

## Rincon Del Rio -- Traffic Concerns on Rodeo Flat Rd/Timber Ridge Rd

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**Sent:** Saturday, June 26, 2010 11:15 PM

**To:** Jessica Hankins

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June 26, 2010

Jessica Hankins

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### **Subject: Rincon Del Rio Senior Living Project**

Dear Ms. Hankins,

I am a homeowner in the Lake of the Pines Ranchos and have lived here for seven years. I am a mother, a runner, and a dog owner. I use these roads everyday. I really love our neighborhood. Some of the things that drew me to it were the lack of traffic and it being a safe place for my family. I hope that doesn't change. Please think about the impact of the Rincon Del Rio Project to the people of this neighborhood. I read Glen Fuller's and Dennis Salter's letters to you. I agree with their points, but also wish to submit my letter.

As a mother, I worry about cars speeding on these roads. Yes, it happens even now, but it's manageable because we live on a dead-end road and I know all my neighbors (i.e., I know the speed demons). Our neighborhood is active, and many people use these roads to exercise themselves and their animals

whether it be dogs, horses, donkeys, and even cats. Drivers slow down when they see their neighbors on the road; *drivers expect their neighbors to be on the roads around here*. If we change Rodeo Flat Road to a throughway, I will not be able to use our road as I have been doing over the last seven years. It will be far too dangerous.

My two-and-a-half year old son, who loves his walks, will have to give them up because we don't have sidewalks on which to walk. In three years my son starts elementary school. What will happen to him when he walks to the bus stop to meet the bus for school? *Remember, we don't have sidewalks*. Will I have to drive him to and from the bus stop in order to keep him safe from traffic?

As for my other "baby," I won't be able to simply put a leash on my dog and take her for a walk. I will have to put her in the car and take her to the Ashford Dog Park in Auburn which is 25 minutes away.

I can't imagine what our neighbors on Table Meadow will do when they ride their horses on Rodeo Flat and Timber Ridge! They are not small animals. Car versus horse. I wonder who will win.

Right now, we are pretty much limited to car traffic from our neighbors and, of course, from the occasional guests of theirs. If the road is opened up to through traffic, we will have a whole set of new problems. ***Obviously the increased number of cars on Rodeo Flat/Timber Ridge will be an issue, but what about crime?*** We are in such a SAFE neighborhood right now. We all know each others' cars. We call each other when we see something suspicious. If we introduce more people, more cars, more people driving through, we introduce the possibility of more crime.

Our way of life will change drastically.

If you have driven on Rodeo Flat Rd and Timber Ridge Road, you have seen that the roads are narrow and don't have a centerline; there are blind curves; and the road in some places rises and falls such that the driver can't see what's over the hill until they are right on top of it (like a person or animal).

In addition, the roads are steep enough to stop traffic dead in its tracks. After the December 2009 snowstorm many of us were stuck for days because we didn't have a 4WD to drive down Timber Ridge/Rodeo Flat Road. And some that did attempt the drive down the hill ended up sliding off to the side and had to walk back home! How are these roads suited for increased car traffic?

And what about money? We already have a fee assessed on our property taxes for road maintenance. It barely covers improvements to the worn out road we have now. With increased car traffic, our roads will fall into disrepair even faster. Who will pay for that? Me? My neighbors? That's not fair.

Obviously the main issue here is the increased traffic which will result in unsafe roads. If I may make a suggestion -- Why not have an "automatic" gate with a keypad at the dead-end of Rodeo Flat Road? (If my husband can install and maintain a solar-powered gate, then a wealthy developer certainly has the resources to do the same. Our solar-powered automatic gate was about \$5000, which would be a drop in the bucket for a development of this size.) An automatic gate will allow access at a moment's notice, and no key or bolt-cutting device is needed. A keycode can be standardized for all gates (Higgins Fire Department gave us a code to enter into our driveway gate for their access), so there is no "hunting around" for the code. Automatic gates also come with a remote opener that can be kept in the cab of the fire trucks. All gates would have the same code so Higgins Fire Dept can gain access, either by punching in a code into the keypad or by pressing a button on the remote opener. Easy.

Again, please think about the PEOPLE of this neighborhood. We want to remain safe in our own neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Maria Wirtz