Pine Grove EIR: Comments Welcome

By Lee Borrowman

The Pine Grove project Environmental Impact Report is available for your reading pleasure on the City of Orinda's website.

http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/. Public comment is welcome through Monday, October 22, 2007.

Pine Grove is the Altarinda Road area proposed housing development of seventy-three units, sixty-five of which would be single-family detached homes, with eight duplex units in four buildings. Related to the project are the relocation of city-owned ball fields and the building of a new home for the Orinda Union School District administrative offices on the western portion of the site.

Previous concerns surrounding the proposed development included the loss of views from surrounding properties, increased traffic and safety issues due to the speed of drivers and limited sight distance on Altarinda Road, the loss of onstreet parking, emergency vehicle access, utility and storm drainage inadequacies, and construction related issues such as access, noise and pollution.

The EIR identifies potentially significant impacts and mitigation measures in the following areas: Transportation, Circulation and Parking; Air Quality; Noise; Geology, Soils, and Seismicity; Hydrology and Water Quality; Hazardous Materials and Public Health and Safety; Biological Resources; Public Services and Facilities; and, Cultural and Paleontological Resources.

The full report weighs in at over 270 pages; novice EIR readers may want to start with the more digestible 20-page Summary.



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