Clerk, Please forward this email to all City Council Members.
Mayor Barrett, Council-members: Fischer, Healy, Kearney, King, McDonnell, and Miller,

As everyone knows in 1982 the flooding of the Payran neighborhood was only the beginning. There were several floods subsequent to that before the entire flood fix was completed. Every citizen is impacted when there is a disaster within the City and surrounding areas.

In 1982 The Johnson property was allowed to build a number of apartments with their promise that they will not build any further. After the flood fix, the Army Corps of Engineers stated that any further development upriver would negate the work that had been completed, and yet there is building. Our neighborhood was also told that the housing on Holly Street would not be built until the flood fix was complete.

I am very concerned about these promises that are made and not kept from one Council to the other. Now the threat of building in the flood way comes up again, thirty-eight years later. It seems imprudent for the City to overturn the Planning Commission decision to allow the Johnsons to add further development.

Traffic is one issue. One way in/out is a safety hazard. Destroying open areas that absorb huge amounts of water and provide a wildlife refuge is also no caring for our environment. Putting the business area upriver and downstream places a huge risk on our economy. Lastly, the Payran area that has flooded and dealt with the trauma and the fiscal impacts is now a vibrant part of Petaluma.

I plead with you to support the Planning Commission and deny the Johnson proposal forever more. I also plead with you to listen, really listen, to what the neighborhood is saying. Stand on Payran Street at one of the busy times of the day, not when school is out but when it is at the busiest. Try to cross the street as a pedestrian. You might have a different outlook.

As a Council you are facing a myriad of problems: affordable housing, traffic, and not enough resources for our town of 60,000 plus. I believe that this development will be a larger drain on resources (public safety, public works, schools etc.) than any gain you would hope for. Certainly, keeping the State of California from taking away local control and regulations must be on your priority list also.

I expect that you will make the decision to protect our community, and not subject the City to more lawsuits in defense of any decisions. I voted for you to protect, guide and take care of our City. It’s an onerous task that may seem thankless. Believe me, all of us in Midtown will be grateful if you deny this project.

Phyllis Sharrow