



City of San Rafael  
Attn. Mayor Kate Colin

February 13, 2024

Dear Mayor Kate,

The Dominican Black Canyon Neighborhood Association Board has been sharing the work of the Save Dominican Valley group with all 900+ residences since SDV's inception. Since there are always a variety of approaches to development, the Board felt it was important to be a conduit of information to all of these households. Many residents of the DBCNA have been in attendance at your monthly City Council meetings expressing a variety of personal concerns regarding infrastructure, density, environmental degradation and many more limiting factors of the proposed development.

We as a Board feel strongly that our concerns about fire prevention and safety need to be addressed with any sort of development. Historically, more than 5 years ago, DBCNA became a FireWise Community. The mini grants assisted our local residents in setting up "Chipper Days". These events were organized and staffed by residents until our San Rafael Fire Department stepped in to provide assistance in furthering continued Chipper Day events.

For the past three plus years, you may have noted our pedestrian safety focus. Due to increased use of our open space, apparent change in driving habits post-COVID, or simple unsafe driving, we have reached out to the San Rafael Police Department several times for "traffic calming" assistance. The Board has instituted orange flags for pedestrians at a variety of crosswalks, requested support with challenging corners and streets where speed and driver attention seems to be limited.

These are just two of the topics the DBCNA Board would like to highlight when the City of San Rafael considers the size and scope of any development in the Dominican Valley area. Fire, fire prevention and safety on our narrow multiple use residential roads has been our focus for some time and continues to be our utmost concern now in light of any development in the future. Thus the questions regarding emergency vehicle access on single lane roads, fire department vehicle access in the case of fire, increased usage of water and sewage infrastructure extent these two focal concerns. How is the city planning to accommodate the influx of people and vehicles in an area that can not support them? What happens when there is a loss of life because access could not handle such a vast increase in population? Given the size and location of this proposed development, this proposal appears as a recipe for disaster.

Thank you and the San Rafael City staff for your diligence in addressing our concerns, as well as those of other citizens as you move forward with analyzing this development proposal.

Sincerely,

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CC. M.Kavanaugh-Lynch  
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