

**Department of
Conservation and
Development**

30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

Phone: 1-855-323-2626

**Contra
Costa
County**



FILE COPY

John Kopchik
Director

Aruna Bhat
Deputy Director

Jason Crapo
Deputy Director

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Amalia Cunningham
Assistant Deputy Director

(925) 655-2705

March 22, 2022

Burt A. Kallander
576 Palms Drive
Martinez, CA 94553

Alma Johnson
528 Palms Drive
Martinez, CA 9453

RE: County File CDS04-08809

This letter acknowledges receipt of your letter of appeal dated March 7, 2022, regarding County File #CDS04-08809, which was approved by the County Planning Commission on February 23, 2022.

Your appeal will be heard by the Board of Supervisors. You will be notified by letter when the hearing has been scheduled. You should be aware that you or your representative should be present at the hearing.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Gary Kupp, Project Planner at 925-655-2871.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aruna Bhat".

Aruna Bhat
Deputy Director

cc: Applicant/Owner

March 7, 2022

CONTRA COSTA
2022 MAR - 3 AM 10:14
APPLICATION & PERMIT CENTER

Gary Kupp, County Planner
Dept. of Conservation and Development
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Mr. Kupp,

We have serious objections to the way the Planning Commission meeting was conducted on 2-23-22, and would like to appeal.

The meeting was on Zoom which limits free speech for all attendees. Especially after the State's restrictions for Covid were lifted, this was not reasonable. On Zoom we cannot interact as we can when we are all on the same premises, with sharing notes, asking questions, forming relationships, even with those on the other side of the issue, which is of some value since Discovery Builders has no office for, nor apparent interest in working with the Public that may be affected by their projects. These meetings are often the only chance to interact with them. Plus using the new-fangled technology screens out too many of the neighborhood's old-timers thus depriving the Planners of hearing their wisdom.

Even with Zoom the chat feature was turned off, laborious as that feature is, it is technology's answer to this free-speech restriction. Then we were only given only 3 minutes a piece and that means many issues were not even brought up because of this time constraint *in combination* with people not attending because it was

on Zoom. We need to meet in a normal, physical location for this meeting, or there is no confidence in the process.

As it is, the Planners want to green-light a project authorizing quite a huge number of new people to drive across our private property and with the encouragement to the developer to include ADUs, they are seeking to absolutely maximize havoc and hazards on our quiet road. We want ^{to} give them an opportunity to change their minds *before* this process goes forward to the Supervisors.

We have an interest, and to some extent a right, in how much traffic is allowed to drive across each of our properties. And yet the Planners are so far regarding our Road as if it is a Public Road, and it is not. The County has never maintained our Road; it has never been their job! We have maintained it even if they don't like how we have done it, and now suddenly they want to take responsibility for it. We did not get to hear the Planners reasoning on how they feel they can authorize the hijacking of our road in what amounts to a soft Imminent Domain, seeking to violate our neighborhood's rural aesthetics with things like sidewalks, while increasing our maintenance costs so we pay for hosting all the new traffic. Plus our easement clearly exists without the right to extend the existing road.

No one discussed the other zoning options. We feel a recommendation on re-zoning needs a more thorough discussion.

There also a few instances where the Planners needed correcting. For example, fire trucks have come to the end our road many times. Always successfully. Those guys are very good at turning around. We are not in danger.

There are goofy things in the EIR such as the idea that the Arthur Road bottleneck is somehow resolved by making a loop out of Central Avenue and Palms Drive, so people can drive in a circle of futility while they are still trapped. The word "Planner" would be rendered meaningless by a vote for such a project.

A locked gate on a rear exit is not going to work, it is not enough. Common sense.

We didn't get to bring up all our Bayview issues with the imposed limitations of a Zoom meeting. Many Planners did not seem to be apprised of all our work in previous meetings, the petitions over the years, the studies, ideas, etc. which we submitted. We need to know Planners are better informed when making these kinds of recommendations, and we would like another chance to inform them.

Thank you for your help with all this.

Sincerely,



Burt A. Kallander, 576 Palms Drive, Martinez CA 94553
925 595 2779

Alma Johnson, 528 Palms Drive, Martinez CA 94553

Alma Johnson 510-332-3688