

Concerns over Rincon Project

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To: Jessica Hankins

Jessica Hankins, Associate Planner
Nevada County Planning Department

I am writing to you with concerns that my family and neighbors have with regard to the Rincon development project that is in the works. The most troubling aspect of this project is the proposed opening of Rodeo Flat and it becoming a cut-through option for traffic into the Ranchos. Rodeo Flat is a very narrow road in itself and very hilly. Rodeo Flat connects to my street, Timber Ridge, which is also narrow and steep.

Increased traffic zipping up and down the hill of Timber Ridge poses an incredible danger to the horses, people, cyclists, and pedestrians that utilize this road. My four children walk up and down the hill of Timber Ridge. With their bus stop being at the bottom of Timber Ridge, they must make the very curvy and steep walk up the hill from the bus. Increased traffic increases their chances of being smacked by a speeding car utilizing this proposed shortcut. There are horse trails that wind through the streets here in the Ranchos. Horses being spooked by cars could lead to rider and horse injuries. Exercise enthusiasts like to park at the bottom of the hill and walk or cycle up the hill for exercise.

Just last winter in December we had about eight inches of snow up here. This made Timber Ridge unpassable for a time. When the snow mostly melted and turned to ice, for two days Timber Ridge was an ice ride down the hill and around the curve. I myself got stuck midway in my 4-wheel drive truck and had to be assisted off the hill. Another truck was also abandoned in the same area. Mail service was out for days. Locals up here were parking their cars down the hill to avoid having to make the trip through the ice. I know Rodeo Flat was probably even worse off than us. It is even higher in elevation.

Our family moved here just two years ago to get away from the congestion and traffic issues of Santa Monica. This is a peaceful place with a wonderful quality. It has little traffic and is safe. Please keep our roads as they are now and do not open up Rodeo Flat to connect with Rincon. It will have a very negative impact on our environment up here and the safety of our families.

Susan Kirk
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