



LET THE COMMUNITY DECIDE NIPOMO'S FUTURE
*Standing for Real Affordable Housing, Critical Infrastructure,
and Environmental Preservation*

November 2024 Newsletter

Stop the Dana Reserve as currently proposed--a socially & environmentally irresponsible mega-development in Nipomo

Upcoming important dates—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

November 14--Next [LAFCO consideration hearing](#) *Write your letters to LAFCO and send them via [this link](#).*

Sunday, Dec. 8 @ 5pm NAC Community Meeting, Blacklake Community Room, 498 Colonial Place

February 5—Court hearing on NAC and CNPS lawsuit against the County and NKT

UPDATE ON Endangered species on Dana Reserve land The Dana Reserve Project holds the largest remaining oak forest and woodland remaining on private property on the Nipomo mesa including rare and endangered plant species. Burton Mesa chaparral plants, specifically the Nipomo Manzanita, have been dismissed by the developer and County planners as not rare, not robust, and not unique. **This is incorrect.**

A soon-to-be-published peer-reviewed study by researchers at the University of California, Riverside has established the Nipomo Manzanita as a new species of *Arctostaphylos*, with fewer than 750 individuals remaining *anywhere*, some centuries old. This project site is home to over a third of the plant's entire remaining population. This new discovery is an opportunity for LAFCO to adequately review the cumulative biological impacts of this project and assess the risks of irreplaceable habitat loss.

This critical information underscores the County's inadequate oversight of the cumulative biological impacts. The project also includes the removal of 3,000 oaks and poses risks to the long-term survival of federally and state-listed endangered species like the Pismo clarkia.

MORE ON LAFCO STUDY SESSION

LAFCO's authority and legislative purpose are established in Government Code Section 56000 et seq. The primary role of LAFCO is to promote orderly growth and development, ensuring the social, fiscal, and economic well-being of the region such as preventing urban sprawl, preserving open space and prime agricultural lands, and efficiently extending government services.

The proposed annexation of the DR acreage to the NCSA service area is inconsistent with a key LAFCO policy 2.3.2, which states, "Prior to annexation of territory within an agency sphere of influence, the commission encourages development on vacant or underutilized parcels already within the boundaries of a jurisdiction." Many available vacant parcels are within the current service area, where infrastructure already exists within walking distance of shops, schools, and parks. Policy 2.3.2. further states "The agency should provide LAFCO with a build-out estimate or inventory and document how it was prepared." This has not been done

Commissioner Paulding asked about data provided in line with LAFCO Policy 2.3.2 "Prior to annexation of territory within an agency's Sphere of Influence, the Commission encourages development on vacant or underutilized parcels already within the boundaries of a jurisdiction. The agency should provide LAFCO with a build-out estimate or inventory and document how it was prepared"

Commissioner Paulding inquired about the reference to the Housing and Infrastructure Framework in the staff report.

The **final** staff report is due out on November 7th, giving the public less than a week to review before the next LAFCO meeting on the 14th. Click [here](#) to access after the 7th. **Letters should be sent via the [LAFCO website](#) ASAP**

UPDATE ON DOCUMENTARY VIDEO PROJECT

Ashley and Spenser have been recording interviews with local residents and experts in biology, urban planning, water resources, affordable housing and more. Many of these interviews are being posted on NAC's social media accounts. **WHAT YOU CAN DO** is to go to NAC's social media platforms and give those videos a "like", forward them to others to do the same. We'll continue to spread the word and grow our community of well-informed people.

If you would like to be interviewed, to address a particular aspect of the Dana Project, please contact:

Ashley Gastineau 805-550-9166, Ashzeey33@gmail.com.

or Spenser Judd 805-263-8853, clearvisionbruh@gmail.com.

NAC website <https://stopdanareserve.com/> Email: 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.