

**Subject:** Davidon Development

Dear Mayor McDonnell and City Councilors,

David Malpass as head of the World Bank is being forced to step down after failing to acknowledge global warming is real when pressed by a reporter. His final answer was "I'm no scientist". In a recent Yale and George Mason Universities poll, 70% of Americans now believe global warming is occurring.

Yet most of them, same as myself, are not scientists. They and I can rely on experience, common sense and observations, especially observing, if not actually experiencing, the costly and more frequent and intense natural disasters occurring nationally and internationally.

You don't need convincing global warming is real with the drought and the fires that came so close here, starting with Tubbs that wiped out 4000 homes in an already existing housing crisis. You're already preparing for the next disaster with hiring the city's new Emergency Mgr., Tom Jordan. Kudos for farsightedness and preparing!

I walked this week on the West Haven path directly across the road from the new Putnam parking lot. I was heartened and thrilled to hear a frog chorus after our long drought. A few steps further was the sign "Keep Out - Sensitive Habitat". I thought of Davidon at the opposite end of West Haven where a "protected" frog species is in sensitive habitat. There won't be a keep out sign on that whole sensitive area and travel corridor which makes no sense unless Davidon is considered a sacrifice zone.

All the possible mitigations short of chain link fences (which would prevent wildlife travel corridors), won't prevent the trampling feet of visitors nor even nimble fence climbers if a fence were to be erected. The current double crisis of global

warming and species extinction has increased much faster than expected, and has now outpaced years of work and compromises on this development for the last 15 years, and 9 years after the book "The Sixth Extinction" was published.

The crisis of global warming is happening so rapidly that old patterns of building in the WUI (wildland urban interface) no longer make sense for many reasons, but particularly at the Davidson site due to Petaluma Gap winds fanning any possible spark.

In our current housing crisis, we need low and middle income housing, not the size and cost of these homes. If the development were for "affordable" homes, and the developer were offering a frequent shuttle to downtown, there might be some possibility to mitigate VMT, but D Street already has too much traffic, part of the literally thousands of vehicles traveling in and out of Petaluma everyday. This type of housing is the opposite of what the city needs, despite the developer's good intentions, compromises, mitigations and need to make a profit.

The add-ons of sidewalks up to the site don't make sense because there's a shorter walking path to the left on El Rose shortly after crossing D Street. Who would want to walk on D Street up to the park with traffic and 18 wheelers roaring by on that main artery? As for the round-about, the city could if needed put one in when D Street is repaired. Residents on D Street are already talking with the city on possible improvements to the artery while they suffer from heavy traffic.

As a former teacher who's brought many elementary classes on fieldtrips to a similar park to Putnam (Woodside's Huddart Park), being in a park and observing nature

firsthand is far more authentic than observing displays inside a building. Similar to the classes led by docents at Ellis Creek, being guided by docents and teachers in Putnam would be far superior to looking at inside displays built at Davidon. Ask any young child about their last fieldtrip into nature and observe how alive the memory is. Of course, displays have their place, but it's a step away from and separation from the real experience of being in a wonderfully complex living forest.

"Compromise" in and of itself, and all the hard work contributed by many, is not sufficient reason to approve this development. Simply put, the multiple crisis of global warming and species extinction has outpaced and run far ahead of this development in priority and urgency. The compromises and mitigations are not sufficient, wise, nor farsighted in their disruption and harm to the complex web of life we are a part of and dependent on. (We don't wait until bees are extinct and unable to pollinate our food crops, nor wait until there's insufficient water to grow our food.) The mitigations are not sufficient to protect us from increasing vehicle emissions, increased fire danger, a worsening affordable housing crisis, and worsening species extinction at this site. Evaluate the merits of this development in the light of 2023 with your awareness of the multi-crisis we are in.

The moment demands looking for a better way, not the way we've always done it mindset. It requires you to acknowledge, unlike David Malpass, the current multiple crisis of global warming, a widespread western megadrought, fire danger and species extinction. It requires being farsighted enough to be preventive.

Thank you for your time and service to our community!  
Tonya Parnak

