

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 26-0290

Comments for Public Posting: Public Comment Opposing the Proposed Girard Golf Course Development Dear City of Los Angeles Planning Department and City Officials, I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed development of the Girard Golf Course property in Woodland Hills and the use of ministerial approval for a project of this size and location. This is not simply a housing or development issue. It is a serious public safety, wildfire, evacuation, infrastructure, and environmental issue. Woodland Hills and the surrounding Santa Monica Mountains are at significant risk of wildfire. Residents are already experiencing the consequences of this risk, including difficulty obtaining traditional homeowners insurance and having to rely on the California FAIR Plan. It is extremely concerning that a development adding more than 1,000 homes could move forward without adequately demonstrating that the existing community can safely accommodate such a large increase in population during a major wildfire. Evacuation is one of my greatest concerns. The surrounding roads are narrow and access for emergency vehicles can already be difficult. Adding more than 1,000 homes means adding potentially thousands of additional people who may need to evacuate at the same time. During a wildfire, residents would be attempting to leave while firefighters and emergency personnel may simultaneously need access to the community. If no meaningful new evacuation roads are being provided, the City must demonstrate that the existing road network can safely handle this dramatically increased population under worst-case wildfire conditions. This is not merely a traffic concern. It is a life-safety concern. I am also concerned about electrical infrastructure. If thousands of additional residents are going to be introduced into a high-fire-risk area, the City should require the safest feasible infrastructure, including serious consideration of undergrounding electrical lines rather than increasing reliance on overhead infrastructure in an area vulnerable to extreme fire conditions. The construction process itself creates additional wildfire concerns. A project of this scale could involve years of heavy construction equipment, generators, electrical work, welding, grinding, vehicles, fuel, and other potential ignition sources adjacent to dry vegetation and existing neighborhoods. A single spark from machinery or another construction-related incident could have catastrophic

consequences under extreme fire conditions. These risks must be evaluated and mitigated before construction begins. There are also significant concerns regarding the Mulholland wildlife corridor and surrounding natural habitat. The area supports wildlife that depends on remaining open space and habitat connectivity. A massive construction project would introduce substantial noise, traffic, lighting, human activity, vegetation disturbance, and habitat disruption. Increased development can also increase wildlife-vehicle collisions and interfere with natural wildlife movement. I am particularly concerned that a project with these potential cumulative impacts could receive ministerial approval without meaningful discretionary review and public scrutiny. A development of this magnitude in a wildfire-prone area with constrained roads, sensitive habitat, and existing infrastructure limitations deserves comprehensive analysis. I respectfully ask the City of Los Angeles to:

1. Reject or suspend approval until the wildfire and evacuation risks have been fully evaluated.
2. Require a comprehensive worst-case wildfire evacuation and emergency-access analysis.
3. Determine whether existing roads can safely evacuate the current community plus the proposed additional population.
4. Require meaningful improvements to emergency and evacuation access before adding thousands of new residents.
5. Require the safest feasible electrical infrastructure, including consideration of underground utilities.
6. Require a comprehensive construction-phase wildfire prevention and emergency response plan.
7. Fully evaluate impacts on the Mulholland wildlife corridor and surrounding habitat.
8. Provide meaningful public review of the project's cumulative safety and environmental impacts rather than relying solely on ministerial approval.

This is not an argument against housing or responsible development. It is an argument for responsible development in a location and under conditions that protect human life, emergency responders, existing residents, future residents, wildlife, and the environment. Once a wildfire begins, it may be too late to discover that evacuation routes are inadequate or that emergency vehicles cannot reach residents quickly enough. Please put public safety first and do not approve this project until the City can demonstrate that this community can safely accommodate the proposed development under realistic worst-case wildfire conditions. Thank you for considering the concerns of Woodland Hills residents.