

From: Ken Berkman
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: Joint Workshop
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Good morning Honorable Mayor, City Council and Planning Commission Members,

Thank you for your service to the City and for considering my comments on tonight's Workshop.

I am a civil engineer and have been a Public Works professional since 1991. I currently work for a city that is feeling the impacts of the housing crisis - much more so than we are here. Staff told me this would be an opportunity to re-state my concerns over the housing decisions you are making. This round of State mandates is as short-sighted as they come, where Sacramento is forcing housing construction upon us without considering the impacts or providing the infrastructure funding to support it. There is a high potential for very negative impacts for cities like Agoura Hills that have limited transit services and no major downtown working centers. If constructed, the people who live in Agoura Hills' "opportunity sites" will bring their cars with them because they have to in order to work. Quite simply, the lay of the land in our region does not lend itself to getting around without a car.

That said, I appreciate staff's effort to at least place the vast majority of the potential sites within the freeway corridor so the travel distances would be shorter. But that brings up the Thousand Oaks/Kanan sites that my neighbors and I are so concerned about, not to mention our friends in Oak Park who are watching this closely as well. As you know, peak hour traffic flow on Kanan is very bad with people travelling to and from school and work, and now there is potential to add so many more vehicle trips. Personally, I would love to see the Vons and Ralphs parcels get redeveloped and include a *rational* amount of new housing so we can reconfigure the access points on both Kanan and TO to improve traffic flow and safety for all roadway users. However, my understanding is staff did not include the shopping centers as opportunity sites - it was Council that added them??

Normally, with most projects, staff has the opportunity to condition the developer to make public infrastructure improvements based upon the impacts of the project. But the scariest part of the State's housing legislation is that staff may not be able to tell or even ask the developer to do so because the development meets certain thresholds for very low income housing and they could proceed "by right"! Including these parcels in this plan was a really, really bad decision for us and future generations. They need to be removed, as staff originally, and wisely, recommended in the original plan.

My friends and neighbors respectfully insist you reverse your decision and remove the Kanan/TO sites from the City's housing plans.

Thank you,

Ken Berkman
Fountainwood resident since 2004