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16 May 2017

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Nevada County Supervisors  
c/o Jessica Hankins

**NEVADA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

cc: ALL BOS

cc: RICK HAFLEY  
ALISON LEHMAN  
ALISON BAKLATT-GREEN  
AMANDA UNRHAMMER

Dear Board of Supervisors,

This letter is in support of Ananda's proposed updated Comprehensive Master Plan before you on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We would have preferred to attend the meeting in person, but another commitment takes priority.

We are neighbors, for the past 35 years, whose property is adjacent to Ananda's western boundary. Pat Leach is also a board member of the North San Juan Fire Protection District and has been asked to speak on behalf of the District.

During the past several years, Ananda's management has often met with us, and the NSJ Fire Board, to share their development desires and future goals. We find the Plan is well thought-out, gradual in its execution, pragmatic in its implementation, while seeking to have minimal impact on the environment. For instance, their ability to closely monitor their water storage and resources, continuously facilitating the best usage.

As you must be aware, there is a shortage of residences on The Ridge, which causes our children to move and work further away. And as elsewhere, we are an aging population that wishes to remain in our homes as long as possible. However, we also need to be able to provide affordable housing for the next generations, keeping families close to support each other, and allowing them the opportunity to engage in the many worthwhile local organizations, such as the Volunteer Fire Department, Park District, Library, Family Resource Center, etc.

Ananda has long committed itself to the well-being of the whole community, offering cultural events and festivals, engaging with other local services, providing an affordable health and dental clinic open to all, plus their lovely café, market and shops to name a few. Theirs is a tranquil oasis on The Ridge.

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We on the Fire Board also recognize Ananda as a major supporter of Fire Department and the District's mission. Ananda has kept most of their extensive property well brushed and cleared, and is actively working towards becoming certified as a "Nevada County Firewise Community" through the local Fire Safe Council. Note: their access to "fire-flow" has earned them the lowest insurance rating in the Fire District!

Also, years ago, Ananda's forward-thinking planners recognized within the neighborhood, there was a need for better, safer egress route in case of emergency. Turning eastward they proposed a way along our southern boundary to access Sages Road which is identified in the NSJ Community Fire Plan as a neighborhood egress route. Finding that acceptable, together we identified another section of Sages Road that seriously inhibits this route to safety for about a dozen parcels. To mitigate this hazard, we are working with our neighbors to reroute about 2,000 feet of the road onto Ananda property in order to provide that better, safer route for Firefighters and First Responders, and egress for neighbors. The old section of Sages will continue to exist, but the terrain does not allow for it to be improved. This will benefit the neighborhood in another important manner. The re-routing of Sages will give "fire-flow" access to these parcels from Ananda's extensive hydrant system if needed and for the protection of all.

Other examples of Ananda's commitment to the whole community is that it often provides facilities for various fire department training activities; are preparing to house Fire Department apparatus on-site - at no cost to taxpayers - helping the District in that it lacks enough secured space; and in 2014 they were a crucial factor in the education of stakeholders and the successful passage of Measure Q, providing much needed new funding in support of the Fire Department and its mission.

We believe Ananda's Master Plan, as it is advanced over the next few decades, will provide further opportunities for cooperation between Ananda and the Fire District as we fulfill our mandate to protect individuals and property. Therefore, we are pleased to support Ananda's application. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Steve Leach



Pat Leach