



YOLANDA "JOLIE" VEGA

Thank you, Lafayette, for your vote.

While I did not earn a seat on the City Council, I appreciate your confidence in me.

New Addition to Worst Roads List?



Last weekend's heavy rains, a leaky water pipe and a clogged culvert that caused water to pool on Mountain View Drive eroded and undermined the roadway creating a large sinkhole that may take months to repair permanently. Photo provided

KB Home Condo Project Gets Green Light

By Cathy Tyson

After endless public testimony and a private meeting with the City of Lafayette's attorney, the KB Home project was approved on a 3-1 vote at last week's City Council meeting that ran late into the night. Council member Don Tatzin was the only dissenter and Brandt Andersson recused himself. It was down to the wire for the proposed condominium project with four residential stories over street-level parking slated for the gravel parking lot behind Panda Express. Council members knew they had to act before a Dec. 6 legal deadline spelled out in the Process Agreement that governs this project. The approval is conditional upon a complete set of plans that will be reviewed by the council and the Planning Commission, and that both bodies can strongly support and approve.

At a meeting the week before, council members asked for additional simulated views from KB Home from Dewing Avenue and Diablo Foods. They were concerned how prominent the building would be when viewed from different locations in the downtown area. At the current revised height of 55 feet, this new project will be as tall as the adjacent Town Center apartments.

While the history of this particular project stretches back for many

years, the developer was criticized for failing to act when repeatedly cautioned that the Planning Commission and Design Review Committee found the building just too large for the site. KB produced the most recent iteration of the revised project that eliminated the fifth residential floor just two weeks before the deadline. Prior owner Lafayette Residential Partners transferred the property known as Town Center III back in late 2008.

Two city council meetings were held that ultimately led to the project's approval. At the last meeting the attorney for the developer, Margo Bradish, addressed the council: "KB has complied with these agreements, now it's time for the city to do the same."

Council member Carl Anduri questioned the developer's reasoning, asking why they waited until October to finally provide the council with revised smaller scale plans?

Architect Jeffrey Heller commented in the first of two city council meetings on a flyer produced by project opponents that had been circulating through town. "That drawing is a complete fraud," he stated. He pointed out the lowest level of the proposed building was drawn higher than it actually is.

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THE ELENA HOOD GROUP

Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and a Healthy and Prosperous 2013!



Kirsten, Lilli, Elena and Larry



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