

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Stop the Haven Development
Date: Friday, May 23, 2025 7:49:29 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Denise [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 7:42 AM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Stop the Haven Development

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Following is a letter written by a neighbor that sums up our feeling regarding the ill conceived Haven development in Santa Cruz County:

“We have several concerns over The Haven development on Graham Hill Road near Scotts Valley but we are most concerned about fires, about safety and evacuation, and the impact this development will have on Graham Hill and surrounding community. Our climate is changing, the behavior of fire has only intensified. We should never forget and certainly we should learn from the devastation and lives lost in the Oakland Hills fire in the 1991 and since then. We bring up the Oakland Tunnel Fire because back then it was termed a wildland-urban interface fire. The Haven development is also in a wildland-urban area, where human development and wildland vegetation meet. More and more fires today are in these types of areas.

We all have a responsibility to protect communities from fires as best we can by having the roads and infrastructure necessary to allow for safe passage. The current residential area surrounding Lockwood Lane will literally be sandwiched between two new developments - The Haven, with 157 houses and 34 townhouses on Graham Hill, and Valley Gardens, with 196 houses on Mt Hermon Rd. People living in that area have to use either Graham Hill Rd or Mt Hermon Rd to enter and exit their homes. With Graham Hill and Mt Hermon being main arteries for people travelling in and out of San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley, it will be nearly impossible for those who rely on Lockwood Lane to exit safely.

Here are some examples of devastating wildland-urban interface fires and their effects and why we should take note, learn and change the course of where and how we build developments.

Palisades Fire - Jan 7- Jan 31, 2025:

Deaths: 12

Structures destroyed: 6837, including 5419 homes Acres burned: 23,448 Cost of damage: \$28 – 53.8 billion between both Palisades and Eaton fires (in 2025 dollars)

Eaton Fire - Jan 7- Jan 31, 2025:

Deaths: 18

Structures destroyed 9418, including 6011 homes Acres burned: 14,021 Cost of damage: \$28 – 53.8 billion between both Palisades and Eaton fires(in 2025 dollars)

CZU Fire – Aug 16 – Sept 22, 2020

Deaths: 1

Structures burned: 1490, including 697 homes Acres burned: 86,509 Cost of damage: \$68+ million (in 2020 dollars)

Camp Fire/Paradise area - Nov 8 – Nov 25, 2018:

Deaths: 85

Structures: 18,804, including 9000 homes Acres burned: 153,336 Cost of damage: \$16.65 billion (in 2018 dollars)

Tubbs Fire – Santa Rosa/Calistoga - Oct 8 -Oct 31, 2017:

Deaths: 22

Structures destroyed: 5643, including 2800 homes Acres burned: 36,807 Cost of damage: \$1.3 billion (in 2017 dollars)

Oakland Tunnel Fire – Oct 19 – Oct 31 1991

Deaths: 25

Structures destroyed: 2843 homes

Acres burned: 1520

Cost of damage: \$2.99 billion (in 2024 dollars)”

I would add that, although not in California, the Lahaina fire is a tragic example of what can happen when gridlock and wildfires intersect. Please stop the Haven development. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Denise Fritsch

Ben Lomond

Sent from my iPhone