

Letter to GVPAC regarding Goleta Community Plan update project

From: Roberta Weissglass

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It's not easy to come to these meetings, and many people don't feel comfortable speaking. So although you see the same people, it would be a mistake to think these few are the only residents in the Eastern Goleta Valley interested in what you are doing. Our neighbors are VERY concerned that your reports appear to indicate that you are identifying with developers rather than with our vision. It seems you are going through the motions of having community input just to legitimize what you are doing, which is grossly unfair to those who take the time to prepare thoughts and speak to you.

We repeat that we want you to follow the Visioning Document. The Eastern Goleta Valley does not want any net loss of agricultural land, and no high-density housing. What about these words do you not understand? You are supposed to represent the residents of the Eastern Goleta Valley and OUR best interests and OUR vision for the future of OUR community, not developers' visions. Ignoring the Visioning Document would mean the hours spent by that committee would have been a total waste of time and a slap in the face to all involved - both committee members and the public.

Do you buy groceries? Food prices are escalating and, according to news reports, not only because of high fuel costs but, shockingly, food shortages. Much of our food comes from out of the US where we have no control over its safety and quality. Do you want to see more and more dependency on foreign imports of food? Is that what you envision for the future? That's not our vision.

You have an opportunity to support local farmers by protecting the tools of their trade - ag land, and supporting the residents by maintaining our local food supply. We need to be more self-sufficient, especially in case of disaster when roads are closed and no trucks can deliver food and supplies.

Farmers help our local economy by the business licenses they pay, the supplies they purchase and the staff they employ. Encouraging farming as a small business keeps the money here in the community. Food is fresher and more nutritious when it doesn't have to travel thousands of miles, and shelf-life is less of an issue.

Housing will bring more people and more cars, further impacting our food needs and infrastructure. Our roads are already bogged down with traffic, our air is polluted and our water supplies are insufficient to meet the needs of additional people. And high-density housing, as we have seen, contributes to crime. Is air pollution, more congestion and high crime your vision for the future? IT'S NOT OURS!

In closing, I hope you will take to heart the concerns expressed by David Kloos in his letter to you and all the other speakers from the Eastern Goleta Valley. We need to have you do the right thing for us. I think you will end up feeling better about yourselves.