

I am an elected member of the board of trustees for Konocti Unified School District, the district which will be legally responsible for the education of the all children of school age whose families will move to Provensalia. I submit these comments.

Because of the projected cost of these homes the target purchasers will not be local families relocating from other areas of our district, but rather families moving in from outside the area. The 720 planned units can potentially increase our student population by more than 1500 students. Lower Lake Elementary School, the nearest campus, is already close to full, especially at some grade levels. Older students would go to Oak Hill Middle School and Lower Lake High School both of which are also close to capacity and at capacity at some grade levels. Redevelopment fees will not even come close to covering the costs of building a new school. None of our construction bond money is set aside for that purpose. All bond funds are already earmarked for specific and needed projects. Students moving to Provensalia will have a legal right to attend Konocti schools. In the worst case scenario, our district may become insolvent or be forced out of compliance with state education code requirements for class size and other important considerations. Our negotiated labor agreements with teachers and other employees would be breached if we are forced to take in students for which do not have proper facilities. Increased population pressure on our schools will lessen the educational experience for our existing students as well as for any newcomers.

Transportation to and from our schools will be impacted as well with such a huge increase in the student population of one particular area. Increasing transportation costs are already a continuing burden on the district and this project will aggravate the situation. Student safety is another issue to be addressed. Students walking to and from school or exiting busses on Dam Road before and after school will be endangered by the increased flow of traffic in and out of Provensalia. The thousands of vehicles flowing in and out of the development along narrow Dam Road can pose a deadly hazard to the students who live along the portions of Dam Road and Lake Streets from The Wal-Mart turnoff at one end to the town of Lower Lake at the other. Dam road currently has no sidewalks. Hundreds of students walk and bicycle on this road to and from school bus stops, to Lower Lake Elementary School, Oak Hill Middle School, and Lower Lake and Carle High Schools. All of these students will be in danger as a result of the increase traffic on Dam Road and Lake Street.

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