

Valle Verde has serious traffic issue

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On Tuesday, the Santa Barbara City Council will hear an appeal regarding additional development in the Valle Verde Retirement Community. There are several important issues that I don't believe have been adequately addressed in the environmental impact report.

The project is located at the end of a large residential area with essentially only one exiting road, Modoc Road. Veronica Springs Road is a substandard road, which is inadequate to accommodate heavy traffic serving all of the residents in the area.

Modoc Road is further impacted by the intersections of the La Cumbre Road overpass and Las Positas, Highway 101 and Calle Real intersection, which is below city standards. When there is a fire (such as the Painted Cave Fire) or an accident on the 101, Modoc Road has bumper-to-bumper traffic, making an exit or evacuation from the area almost impossible.

The City Council needs to address the safety factor for all the residents in the area by requiring a traffic light at Modoc Road and Calle De Los Amigos.

The speed along Modoc Road makes exiting this intersection dangerous with at least one reported accident per year in the last five years, and two last year.

A traffic light would reduce speeding and danger not only at the intersection but also for residents of Vista del Monte Retirement Community and for the school behind the Lutheran church.

The second important issue is speeding on the residential streets. Concerns have been raised with city staff with no solutions.

Valle Verde has more than 200 employees when combined with deliveries, etc., and with the residents of the entire area. Speeding has become a serious problem. There has been an increase of small children in the residential area and the city park has been configured especially for small children. With cars frequently going by at 35 mph or better, there is a serious safety issue.

The City Council needs to address these issues before there is a tragedy.