

8 November, 2021

Sisters Woodlands Project: Comments

The project to develop the 31 acres of land at 201 N Pine Street, Sisters for mixed housing and industrial use must be rejected. This project, which would result in some 359 residential units and 44,000 square feet of commercial and light industrial space, is tantamount to building a small town in the middle of Sisters. It would dramatically alter, indeed, destroy, the character of the city. It would fly in the face of certain critical provisions of the city's master plan. For example, it would nullify the city's goal "to conserve, and enhance the quality of the City's natural and scenic resources; maintain the quality of its air, land, water, and wildlife habitat; and improve community health." Among other things, the "Woodlands" project would in fact eviscerate the woodlands on the acreage and obliterate whatever natural beauty and habitat there are left in the city. Moreover, the project would inject some 600-700 vehicles into Sisters, with their accompanying pollution. When these vehicles are combined with those associated with the housing under construction next to the Dollar Store and from the industries being enticed to move to the lots north of the project, not to mention "normal" traffic through town, the result will be paralysis on the streets. The fact that the developer is including parking space in the project for the expected vehicles is NOT a solution. The problem begins when these vehicles start to move. Tourists are already complaining about the traffic in Sisters. Who wants to visit a traffic jam? The "Woodlands" project will make a mockery of Sisters as a "tourist destination." In addition, and this is extremely important, the development will require an enormous amount of water which will be extracted from our aquifer. We are in the middle of a drought. The city has had to drill wells to meet water requirements. How will the developer replenish the lost ground water? He can't. Paying a fee for water is NOT a solution. The residents of Sisters will pay the real price. In short, the "Woodlands" project would be a catastrophe. Its approval would be completely irresponsible if not suicidal for Sisters. It must be rejected.

Gary Leiser, Sisters

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Leiser". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name and email address.