

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Letter to the Ashland, Oregon Planning Commission and City Council

RE: Normal Neighborhood Plan

I would like to present a few comments in my opposition to this project, and would like them read and placed into the record at the Planning Commission Meeting on July 28, 2015 and the City Council Meeting on September 1, 2015.

1. According to the Official Ashland Emergency Operations Plan, the most significant hazard risk is Draught (400 points, the next closest hazard is Fire at 275). With this in mind and considering that we have depleted water tables, have no snow pack and little run off, it seems a violation of the trust the citizens placed in you to consider adding additional burdens to the water system by allowing additional homes without having appreciable water available to service the current residents, let alone the added residences.
2. We DO NOT want to be like California where water is restricted by the government, and the citizens are required to cut back a mandatory 25%, all while the government is allowing additional homes to be built. This will require that all citizens will have even less water for their needs.
3. New homes should not be allowed until and unless sufficient water is available to adequately service all the homes, both current and proposed.
4. The infrastructure to handle these homes is non-existent. Roads, sewers, water lines, power, parks, schools and other infrastructure will be required for these homes. These services should be paid for by the new construction and be in place BEFORE any homes are built.
5. I think it is commendable that the proposed homes will be required to have gray water plumbing and drip systems, but without adequate water, these are merely window dressing, and do not solve the problem – they exacerbate it.
6. We should first, develop adequate water supplies, then, and only then, add additional residences. To do other seems myopic.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Rod Palmieri

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