

Letters

Reject 'brash new zoning direction'

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For the following reasons and more, we believe that the zoning changes under consideration for the 136 acres in the Sagebrush Inn & Hampton Inn area should be rejected. This appears to be a solution in search of a problem.

We believe there are sufficient hotel rooms in town to handle our tourist's needs. There is no need to bring hundreds of additional accommodations to the area under consideration. We do agree the town should do a better job of enforcing existing health codes to ensure a positive visitor experience.

We are concerned that creating a special zoning district for four-story hotels will only be the beginning. This move may open the floodgates for other property owners to request similar zoning exemptions for their properties. Once the precedent is set, how could the Town Council in good conscience deny future requests?

We believe the town should focus their attempts to provide more hotel rooms (if needed) to the downtown area around the Plaza or the convention center since these are the areas visitors will be spending their time. Another more suitable area for development would be along the Paseo where similar commercial development already exists and vacant property is already zoned for motels.

We believe the town is not properly advertising the fact they plan to allow 50 foot tall buildings as measured to the roof deck, and they would allow mechanical equipment rooms and parapets to extend above the 50 foot mark. Thus, buildings could easily approach 60 feet in height.

Please take this opportunity to reject this brash new zoning direction and reconsider the many viable alternatives which make much more sense for Taos.