

From: Duggan, Scarlet
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 1:35 PM
To: COB_Response
Subject: FW: Saddleback Meadows

Forwarding comment for Item #23 for the May 5, 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Scarlet Duggan, Land Use Manager
OC Public Works | Development Services
601 N. Ross Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701 | (714) 667-1606

Please Note: My email address has changed to scarlet.duggan@pw.oc.gov Please update your contacts.

-----Original Message-----

From: Beaman, Alissa - Mission Viejo High School <Alissa.Beaman@svusd.org>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 12:00 PM
To: Duggan, Scarlet <scarlet.duggan@pw.oc.gov>
Subject: Saddleback Meadows

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

To the Orange County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Saddleback Meadows residential development project. As a concerned citizen, I urge the Board to approve the appeal filed by the Saddleback Canyons Conservancy and the Rural Canyons Conservation Fund. Proceeding with this development under its current terms poses a severe and direct safety risk to all current residents of Trabuco Canyon and the surrounding canyon communities.

As documented in recent reports from the Voice of OC and the Foothills Sentry, this project is situated in a "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone." The safety concerns are not merely theoretical; they are a matter of public record:

- * **Obsolete Environmental Review:** The original Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is over 23 years old. Since 2002, more than 1,200 new homes have been built along the El Toro/Santiago Canyon corridor. To rely on data from two decades ago—before the dramatic increase in wildfire frequency and ferocity fueled by climate change—is a dangerous oversight.
- * **Evacuation Gridlock:** Current residents of the adjoining Hidden Ridge community have already experienced dangerous traffic gridlock during previous emergencies. Saddleback Meadows proposes to share the same limited evacuation route (Valley Vista Way) out to El Toro Road. Adding 181 more households to this single "bottleneck" route creates a life-threatening scenario for everyone attempting to flee a wildfire.
- * **The 2024 Airport Fire Warning:** As reported by residents at recent hearings, the 2024 Airport Fire spared this specific development site only because of a fortunate shift in wind direction. We cannot rely on luck as a safety strategy for future residents or those already living in the canyon.

* Infrastructure Uncertainty: There is still no finalized plan for the million-gallon water reservoir and infrastructure required to serve this project. Approving high-density housing in a fire-prone canyon without a guaranteed, localized water supply for firefighting is a breach of public safety standards.

Furthermore, the "administrative approval" of this project—conducted without public hearings or notice—is an affront to the established planning process. The Board of Supervisors has a discretionary duty to ensure that development does not result in conditions contrary to public health and safety.

I request that the Board uphold the appeal and require a new, comprehensive Environmental Impact Report that addresses today's reality of wildfire risk, traffic congestion, and emergency evacuation.

Sincerely,

Alissa Beaman

10 Moccasin Trail

Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679