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MAR 31 2015

City Of Ashland

Clay/East Main/Normal

Dear Transportation Commissioners,

The proposed developments in this area may lead to several transportation challenges.

1. Please refer to the letter and photos from the heavy rains of February 6, 2015.

This day was not an anomaly for our Meadowbrook Park neighborhood, as other heavy rains have resulted in similar rising wetlands. Hopefully streets will be placed so that natural flows will not be impeded.

2. Also of concern is grid streets in the Normal development, as this encourages higher speeds, and more danger to pedestrians. Our MPE neighborhood, with a curved street, has children playing in the street, and is safer for walkers.

3. I think that anyone from Normal going into Ashland or Tolman or Highway 5, will chose to exit onto East Main rather than Ashland Street, for speed and less congestion. The traffic will increase exponentially, necessitating signals. We often wait a long time to turn from lower Clay onto East Main.

4. More housing is planned next to Snowberry development on Clay. Currently cars are allowed to park on that section of Clay, which forces traffic into the opposite lane and hampers visibility. All houses in Snowberry have available parking behind the development, which should allow Clay to be designated as no parking for the entire length.

5. Although lower Clay has designated car parking by the church, the vehicles parked there are used for construction, and are oversized. This hampers visibility, which forces drivers to veer to the other side of Clay, which is deeply ditched. When trying to make a left turn onto East Main, sometimes it is impossible to see beyond the parked trucks. On Sundays, church members park on East Main, close

Dear Mayor, Counselors, and Commissioners,

Feb. 8, 2015

I realize that not all of you have been involved in the Normal Avenue Plan, but I would appreciate you taking the time to read my comments and view my photos taken on Feb. 6, 2015.

One of the main concerns of neighbors in the Normal Ave. Plan area is the hydrology of Cemetery Creek and Clay Creek. We've been fairly dry in recent years, which hasn't reflected the creek flows and potential for flooding. Development needs to take this issue seriously, as the recent rains have not been biblical, but the potential for problems was seen.

I have attached 16 photos which demonstrate our concerns.

Photos 1-4 are of Cemetery Creek, and they were taken from my property, 320 Meadow Dr. That is part of the Meadowbrook Park Estates (MPE). Unfortunately our homes were built before the setbacks were in place, and the actual Cemetery Creek jurisdictional wetland floodplain bisects my living room. Fortunately there are cottonwood trees and willows to soak up and hold back water.

Photos 5 & 6 show the very end of Creek Drive. You'll notice that 2086 Creek Drive has water rising into the driveway and down the road. The gravel berm is clearly visible, and that is causing problems for the neighbors. The berm was placed at the end of Creek by Mr. Livni, who owns tax lot 3600. I read the Keystone Consulting report, and the Livnis were told that they did not have much wetland, and the drainage from Creek Drive was the cause of their wet property. True, the runoff from Creek Drive drained into the Livni property, but now Creek Drive is flooding, and a flow through is necessary.

Photos 7-10 clearly demonstrates that Cemetery Creek flows from south to north, and through the Winmill and Livni properties. I walked around the water on Creek Drive for better view and more photos. Mr. Livni did indeed hold back the drainage, but not the natural hydrology of Cemetery Creek. You can also see the flow to East Main, looking in the direction of the Baptist tax property 3601. I have consulted the Schott and Associates Jurisdictional Wetland Determination and Delineation survey prepared for Mahar Homes, and the hydrology is consistent with my observations on 2/6/15.

Photos 11 & 12 are of Clay Creek, coming south through Wing Spread Park and into MPE, (Wing Spread installed the chain link fencing between our properties). Last year our MPE HOA, with the consent of the City of Ashland, we had to remove huge cottonwoods that fell and threatened homes. We complied with the City requirements and at considerable cost, restored the area in riparian vegetation. As you can see from the photos, some of the plants are now imperiled.

Photos 13-15 follow Clay Creek as it poured down the middle of MPE to the Creek Drive bridge.

Photo 16 is of the Creek Drive bridge, south end. The water was near the top when I photographed. Part of the apparent blockage at the bridge was caused by the blackberries on the north side, constricting the water flow.

Please carefully consider where developments are placed, and hold the developers accountable for designing with hydrology in mind. Clay Creek and Cemetery Creek are not ditches or flooded irrigation areas. Recently, Mayor Stromberg pointed out that Ashland's water courses are special attractions for the neighborhoods. Please, let's commit to restoring riparian habitats, clearing any impediments to flow, and considering long term flooding potential.

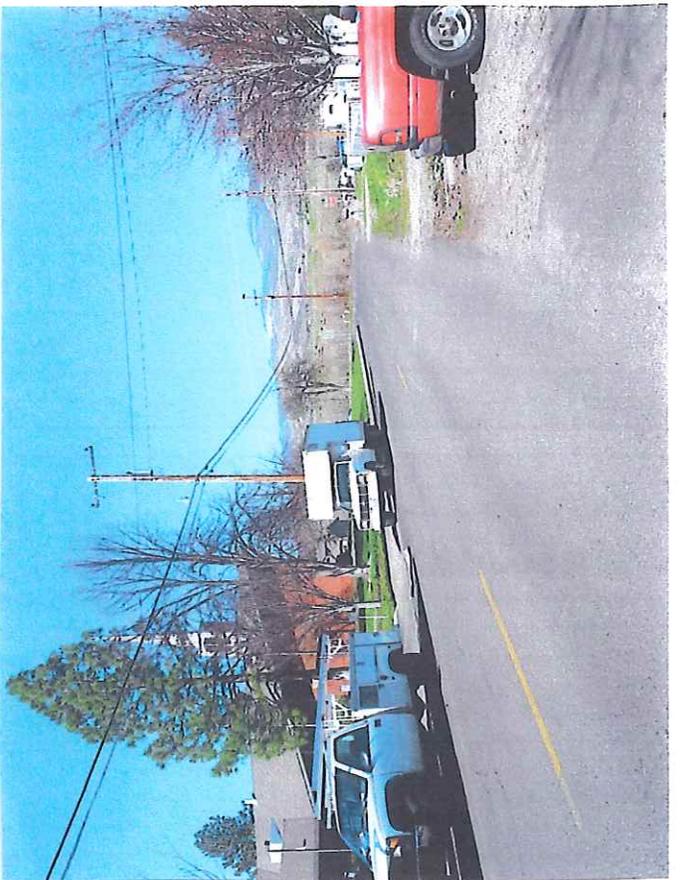
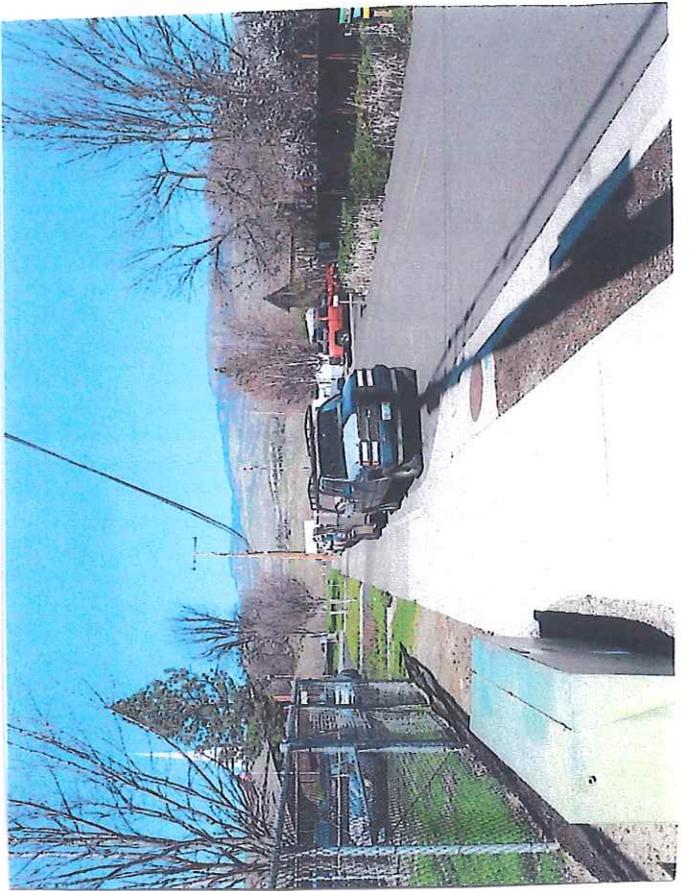
Thank you for your time and all you do for the citizens of Ashland.

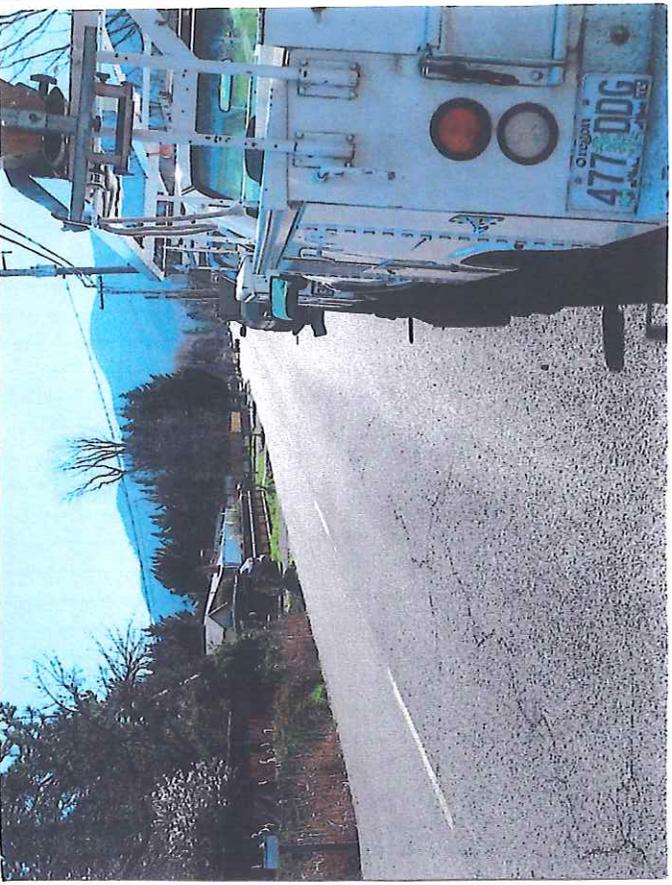
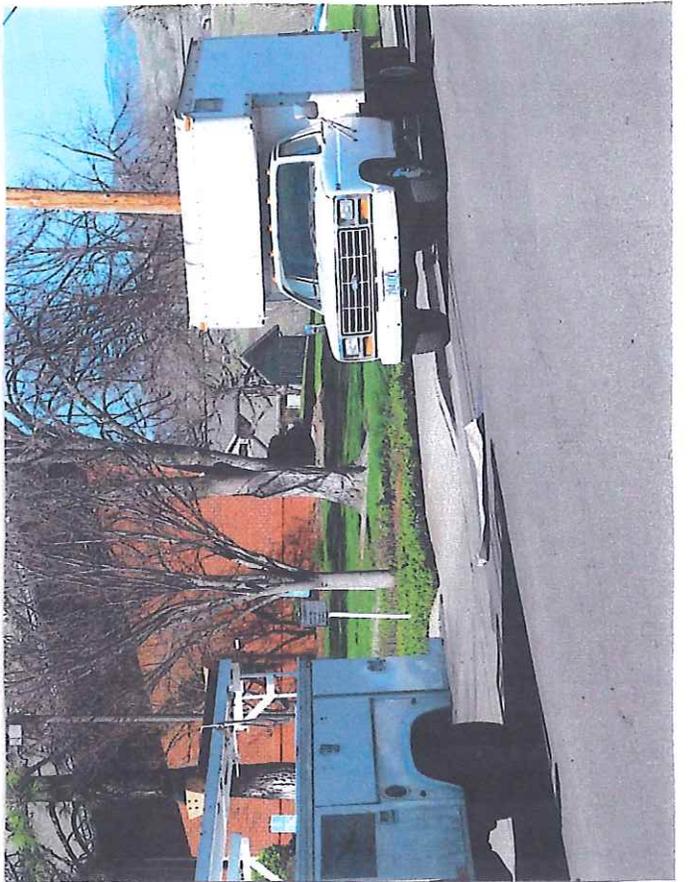
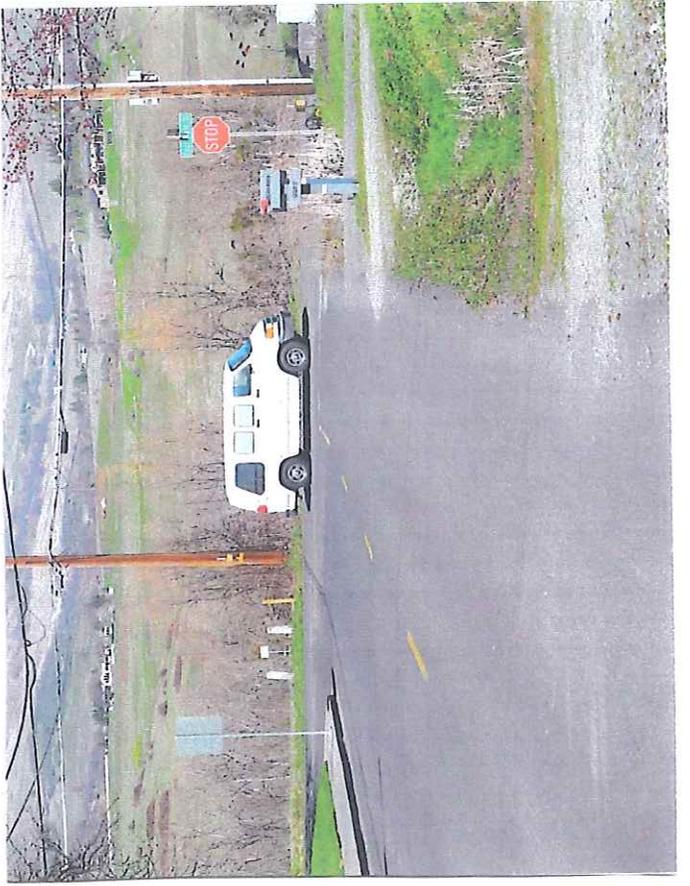
Respectfully,

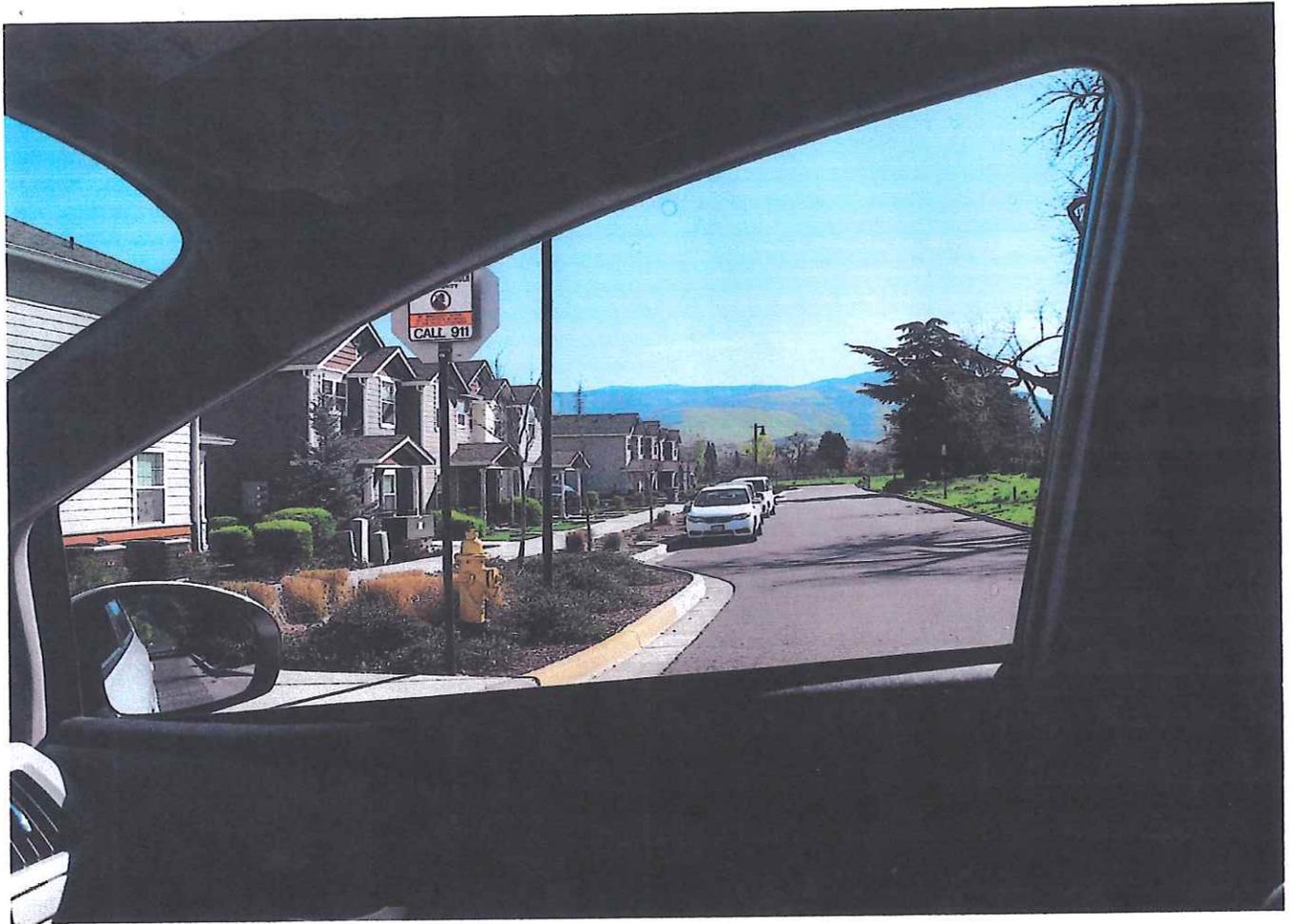
Jan Vidmar











(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)

- 1) Snowberry Brook (Villard St.) parking - other parking behind buildings. Future housing and new dog park will be off Villard, increasing traffic on Clay.
- 2) Snowberry residents parked on Clay, as I prepare to cross center lines. The approaching car must go to their right close to the gravel.
- 3) View out my window, intersection Clay + East Main. It is necessary to go beyond the pole to see approaching cars from East Main + Tolman (at 40mph).
- 4) Cars parked on East Main, necessitating entering East Main to see on coming traffic.
- 5) Cars parked along East Main, blocking view of on coming and turning traffic.