

April 26, 2010,

City of Orange Planning Division
C/O Mr. Chad Ortlieb, Senior Planner
300 East Chapman Ave.
Orange, Ca. 92866

Re: Ridgeline 39 Home Development Project

Dear Mr. Ortlieb,

My name is Ron Williamson and I have lived for the past 18 years on Kennymead St. in Orange Park Acres. I am a member of the OPA Real Estate Committee and I have followed the progress of the Ridgeline Development by JMI since November 2007. I am intimately familiar with the evolution of this project from the beginning.

I strongly disagree with the development of this project in its present form. The contingent dedication of 3.9 acres of the Sully Miller riding arena to an unidentified not-for-profit entity does not protect our community and is not reasonable mitigation for the loss of 50 acres of open space and recreation in our community.

If you or the City Planning Commission cares about preserving some open recreation space for the citizens of Orange I recommend you send this item back to the developer for further mitigation and resolution with the community.

As you are aware, JMI unilaterally withdrew from our paid facilitator meetings with Hogle Ireland and the OPA Real Estate Committee. JMI has clearly sent a message to OPA he is not willing to "negotiate" a fair resolution alternatives to replacing the lost recreation. Only the Orange Planning Commission or Orange City Council can send this back to the developer to get him to meet with OPA leadership elected by the community.

Once this re-zoning occurs OPA will never be the same. Just because there may be no current recreation options on the table does not warrant the recommendation for approval of the rezoning. This is the Planning Commission's opportunity to take a leadership role and stand up for recreation in the City of Orange and send this project back to the developer to fill the void created by any rezoning.

The self-serving economic feasibility study on the viability of Ridgeline as a tennis or golf club is a weak and transparent justification for changing the zoning from Open Recreation to residential housing. The 37 year-old specific plan adopted by city council Resolution No. 3915 is not being respected. The Planning Commission has the grounds and obligation to send the project back to the developer or deny the applicants request.

Thank you for your hard work on this complicated issue facing the city.

Very truly yours,



Ronald R. Williamson

1484 N Kennymead St.

Orange, CA 92869