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The San Bernardino Board of Supervisors (BOS) will review the Church of the Woods proposed project for their new campus on Sept. 15, 2020, at the Supervisors Chambers at 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino. This is the final opportunity for the public to be heard and the BOS will either approve or deny the project during that meeting.

Sixteen and one half acres of forested Little Bear Creek drainage located north of Hwy 18 in Rim Forest will be clear cut. All trees, plant life and wild creatures will be displaced, gone. Organic materials, trees, shrubs and topsoil will be trucked to the dump for disposal.

Hundreds of thousands of acre feet of soil will be moved from hillsides to the canyon in the middle of the property that contains Little Bear Creek. Soil will be compacted to create a flat 13 acres, for erecting sanctuaries, a gym, soccer field, baseball field, roadways and parking lots. Hwy 18 will be widened to accommodate turn lanes and traffic lights. Eighty feet of gravel will line the south side of the project. On this gravel, plantings will not be allowed, in the 280 feet of line-of-sight due to the traffic light required at the project entrance. There are three building phases which will interrupt traffic on Hwy 18 for eighteen months.

A fence and a wall will circle the front of the development. Bears, deer, cougars, coyotes and other animals have crossed this property to access our mountain top for centuries. They will be impeded entry here causing chaos along Hwy 18 and the Daley Canyon roadway. The disruption of this County-designated wildlife corridor will result in more wildlife being needlessly killed.

Church of the Woods is a dynamic church that has been on our mountain for nearly three decades. Their outreach to families is great and the community is vibrant.

However, the project is not suitable at this location because of our fragile Hwy 18, a mere two lane roadway for almost 30 miles. Up to SEVEN NEW TRAFFIC SIGNALS are prescribed to try and mitigate the traffic impacts. Emergency evacuations will be severely compromised by added traffic at this spot, as the only church ingress and egress is onto Hwy 18. On Sundays, short term renters, part time residents, and visitors leave our mountain. With this project, traffic will be backed up even more on Hwy 18 and Hwy 330.

Our community benefits from this parcel of remaining wild land. Little Bear Creek, which begins on this property, is a major tributary to Lake Arrowhead and needs no further degradation of its water quality. Do we want more traffic lights? Do we need our evacuation route more congested in a fire emergency? Why risk polluting our only water source ?

Sincerely,

Lori Semeniuk

Lake Arrowhead