

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ahluwalia, Charu](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] oak tree/File PLN19-0130, property address 14795 East Hills Dr., San Jose 95127
Date: Monday, November 1, 2021 11:25:05 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Dear Charu Ahluwalia,

I am following on the SC County Zoning agenda, which is scheduled for Nov.4, 2021. File PLN19-0130, property address 14795 East Hills Dr., San Jose 95127.

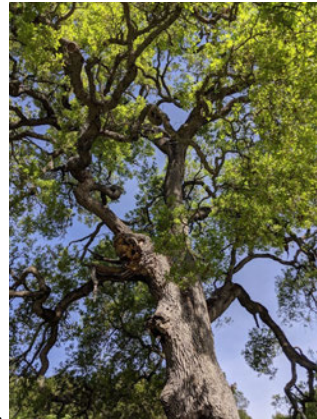
I live on East Hills Drive for the last 30 years. This is a very family-oriented street and we know each other well. My neighbor just shared with me a letter, which he got in the mail (we did not and most of the residents on our street did not receive it). This proposal/request is by a developer Gary King, who is trying to "butcher" and destroy a rocky hill with a beautiful healthy oak tree on it. Developers can build 1 house and save that historic landmark and a tree. But he is being greedy and trying to put more houses, put more money in his pocket...and kill what we all treasure so much.

I hope you can help us to stop that madness. I hope you can stop that person from cutting down that beautiful mature tree. We need trees; they are good for the world. Cutting trees will only lead to reduced rainfall and dry condition.

It is mentioned that the "none native tree" proposed to be removed from the property. None native- this is big misleading! Please come and see it yourself.

It is a beautiful mature healthy oak tree.

Oaks have long had a place in Californian culture. We celebrate these trees that once covered a third of the land in the names of our cities, towns, and schools (think Oakland, Encino, Paso Robles, Live Oak High School...the list



goes on). The native oaks of California once dominated the landscape.

The people native to Santa Clara Valley are known as the Ohlone, which is a name that encompasses 50 separate tribes ranging from the South Bay all the way down to Monterey. Native oaks of California are ingrained in their society as a resource both physically and spiritually.

When our neighborhood was built in 1950, developers back then saved that rocky hill and a tree. They built a previous house behind this rock. It is plenty of room! Why we can not do this now?

We are not against the new home, but there is no need to destroy what was carefully preserved for generations. This is more than a tree- it is the sole of our neighborhood. Oak tree life matters!

PLEASE help save the life of the tree, so we can continue to enjoy this majestic oak for years to come. If we keep cutting down the trees the world will die...

Thank you, sincerely Natalia Voloshin

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ahluwalia, Charu](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Additional comments. [Fwd: Objection to development plan APN:612-24-015]
Date: Monday, November 1, 2021 5:26:34 PM

A neighbor gave me a copy of the environmental information submitted in support of the application to develop 14795 East Hills Drive, as mentioned below.

The applicant says there is one cedar tree in the center of the lot, which doesn't appear to exist, and he omits mention of the mature oak tree, which very much does exist. There are other discrepancies, such as the absence of aesthetic features. Aesthetic features abound at this site.

I just walked over to assure myself that it is an oak tree. I have included a few snap shots here for your review. It is dropping oak leaves. There are acorns.

The application also states that that no technical reports have been done, but we all watched as a team dug a trench for a geological survey. The pile of rocks he mentions is boulders much higher than the 6 foot fence, probably upward of 10 feet about street level.

Of less concern are other discrepancies, such as the stated existence of a structure, which has been long since scraped into oblivion.

Looking at the proposed buildings, one of them has a driveway planned right through the boulder wall, which is home to lizards, bees, and hummingbirds, among others.

I am very concerned that if this application is approved, we will lose a valuable aesthetic asset, but also the geological stability provided to our hillside community.

--Susan Van Valkenburg

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

Subject: Objection to development plan APN:612-24-015
From: [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, October 29, 2021 3:05 pm
To: charu.ahluwalia@pln.sccgov.org

I received a notice of a zoning virtual teleconference in the mail, which involves a parcel of land near us. File: PLN19-0130, APN:612-24-015, which refers to 14795 East Hills Drive, San Jose.

The developer bought that parcel in February 2015. In August 2015, he got a permit to tear down the existing house, which was in bad repair. Once the house was demolished, his workers started to remove the natural rock formations in an attempt to level the lot, with a view to putting four houses on the lot where one existed before. When asked by neighbors and news media whether he had a permit to level the lot, he said he did, despite no such permit being issued. He also did not have a permit for the

four houses he proposed. He only had a permit for the building demolition.

The lot at 14795 East Hills Drive has a natural rock formation, a pile of boulders, from which a number of trees and plants grow. This includes a mature oak tree, which his application identifies as "non-native," despite oak trees being native to this area. I believe he has mischaracterized the nature of his plans. He told the media in 2015 the rock pile was modern, but the age of the tree growing out of it proves this is not the case.

In addition to the potential erosion-preventing characteristics of this formation, it adds a unique character to our neighborhood, which we would all feel the loss of. It's part of what makes this a special place to those who live here.

I would not object to the building of one or even two houses on the lot if it can be achieved without damaging the rock structure or tree in any way. The developer/owner has been dumping construction waste there for years now, even burying some. It would be nice to have it become a loved family home again. It is quite a large lot, and it should be possible for him to get his money and get out without destroying the character of this area, and negatively impacting the lives of all who call this home.

--Susan Van Valkenburg