

Lopez, Maria [COB]

From: bruce@californiaequity.com
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 11:02 AM
To: COB_Response
Subject: May 5, 2026, Board Agenda Item 23, Appeal of PA23-0119 for Saddleback Meadows Use Permit

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April 30, 2026

RE: May 5, 2026, Board Agenda Item
23, Appeal of PA23-0119 for
Saddleback Meadows Use Permit

Supervisor Wagner, et al,

What occurred at the June 24, 2025
Board of Supervisors meeting was not
simply discourteous and insulting - it
raises serious concerns about whether
this Board fulfilled its obligations to
conduct a fair and lawful public
process.

After taking time off work, traveling 24
miles, and waiting through a half hour
of unscheduled awards, members of
the public were limited to just 60
seconds to speak on a matter of
significant consequence. That
restriction did not allow for the
meaningful presentation of facts,
analysis, or concerns by the residents
most directly impacted.

Public hearings are not ceremonial.
They are intended to ensure that
decision-makers receive, consider,
and weigh relevant information
before acting. When public input is
reduced to a formality, the integrity of
that process is called into question.

This was the first meaningful
opportunity for the Board to hear
directly from affected residents - to
compare their firsthand knowledge
and evidence against the information
provided by the project proponent
and county staff. Instead, that
opportunity was curtailed to the point

that meaningful participation was effectively denied.

Limiting public comment to 60 seconds under these circumstances undermines the purpose of the hearing and raises legitimate concerns about whether the Board has satisfied its duty to consider all relevant information before reaching a decision.

If this limitation is repeated, it will not merely be viewed as dismissive - it may call into question the adequacy and defensibility of the process itself.

We respectfully insist that the Board provide a reasonable and meaningful opportunity for public comment consistent with its obligations. The residents of this community are entitled to be heard, and the decisions made here must be based on a complete and fairly developed record.

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