

COUNTY OF SONOMA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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SHIRLEE ZANE
THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

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July 16, 2010

Rohnert Park City Council
130 Avram Avenue
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Dear Mayor Stafford and Councilmembers:


I understand you will be hearing an appeal to the Planning Commission's decision on the proposed Wal-Mart expansion on July 29th, and wanted to convey my serious concerns regarding this project. As a County Supervisor, I certainly understand the responsibility we have to create jobs and support business activity in this difficult economic environment. This particular project, however, does not support our goals for local economic development and I would strongly urge your denial.

You have likely all read the economic analysis by Robert Eyster and seen the wealth of research that points towards the benefits of supporting *local* businesses over out-of-state corporations. According to the Institute for Self Reliance, three times as much money remains in the local economy when you frequent local business compared to chain stores. The proposed project threatens locally owned groceries and the many businesses which they in turn promote. These local businesses are the fabric of our community and deserve our support, especially during these tough times.

Not only does this project present a threat to local businesses, but it also threatens to exacerbate traffic woes around the Wilfred/Golf Course interchange and increase the demands on local law enforcement due to the introduction of alcohol sales. What's more, the Wal-Mart expansion is inconsistent with our climate protection goals. Because local businesses purchase more goods locally than large chain stores and rely more on local patrons, they tend to have much lower carbon footprints than their corporate counterparts.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully urge your denial of this project. I respect the tough work you are doing and appreciate your consideration of my input on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirlee Zane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shirlee" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Zane".

SHIRLEE ZANE

Third District Supervisor