

Letters

Tall buildings would 'dramatically' limit views

POLLY RAYE, *Taos*

The Taos News, 8/25/2016

The Town Council will vote next week on a zone change that would radically alter the appearance of our valley. One hundred seventy five acres, on both sides of Paseo del Pueblo Sur and on Paseo del Canon, are proposed for rezoning to allow tall hotels.

One and two story buildings blend into the landscape so our views of the mountains are unobstructed, but tall buildings would dramatically limit those views.

A proposal of this magnitude needs time for public discussion and consideration. Vision 2020 is our guiding document for development. It was created by hundreds of citizens through months of meetings. The document itself and the vision it presents were approved by the citizens and ratified by the Town Council. There should be compelling reasons for any development that contradicts it.

Tourism is a booming business worldwide, now accounting for nearly a tenth of global gross domestic product (GDP). If Taos is developed in a way that respects our natural beauty, culture and history, we will get our share.

An article in the Aug. 13 issue of *The Economist* is titled "Nothing to see here: A number of beauty spots are severely restricting tourism." Spain, Greece, New Zealand, Thailand and the Netherlands are among places that are restricting or even banning tourism because locals are angry that inadequate planning destroyed local ambiance. Let's not let that happen here.

Please contact Town Council members and encourage them to delay this vote until the public has the information and discussions such a major change – and indeed any zoning change – deserves. Up-zoning almost always makes surrounding properties less valuable. If we lose our unobstructed mountain views, we all lose.

Copyright (c)2016 The Taos News 8/25/2016

Powered by TECNAVIA