

Lopez, Maria [COB]

From: rooddoggy@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 11:50 AM
To: Wagner, Donald
Cc: COB_Response
Subject: Saddleback Meadows - Deny Use Permit PA23-0119

Attention: This email originated from outside the County of Orange. Use caution when opening attachments or links.

My name is Maureen Rood, and I am a resident of the Hidden Ridge community in Trabuco Canyon. My family and I have lived in our home since **1993**, and our property abuts the project site for **Use Permit PA23-0119**. I respectfully urge you to deny this Use Permit, or at a minimum that a **current, comprehensive Environmental Impact Report** be required.

Trabuco Canyon is a **Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone**. During Santa Ana wind events, we routinely experience extreme gusts exceeding **50 to 70 miles per hour** that create catastrophic wildfire risk. My family has already been forced to evacuate three times.

We fear becoming the next tragic headline we have all seen too often. Just last year, wildfires in Pacific Palisades, Eaton Canyon, Malibu, and Altadena claimed **over 29 lives** and destroyed **more than 15,000 structures**, most of them homes. These are not hypothetical risks - they are very real. The most alarming issue is **evacuation**. The only access for both the proposed **181 new homes** and the existing **Hidden Ridge community**, which includes over **230 existing residences** - is **Valley Vista Way**, a short suburban loop less than a third of a mile long. How can that single road safely support the evacuation of hundreds of families during a fast-moving wildfire, **while also serving as the only access point for fire engines and emergency responders**? The answer is - it cannot. This is a recipe for disaster.

Compounding these risks, the project relies on **environmental documents from the 1990s and early 2000s**, which do not reflect current conditions, fire behavior, climate realities, or surrounding development. The Revised Subsequent EIR fails to adequately analyze the movement of **7.5 million cubic yards of earth**, as well as current traffic, evacuation, and air quality impacts.

Since the original approvals, massive developments like Iron Ridge, Sky Ridge, Saddle Crest, and Painted Trails have already significantly increase congestion on **Santiago Canyon Road and Live Oak Canyon Road**. Yet no update traffic or evacuation studies have been meaningfully completed or shared.

Supervisor Wagner and Honorable Board Members, we are not opposing housing. We are asking for **responsible, transparent decision-making that prioritizes human life**.

Please place safety first.

Please deny the Use Permit, or require full environmental review and genuine public input before moving forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Maureen Rood