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ELK GROVE  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

8499 Kammerer Rd.  
Elk Grove, CA 95758  
December 14, 2000

City of Elk Grove  
8949 Elk Grove Blvd.  
P.O. Box 1776  
Elk Grove, CA 95759

Elk Grove Planning Commission

My name is Sheryl Hardesty, I'm nineteen and I'm writing you this letter in concern to the Lent Ranch Marketplace that is proposed for a location not even a mile from where I live and have lived since I was four years old. I have many concerns about this project, one being the fact that my childhood home, the home my parents have built from the ground up, is in jeopardy of not existing for too many more years. I find it hard to imagine not being able to drive down Kammerer Road and seeing open fields that I've worked on, hauled hay off of, irrigated, rode my horse on, or have driven motorcycles and tractors on. Every week I drive down all the back roads on the west side of Highway 99 and I get tears in my eyes thinking about what people are doing and what they want to do. I go to bed at night thinking about how one day I'll never see this place again and how all I will have left are memories and pictures. I only wish that one day my own children and grandchildren could see where I grew up and learned to work. The whole thought of this situation puts me in a really bad mood. That doesn't just last for a couple of hours, it last for days at a time.

It makes me sick to my stomach to think that money is the main reason why people want to build on land that is perfect for farming. Do they even realize that the more they develop our farmland, the less there is and that eventually there won't be any left to exist. Do you really think all the other countries are going to support us? What happens when they say, "Sorry we don't have enough to share," or we go to war with them. All they have to do is stop feeding us and then how will we fight. We might have more money and better weapons, but why would we blow up the countries that keep us alive. We can't! If we don't take a stand now and say no to development, then it will never end and we'll all die because someone wanted to put a little money in their pockets.

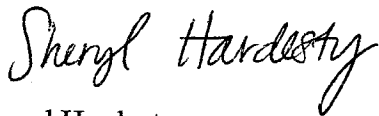
There are a number of individuals that think this is such a perfect place to build a mall. What I don't understand is why they want to bring all the traffic to our city. Leave it in Sacramento. We don't need to extend the traffic problems all the way down here. We already are having more and more accidents just in our area alone. Why do you want to

jeopardize more people's lives just so they can shop in Elk Grove? Have you looked outside lately? You can't go anywhere anymore without everything being crowded. Whether you go to a restaurant, a fast food place, the grocery store, or Wal Mart. It's already crazy in Elk Grove and the more you develop it the worst it's going to be. What about the roads? Do you really think they're up to their standards and can hold more and more cars? It's going to take us an absurd amount of time to get anywhere. Believe me when I say the traffic is way to bad now. I drive the freeways and back roads everyday and I notice all the problems. It's totally crazy now.

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All I'm asking is for you to think about our future. Not just for tomorrow, but for the future that lies ahead in which we will no longer exist. It should be a big concern to you about the type of world our future relatives will be living in. I don't think they'll appreciate the fact that the people of today have ruined life for them. I surly wouldn't want that blame; I can't imagine how you would either.

Thank you for your time



Sheryl Hardesty

Enclosures

## **“Big Deal”**

*Everyday I wake up to the sun shining  
through my window  
I look out and what do I see  
A field so green with color  
And birds singing so joyfully in the trees*

*Now it's time to face reality  
There's people who want to demolish the land  
They think if they build a mall for society  
Then the people will give them a hand*

*But what about the people who live next door?  
Some of them have settled down and don't want to move out  
Do they not have an opinion anymore?  
Or is that something people don't want to think about?*

*Some people say “Oh it's not a big deal!”  
Obviously they don't care what the future will hold  
Without the land, they will never eat another meal  
That's when all the true farmers and ranchers will say,  
**“I TOLD YOU SO!”***

*By: Sheryl Hardesty*

## New Neighbors

Times are a changing and that's sure enough true  
Some say that's for the good, others say ain't nothing you can do  
Out our way it's been anything but good  
It's those city dudes moving in to our neighborhood  
Those city slickers with their condos and five-acre lots  
They all want a piece of the country life, then pull out all the stops  
They want to change things to suit their own style  
And that's just what they set out to do, by a long country mile  
One day last summer, this new neighbor calls to say  
The house is full of flies and could I take care of it right away?  
Well I was polite and told her she wouldn't listen to reason  
To get a swatter or move back to town 'til the end of fly season  
After all, those little critters aren't our personal property  
And country life's not always what city folks think it ought to be  
Now we sometimes get these East winds  
This time a neighbor to the west begins  
They're calling to complain about the country aroma  
Says the smell's bad enough to put him in a coma  
Well it's true we spread manure on the west 40 today  
But Dad's been doin' it for more than 50 years that way  
I told him if he didn't like it, he could take a flyin' leap  
And fly till Hell freezes twice, then land and skate in the ice  
For I sure wasn't gonna lose any sleep  
Well, it's later now and I'm out bailin' hay, it wasn't 'til  
After midnight 'fore the dew finally hit  
Back home the phones ringing off the wall, those new neighbors  
Are having a fit  
They're calling the sheriff to complain about that idiot bailing at night  
But Mother Nature didn't read that new county ordinance:  
The storm clouds are within sight  
Well now it seems they're starting to gang up on us  
Signing petitions and making such a fuss  
It seems they want to take our wetlands and fence off the creek  
They think they need a joggin' path and our place would be  
Quite unique  
Just when we think we have things under control, with weather, critters and labor  
Fate whips up, throws us a curve and brings us another new neighbor  
I never mean to harass or offend, but we've just about reached our wits end  
Sidewalks, city water and sewer they say will be here soon  
And we'll be forced to move out where we can find more room  
But when we're long gone it'll be us who'll have the last laugh around  
Those new neighbors will be right back where they started,  
Smack dab in the middle of town!

Boyd Johnson

# Little Town

*I like to live in a little town  
Where the trees meet across the  
Street.*

*Where you wave your hand and  
Say "Hello"  
To everyone you meet.*

*I like to stand for a moment  
Outside the grocery store*

*And listen to the friendly gossip  
Of  
The folks that live next door.*

*For life is interwoven  
With the friends we learn to  
Know,*

*And we hear their Joys and  
Sorrows  
As we daily come and go.*

*So I like to live in a little town,  
I care no more to roam,*

*For every house in a little town  
Is more than a house, it's home.*

37. Letter from Sheryl Hardesty, dated December 14, 2000

**Response 1**

This comment is acknowledged. Because it does not address the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

**Response 2**

This comment is acknowledged. Because it does not address the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

**Response 3**

This comment is acknowledged. Because it does not address the content of the Draft EIR, no further response is required.

**Response 4**

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