

Attention: Kelly Bacon, CDS

February 21, 2022

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Citizen Comments Relative to LP-22-00001 Suncadia Phase 2 Division 7

My name is Ingrid Vimont. I live at 291 Nelson Creek Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922.

I am a newly elected Hospital District 2 Commissioner for Upper Kittitas County, and I have been a Registered Nurse in Washington since 1990.

I am a concerned citizen who has lived and owned property in the Cle Elum area for 20 years. I lost a home to the Taylor Bridge Fire, which has increased my commitment and involvement in helping to build a better fire adapted community.

I acknowledge that the master plan resort zoning for Suncadia was approved over 20 years ago, before explosive growth in the Upper Kittitas County area was thought to occur.

I am concerned specifically with the 148 new lots in Phase 2, Division 7 plus the future MPR developments northward to the Cle Elum Dam Road. The only ingress (for emergency response) and egress (for emergency evacuation) are all 2-lane roads within Suncadia that will feed into SR 903 or south to Bullfrog Road. This is all in **addition to the estimated 2500 (at build out) residents that live north of 903 Bullfrog round-about**. Please refer to videos and photos of Paradise, CA evacuation catastrophe: [Hyperlink to Video of evacuation nightmare](#)

My concern further relates to:

Growth Management Planning as it will affect the health and safety of our community residents from 2022 onward.

Coordinated planning to prevent Paradise 2.0

My Goal:

Contribute to the creation of an integrated, safe, & healthy Upper Kittitas County

Recommendations: It is critical that we design and implement coordinated community planning to avoid a repeat of the Paradise, CA tragedy in 2018. [Hyperlink to Paradise Fire video](#)

- Essential development, implementation & ongoing coordination of the following:
 - **Regional Fire Authority**—development essential
 - Create and maintain a Fire Resilient, Fire Adapted Community
 - **Regional Planning Authority** (Upper County)
 - Elected or appointed to serve the community for current and future generations specific to:
 - Road systems—

- Update Upper County Road systems to support our current and future population.
 - Our current roads are all dead-end **EXACTLY LIKE PARADISE, CA**. All residents of Suncadia, Roslyn, Ronald & North to Lake Cle Elum (including campgrounds, horse parks, boating on high mountain lakes, hiking trails & river day parks) enter and exit on SR 903 (2 lane) with NO ALTERNATE EVACUATION ROUTE **NOR** ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES HEADING TOWARD FIRE AND EMERGENCY! Think Fire!
- Prior to approval of any/all future developments, the developer (Suncadia) must develop multiple evacuation routes of sufficient width for fire equipment access & emergency evacuation of residents (at the same time), that do NOT use SR 903. Ronald, Roslyn, and the Bullfrog road roundabout will be major bottlenecks.
 - ❑ Fire services—enough equipment & infrastructure and staff to support current population forecasted population growth.
 - ❑ EMS—enough equipment and staff to support current population forecasted population explosion

Valuable Lessons Learned from: Paradise California “Camp Fire” 2018

- Here’s how Paradise ignored warnings and became a deathtrap: [Hyperlink to Paradise Fire: Warnings and predictions ignored](#)
- ***A Los Angeles Times investigation found that Paradise ignored repeated warnings of the risk its residents faced, crafted no plan to evacuate the area all at once, entrusted public alerts to a system vulnerable to fire, and did not sound citywide orders to***
- In the aftermath of the Camp fire — 86 dead, more than 13,900 homes destroyed, and [Hyperlink Paradise decimated article](#) — local and state officials said the tragedy was unforeseen and unavoidable, an “unprecedented” monster of fire.

Paradise “Camp Fire” was predicted by early planners but ultimately allowed by aggressive developers [Hyperlink to Paradise mobile home park post Camp Fire 2018 video](#)

- ***The 2005 state fire management plan for the ridge, developed in consultation with some of those same Paradise planners:*** “Heavy fuel loads, steep terrain, poor access and light flashy fuels create severe fire hazards. The increased population in this area creates a high potential for catastrophic life and property loss.”



Coordinated Planning could have prevented Paradise tragedy

- Developers started with what had been gold mine trails and then apple orchard roads to pave a street system that **maximized buildable space** the way blood vessels branch into capillaries.
- In the aftermath of the Camp fire — 86 dead, more than 13,900 homes destroyed, and [Hyperlink to Paradise decimated](#) — local and state officials said the tragedy was unforeseen and unavoidable, an “unprecedented” monster of fire.
- In truth, the destruction was utterly **predictable**, and the community’s struggles to deal with the fire were the result of lessons **forgotten** and warnings **ignored**.

Summary: Wildfire is an imminent threat to Cle Elum, Roslyn, Ronald, and surrounding area.

Headwaters Economics (Jan. 2022) ranks Kittitas County 92 on a scale of 1 to 100 within the State in relative wildfire risk.

Solution to minimize risk:

- Coordinate planning that utilized all lessons learned from similar “at risk” towns that includes:
- Controlled growth planning through the development of:
 - Regional Growth Management Authority: Fire, Forest Health, EMS, Hospital, Water, Roads, School, Services, etc.
 - Infrastructure planning:
 - Fire services
 - Forest vegetation management to reduce fuels and maintain healthy forests

- EMS
- Roads/Evacuation routes with no dead-ends and including alternative connections to I-90.
- Effectively manage new community development that meets needs and takes into consideration of the wildfire risks of the Cle Elum area

Hyperlinks to Existing County Resources:

- [Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan 2012](#)
- [COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN](#)
- [Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan 2016](#)

Thank you for taking my experience and personal comments into consideration as you make city planning recommendations for our community.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Vimont, RN

206-484-3812

Cc:

Sheriff Clay Myers
Deputy Sheriff Darrin Higashiyama
Julie Peterson, KVH CEO
Hospital District #2 Commissioners
Roslyn Mayor
Commissioner Laura Osiadacz