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Agenda Item: ID16-424 (3-B)

Date: 4/28/16

CITY CLERK, FRESNO

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Supplemental Information Packet

Agenda Related Item(s) – ID16-424 (3-B)

Contents of Supplement: Comments from Mr. Charles Ashley

Item(s)

Attached please find a Supplement to File ID16-424 (3-B). The title of the item is as follows:

RESOLUTION – To initiate an amendment to Fresno General Plan Policy RC-9-C pursuant to Fresno Municipal Code Section 15-5803-C

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.

Cindy Bruer

From: wattsvalleypreservation@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2016 9:36 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: Comments on Proposed Resolution to Amend Fresno General Plan Policy RC-9- c

Contact Us

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Comments:
April 23, 2016

Honorable Members of City Council
District 1: Esmeralda Soria
District 2: Steve Brandau
District 3: Oliver Baines III
District 4: Paul Caprioglio
District 5: Sal Quintero
District 6: Lee Brand
District 7: Clint Olivier
c/o City Clerk

Comments on Proposed Resolution to Amend Fresno General Plan Policy RC-9- c (Farmland Preservation Program) pursuant to Fresno Municipal code Section 15-5803

Dear Members of Fresno City Council:

While I am not a resident of the City of Fresno and am therefore not your constituent, I am a resident of the County of Fresno and am therefore impacted by your decision-making. I am a fifth generation citizen of Fresno County and have seen the negative impacts on the rural environment from the exponential growth of the county's population and the entire infrastructure needed to sustain that growth.

The driver of this resolution is money the city will receive through development fees connected to projects that will be enabled by the proposed amendment. I suspect also that wealthy developers will benefit from the amendment and that the proposed amendment is a result of their lobbying efforts.

When does it become obvious to all of us—including the city council and mayor—that continued growth of this sort is unsustainable and self-defeating?

Not only does such growth require covering valuable farm land with unsustainable residential and commercial development, but it requires more and more water from an ecosystem that simply doesn't have enough water to meet current needs, much less additional needs caused by more development and a larger population.

Our current economic system encourages us to grow and grow even though we are running out of space and resources to sustain such growth.

You may believe that as a mere city council member you have little control over such a large and powerful system as the US economy, but ultimately even an economy as powerful as the US economy is subject to the limitations of the environment that contains it.

Perhaps it is time for the city council to set a timely example and adopt a no-growth policy that considers the benefits of a steady-state economy that can exist within environmental limitations and enable the current population to live sufficiently. (Need I remind you, we have many people now in our midst who do not possess the means to live sufficiently?)

By continuing on the current unsustainable path, we are essentially stealing from our children and forcing them to live in a declining and ever more crowded environment. As Ed Abbey said, "Growth for growth's sake [or profit's sake for that matter] is the ideology of a cancer cell."

Thank you,
Charles M. Ashley
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