



Let's Stand Together to  
**KEEP NIPOMO RURAL!**



*Standing for Real Affordable Housing, Critical Infrastructure, and Environmental Preservation*

## May 2024 Newsletter

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The SLO County Board of Supervisors met on April 23 and 24th to hear the public's opinions of the Dana Reserve (DR) mega-development. The [Central Coast Student Coalition](#) made a showing in front of the building to voice their concerns about the reckless nature of this development on their futures. They deserve so much admiration and respect for speaking up about the environmental damage being done by the DR and the disregard this project conveys to them about their human rights to a livable and healthy planet.

So...Despite the lack of adequate public safety, both law enforcement and fire; despite the data offered by the biologists about existing, at-risk ecosystems of the oak forest; despite the statement by the Chair of the **yak tit, u tit, yu yak tihini** (ytt) Northern Chumash Tribe of SLO County, Mona Olivas Tucker, that the oak forest on that parcel of land is part of their cultural heritage, a heritage that dates back thousands of years; despite the financial shortfall for local schools; the dubious water supply claims; despite the pleas by local high school students to stop destroying their futures by clear-cutting and paving over valuable natural resources that keep our planet healthy and livable for them and future generations; and despite an offering of a community generated development map that provides housing and saves the oak forest and the biodiversity and ecosystems that make this area special, three members of the Board of Supervisors voted to approve the project. Jimmy Paulding, whose district this development is in, voted against it and spelled out the reasons very comprehensively and completely. You can read that [here](#).

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**Unfortunately, this situation is a classic "business and politics as usual" situation.**

And it comes down to **\$\$\$**. All three supervisors who voted for this ill-conceived and destructive development received campaign contributions from Nick Tompkins/NKT Development LC and Shea Homes LP who already owns 35% of the Dana Reserve housing development.

**Our bad!** We naively behaved like the community mattered, like the trees and the endangered species mattered, like the health and safety of the existing and new residents mattered, like we were done colonizing the first peoples of this land, and thought the community could collaborate and that our input could help build a better housing project that saved what's special about the south county. **NOPE**, business as usual—the rich get richer at the expense of everyone else and the planet.

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**but IT'S NOT OVER...** Organizations and individuals have approached Coalition members: NAC, the Nipomo Oak Alliance (NOA), the Central Coast Student Coalition and SCAC to inform us of options we still have—**STAY TUNED!**

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## AND ABOUT HOUSING

In Supervisor Jimmy Paulding's statement accompanying his "NO" vote, he reported "Even recently, Nipomo has seen the bulk of new growth. Earlier this year, the Planning Commission approved two multi-family developments that will add 400 homes, in addition to 300 new homes coming soon to Trilogy. Plus, other developers are working on trying to build at least another 600 homes in Nipomo. Thus, without the Dana Reserve project, 1,300 hundred homes are in the works, which is equivalent to the number of units this project will add - and most of that housing is the right type of housing - the kind of workforce and affordable housing we need."

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**THERE IS NO ASSURANCE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE DR PLAN**--there are *hopes* that the Peoples Self-Help Housing will be able to raise the over \$60 million it will take to build the 154 units that will be affordable to those who need it most. There is no assurance that there will be appropriately increased law enforcement or fire safety facilities built. There is no assurance that Cuesta College will have a satellite campus, because the only thing that's being offered by the DR is the dirt, land donations--nothing to ensure that those critical services will be built to accommodate the 25% increase in Nipomo's population.

And who's to stop Shea Homes from doing what they're doing now at Trilogy in a few years: filling in spaces where they promised a community commercial center with 300 more homes, when there is not funding for a new fire station or sheriff's station or satellite campus or even truly affordable housing for low-income families???

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NAC website <https://stopdanareserve.com/> Email: [nipomoaction@gmail.com](mailto:nipomoaction@gmail.com)

*The Nipomo Action Committee's (NAC) mission is to collaborate with all interested Nipomo and central coast stakeholders to maintain and enhance Nipomo's rural character and ensure appropriate and compatible growth consistent with the unique biodiversity and cultural heritage of this area now and for generations to come.*

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