

Dear Residents of Rancho Murieta,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Matthew Ison, and I've had the joy of calling Rancho Murieta my home for most of my life. From the age of three until I was eighteen with my parents, then again renting with friends from twenty-one to twenty-two, and now from thirty-five until the present day, owning a home at forty with my wife and two boys, I've seen our charming town evolve over the years. Today, I'm reaching out to share some thoughts about the proposed development plans that could impact the unique character of our beloved community.

One of the most pressing issues we face is our water resources. Our reservoirs, which are crucial for our community, rely heavily on water pumped from the Cosumnes River. However, this river is already under strain due to various factors, and further development could make this problem worse.

The Cosumnes River is a vital lifeline for both our daily water needs and the local ecosystem. Recent years of reduced rainfall have led to lower water levels than those of my childhood, impacting not only our reservoirs but also the river's natural habitat. The river can't replenish itself as it once did. Agricultural activities upstream also place significant demands on the Cosumnes River. Farmers rely on its water for irrigation, which reduces the volume of water that reaches our reservoirs. The river's ecosystem, including fish populations and riparian habitats, is already under stress. Adding more development would only amplify these pressures, reducing the amount of water available for both the environment and our community.

We cannot ignore the reality that water is a finite resource. As we add more homes, businesses, and infrastructure, we are placing an unsustainable burden on our water supply. This not only jeopardizes our daily needs but also threatens the health of our local ecosystem.

The beauty of Rancho Murieta lies in its open spaces and natural landscapes. These open areas are not just empty plots of land; they are integral to our community's identity. They provide us with recreational opportunities, support local wildlife, and offer a sense of peace and tranquility that is becoming increasingly rare. One of the primary reasons I moved my family to Rancho Murieta was to provide them with the opportunity to explore open spaces in our free time as I did as a child. Additional development would mean the destruction of these open spaces, replacing them with concrete and asphalt. We must ask ourselves if this is the legacy we want to leave for future generations.

As someone who has grown up in Rancho Murieta, moved away, and returned, I have a unique perspective on the changes that have occurred over the years. The charm of our town has always been its balance between development and nature. We are not against growth, but it must be sustainable and considerate of our existing resources and community values.

We must also consider the long-term impacts of unchecked development. Increased population density will strain our infrastructure, from roads to schools to emergency services. The qualities that draw people to Rancho Murieta—its tranquility, community spirit, and natural beauty—are in danger of being lost if we do not take action now.

I urge you all to think carefully about the future of our town. Let us not sacrifice our water resources and open spaces for short-term gains. Let us preserve the unique character of Rancho Murieta for ourselves, our children, and the generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Kindest regards,

Matthew Ison