

Henry Dong

From: Brian Tremper <tremvenez@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2015 4:42 PM
To: Henry Dong
Subject: 15-0092

I would like to express my opposition to the planned change to the project at 2810 Harbor Bay Park. When this plan was first approved the developer worked with the community to mitigate negative impacts on the community. This time there has been no communication. When the developer was talking with the neighbors they talked about how view corridors would be preserved. This change in the plan would change those view corridors. This change in the plan would also create a larger building which visually would be very different than the smaller two buildings.

Though not directly connected to the request I am very mistrustful of the developer. When they were seeking our support for the project they communicated very well with the community. After they got approval that stopped. The following are some examples;

We observed heavy machinery working on the property. We called to find out if they were starting the project. We were told by the person that answered the phone that it was their property and they could do as they wished. We later deducted that they were keeping the weeds down.

I was working from home when I felt my house shaking. I thought it might be an earthquake. The shaking continued for an extended time so I looked outside and saw heavy machinery working on the property. We thought maybe they were again keeping the weeds down. However it was very different since the first time the house did not shake. This shaking went on for a few hours while the heavy machinery worked the property. That weekend a party was held on the property. It appears that my house shook so that a party could be held. There was no notice of the work or that my house would shake.

There should be no alteration to the plan without community input. I am ready as the President of the Freeport Homeowners Association represent the viewpoint of my community. I am writing this letter as a private citizen, but have talked to members of my community and have found they are in agreement.

Brian Tremper

Steven Gortler
212 McDonnell Road
Alameda, CA 94502

May 13, 2015

Planning Board
City of Alameda

RE: Esplanade Project @ 2810 Harbor Bay Parkway

To Whom It May Concern:

The roads leading to 2810 Harbor Bay Parkway from either direction (Auginbaugh from the north and Harbor Bay Pkwy from the south) are in poor condition – bumpy, cracked, pockmarked and pitted. In fact, in many spots grass and weeds are growing in the middle of the road where asphalt used to be. Personally, I find driving on these roads to be very unpleasant. Moreover, for many people these roads are the ‘gateway’ to Bay Farm. As such, the condition of these roads is also an embarrassment.

Prior to the development of the VF Outdoor project, these roads were already in bad condition; however, since the development of the VF project, the condition of these roads has become significantly worse.

If the Esplanade Project proceeds, then I am sure the condition of these roads will worsen even further. Therefore, I ask the Planning Board to oppose the project, unless these roads are completely re-paved as part of the project.

Additionally, if the Esplanade Project proceeds, then I assume there will be an employee parking lot. Parking lots by their very nature are unsightly and inherently ugly, and building a parking lot on the shoreline of the Bay will forever detract from the natural beauty of the area. Therefore, I ask that the Planning Board require the developer of this project to mitigate the harm to the community that an ugly parking lot will cause.

For example, maybe the parking lot can be enclosed by a tasteful barrier – trees and high shrubs – so that it is not visible. Anything that would make the parking lot less of an eyesore would be much appreciated. For those of us who live in this community, and for those who come to this area for leisure and recreation, it is important to preserve as much of the natural beauty of the area as possible. Please try to minimize the ugliness.

Additionally, as everyone knows we are in the midst of a severe draught and we are trying to conserve water. Obviously, any new development will result in an increase in the demand for water, thereby increasing the likelihood that more severe water conservation measures will ultimately be required of us all. Therefore, I ask the Planning Board to require the developer of this project to utilize state-of-the-art water conservation measures (e.g. using recycled water for irrigation) in both the building of the project, and subsequently in the operation of the project.

Lastly, nighttime lighting of a commercial building and parking lot in a residential area is extremely annoying and potentially diminishes the resale value of all homes in the area. Therefore, I ask the Planning Board to please insist that the project be kept as dark as possible at night and that any nighttime lighting entirely face toward the Bay and not toward the neighboring homes. There is absolutely no reason why neighboring residents should have to look at bare light bulbs or ugly, flickering, florescent lights.

I am not opposed to development. However, I believe new development can and should balance the needs of development with the needs of the community, and that it is the job of public officials to ensure the right balance is struck. Please do your job well.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Steven Gortler