

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Strong Opposition to "The Haven" Development
Date: Thursday, May 22, 2025 2:23:18 PM

From: Lauren Hanneman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 9:21 AM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Strong Opposition to "The Haven" Development

******CAUTION:** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

Dear Board of Supervisors,

My name is Lauren Hanneman and I am faculty in the Environmental Science/Oceanography Department at Cabrillo College. My background is in watershed monitoring, environmental policy, and environmental conservation.

I strongly oppose the proposed "The Haven" development for several reasons that include the loss of rare and endangered habitat, strains on the water supply, inadequate infrastructure to accommodate increased traffic volume, and the location of units of high density housing in a high-risk fire zone.

This proposed site sits on a 40 acre Sandhills site near Henry Cowell State Park. The Sand Hills are an incredibly unique ecosystem and are home to endemic and endangered species found nowhere else. Although portions of the Sandhills are protected, habitat fragmentation due to development continues to undermine the conservation efforts of this ecosystem which is naturally rare due to the limited geographic range. In addition, there are no walkable areas or transit lines which will increase the number and density of vehicles on the roads which will not only increase the number of wildlife fatalities, it will also impede evacuation efforts if **and** when fires return to this area.

I am aware of Governor Newsom's executive order to increase housing density and support the efforts to increase housing density in city hubs such as downtown Santa Cruz. However, this proposed site is far outside of transportation hubs and city centers. On his personal [site](#), it is stated, "*Governor Newsom also issued an executive order to*

support efforts to transform undeveloped and underutilized infill sites and buildings into housing. The order will help communities build thriving downtown cores, and new housing near transportation hubs and job centers — creating more housing options for Californians while further aligning the state's housing and climate goals." This proposed site has none of these provisions and is located in an unincorporated zone. In addition, the removal of 600 mature trees is the opposite of working towards achieving the stated climate goals. Simply stated, this proposed development site is a land grab that will be of little to no benefit to our community (including our non-human community) and will come with costs that are impossible to measure.

I implore you to oppose "The Haven" development and consider alternate options for preserving this invaluable land. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lauren Hanneman