

My name is Andrew Raubitschek. I come here tonight with my neighbors from the MESA side of Spinks Canyon. We are here to express our concerns about the Chadwick development. Many of our concerns are presented in the Initial Study for the Chadwick Ranch Estates. We would like to emphasize three areas of importance for the residences on the Duarte side of Spinks Canyon.

First, this area has been designated as a high-risk fire zone by the county of Los Angeles. In 2016 we were forced to evacuate because of neighboring fires in the area. We have been told that this area has not burned in recent history making it at extremely high risk in the upcoming fire season. The land between the Chadwick property and the MESA residences is occupied by the Duarte Wilderness Preserve. There are many dead trees and debris in the area posing a significant fire risk. A forest fire in this area would not only propose a risk from the fire but also subsequent flooding and mudslides in the aftermath. The Initial Study sites 4 potentially significant areas of concern.

Second, the Chadwick Ranch is part of the water shed for two rivers, the Los Angeles River and the San Gabriel River. The proposed development with major land excavation would contribute negatively to this vital role. The proposed new septic system, at a time when California is considering outlawing such systems, would also have a major impact. The Initial Study sites 7 significant problems with hydrology and water quality.

Third, this area has been used as sediment disposal site. The planned development would move tons of earth to flatten the terrain and contribute to the instability of the area. This would be especially critical in the aftermath of fire and subsequent flooding. Damage to the hillside would have a significant impact on the wildlife, requiring decades to recover. The old sediment site remains a scar on the hillside which after more than 30 years is just now supporting plant growth. The initial study sites 9 potential significant issues.

I marveled at the suggestion that this would be good horse property, given the slope it would be more appropriate to utilize pack mules.

Tract 9 and 10 in the proposed development border on the Duarte Wilderness Preserve. In addition, Lot E, Lot F and Lot G are designated as desilting basins also bordering on the Duarte Wilderness Preserve.

The City of Duarte enacted an ordinance to prevent development of their hillsides in the late 1990s. This ordinance was converted into a more permanent solution when Duarte was able to obtain state funds to buy the property and convert it into the Duarte Wilderness Preserve in 2005.

I would hope that Bradbury would be able to mount a similar proposal, given the support of Portantino and Chu for such projects. I am sure that the Duarte officials who were responsible for the establishment of the Duarte Wilderness Preserve would be of assistance.

On a final note I wonder if either Bradbury or Chadwick understood the importance of this land and protected it from future development into multiple home sites?