

From: [Kong Vang](#)
To: [Erik Young](#); [Robert Holt](#)
Subject: Agenda 4/7/2021 Item ID 21-468
Date: Tuesday, April 06, 2021 9:36:28 PM
Attachments: [Planning Commission References.pdf](#)

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dr. Kong Meng Vang
Pa Her
5931 E. Pitt Ave, Fresno, CA 93727

Dear Planning Commission Committee,
We are current residents within the vicinity of the proposed project (ID 21-468). We are writing to voice our STRONG OPPOSITION to the proposed project (subdivision of land for additional housing). We are asking the Planning Commission Committee to DISAPPROVE the proposed project. There are various reasons why the land should be utilized as full park instead of additional residential housing.

It well established and documented that parks and recreations are significant contributors to living a healthy life. Close proximity to parks have been correlated and associated with increased physical activity¹, lower stress and anxiety², increased children wellness³, and reduced symptoms of depression⁵. Further, those who live close to parks in urban environments experience sustained improvements to their mental health⁶. Essentially, parks provide a common space for a community to spend time outdoors and engage in activities that ultimately leads to a healthier lifestyle. This far exceeds and outweighs the minimal benefits of using the current land for additional residential housing.

Beyond providing an avenue for community engagement and sustained mental health, parks operate as a natural air filter. According to the *LA Times* (2014), Fresno is ranked as the worst area in California affected by high pollution⁷. However, if you have lived and grown up in Fresno, you do not need an article to point out this fact. We can see the pollution, especially in South and West Fresno where the majority of industries are located. Trees and plants in parks reduce pollution by purifying the air and excavating pollutants and harmful particulates. Additionally, parks provide improved water quality and flow by reducing run off and hazardous pollutants.

Building additional residential housing instead of a full park can be regarded as an equity issue. Not all populations have equal access to parks, recreation, or other resources that promote physical activity. Specifically, there is a disparity in access to parks for low-income and racial/ethnic minorities^{8,9}. Personally, I grew up in South and Midtown Fresno and my family farmed in Sanger. My parents had 9 children and we had no access to any parks around us. We used to climb over the fence or squeeze through a gate to access the grass area in nearby schools. This is an opportunity for the city and our community to provide a common and fostering space for our children. I know what it was like to grow up in Fresno where parks are not accessible. I know what it is like to drive around my current residence seeing children in the streets shooting basketball eagerly waiting for the park in our neighborhood to open. I know what it is like to see my 2-year-old son excitedly grabbing his shoes every morning to go play in the unfinished dirt

lots. It would behoove the city to build a full park that will ultimately benefit (physically and psychologically) the future of our children and the individuals living in our Southeast community.

We are disappointed that the notices were sent with a very short notice (2 days before the meeting). We encourage you to REJECT and DISAPPROVE the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kong Meng Vang, EdD
Pa Her

P.S. References are attached to email