

“P”

Other Public Comments

From: [Yvonne Baginski](#)
To: [Trippi, Sean](#)
Subject: Public hearing comments P22-00307/P22-00308
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2024 9:28:41 AM

[External Email - Use Caution]

Good morning.

I tried to call in on Zoom during the public hearing portion of the Planning Commission meeting but received a message that the meeting was not in progress. I think it was a snafu because I was watching it online.

Anyway, here are my comments:

I am advocating for a complete Environmental Impact Report with public hearings/comments. There are important biological resources in this area that must be considered for protection throughout the build and development of this project.

I know this area very well. I have walked the path along Sheehy Creek for the past twenty years. It used to be an area full of jackrabbits, several coyotes, snakes and up until three years ago, beavers. It is often used by birdwatchers and walkers on breaks from the local business park. It is an active wildlife corridor. However, in the past ten years, wildlife has significantly declined due to the cumulative effects of the builds in the area. This business park is taking away 1,744 acres of wildlife habitat. That is very significant of such a biologically diverse area.

An incredible variety of birds have been seen along this creek. I have personally seen terns white tailed kites, , pheasants, Swainson Hawks, various raptors, and cranes. Please ensure that [ebird.org](#) and iNaturalist data are included in this property's Environmental Impact Report records search. Many birdwatchers have posted verifications of bird sightings, and the Napa Solano Audubon Society has also kept records. Please make sure that local environmentalists are included and that their data is part of the report. The Napa Valley Native Plant Society should also be contacted for records and verifications.

This is the last open field along Sheehy Creek. Open fields are imperative as foraging sites for raptors. This field, at one time, might very well have proven to be a site for burrowing owls. However, the twice-yearly disking (that started in 2021) has killed off any opportunity to establish any ground-dwelling creatures in that area. People and wildlife do not mix. The buildings built directly across the street from this site have also destroyed wildlife with a proliferation of bait stations to poison and kill food supplies for the raptors, foxes, and coyote. One of the buildings, too, has placed spikes along the roof to repel the birds from landing on the roof. It appears, from the hundreds of bait stations (we discovered 357 bait stations around ten of the buildings along this creek), that the rodents/moles/voles, are desperately looking for ways to find space to live in the area. But they're no match for the 26 pesticide companies currently setting out traps. I am asking that only snap traps, and not bait stations be used for rodent control. And, that the snap traps be placed inside the buildings. These rodents are an important food supply for creatures up the food chain. Killing them outside (where they belong), is cruel and unnecessary.

There are owls in the area. I have found owl pellets under the street lights on Morse Ct.

This project developer must understand that they are encroaching on wildlife habitat. As one of the last open fields alongside the creek, the build will significantly impact and contribute to the decline of habitat, food sources and ultimately, the animals themselves. The stormwater basins will spill water into the creek, the cement will smother and extricate all life in the soil, the lighting will confuse the night creatures and the traffic will maim and kill animals. This project will have an enormously disruptive effect on the environment of that area.

There is no way to minimize or mitigate this reality. There are legal requirements, but there are other things the developer can do that go beyond the legal. Here are my suggestions:

- 1 No night lighting.
2. No bait stations, snap traps only. Ban all pesticides and herbicide use. There will be runoff of any herbicides, which inevitably end up in the creek.
3. All landscaping is replanted with native plants and riparian habitat. Replace as much of what is destroyed, as possible. Especially along the path. There needs to be a conservation easement of at least 30 feet on the south side of that path. The diskers have destroyed the plants right up to the edge of the sidewalk.
4. A requirement to keeping the site clean of litter during construction. This means weekly picking up trash and litter that labor employees will inevitably throw into the bushes from the parking lot. (I pick up trash along the trail several times a month). All trash inevitably ends up in the creek. Whenever there's a build, there's a significant increase in litter, especially plastic water bottles, coffee and fast food containers. This need to be monitored.
6. Place signs around the construction site so that ALL labor knows that any wildlife injured or killed during construction must go immediately to the Napa Wildlife Rescue Center. Post with directions and a phone number. Require a significant, (at least \$25,000) donation to the Napa Wildlife Rescue Center as a mitigation for the animals who will be displaced, maimed or extricated due to this project.
7. Plant native trees, not landscaping crepe myrtles and other decorative species.
- 8, Plant pollinator-friendly native vegetation in all landscaping. This translates a reduction in sod, ornamental grasses, etc. Landscapers can work with the local Native Plant Society to put forth the best effort.
9. All fencing contains areas for animals to move in and out of the project area. There must be escape routes so that animals who find themselves trapped, can get out.

What I'm really asking for is to do the best we can to protect the wildlife habitat, provide areas for them to forage, nest and basically live. This project can work to be a good neighbor to all creatures.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Yvonne Baginski. Conservation Team Leader
Napa Solano Audubon Society

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From: [Bordona, Brian](#)
To: [Yvonne Baginski](#)
Cc: [MeetingClerk](#); [Trippi, Sean](#)
Subject: RE: This mornings planning commission
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 1:47:06 PM

Hi Yvonne

I have included our meeting clerk team to make them aware of the issues you experience trying to call in this morning so that they can be resolved for future meetings. Also including Sean Trippi to make him aware of your comments related to biological impacts.

Brian

-----Original Message-----

From: Yvonne Baginski <yvonnebaginski@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 11:54 AM
To: Bordona, Brian <Brian.Bordona@countyofnapa.org>
Subject: This mornings planning commission

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On another note, I tried to call in on this morning's meeting and while I got through on zoom, it stated that the public hearing hadn't started yet. I will have to email you my comments.

That property, and the entire walk along Sheehy Creek are part of my favorite solitary walks. That is also a favorite bird watching site. This is the last open field alongside the creek. They have been discing the field since 2020 and have slaughtered any existence of the ground dwelling animals. Once an area with a large population of jackrabbits, several coyotes, lizards and snakes...no more. The beavers were there about three years ago, but the Bus depot site scared them away.

That is a very active wildlife corridor. They may not be hanging out there, but they walk through at night.

Somehow, that corridor needs protection.

Sent from my iPhone