

Hello Planning Commissioners,

As you know, I immigrated long ago as a young man from a poor country in search of the land of opportunity, America. Based on the belief that everyone is given a fair opportunity, I worked hard and did my very best. During my time managing two start-ups, I worked tirelessly as I felt a great responsibility to my employees, their families, and investors who worked together. As a result, I was able to achieve the American Dream, and I founded the Steve Kim Foundation more than 25 years ago. I felt I should use my success for helping others who are financially challenged, not just for myself. From that time to present day, I have continued to seek out people in need of help without discriminating against race or nationality, caring for them, and providing them with new life opportunities.

One of the key principles in my life is to spend my time and money on meaningful work without being wasteful. These were my core values while running a company in the past, running a golf course in the present, and will also hold true while running a resort in the future.

Four years ago, due to the declining golf population, the 9-hole golf course was abandoned. Instead of allowing it to sit unused and unproductive, I had the idea of converting a portion of that land into a golf resort that visiting guests and Santa Clarita residents would be able to enjoy together. I was also very excited that it could boost the local economy and create many new jobs. When I put my thoughts into action, I expected that everyone, not just the City officials, would applaud and welcome the idea.

After the initial development plans were submitted to the City in February 2018, I had the opportunity to meet with Laurene Weste, the Mayor at the time, and Tom Cole, Community Development Director. Neither of them mentioned that changing the zoning would be a problem or that a similar amount of open space land would need to be donated to the City. Among the items discussed, there was the suggestion to increase the size of the ballroom to be able to host large events since no such facility exists in Santa Clarita.

I understand that the EIR process is complex and that it requires sufficient time to address its requirements and criteria. After having submitted all of the pertinent documents, drawings, and exhibits, the assumption was that it would only take a reasonable amount of time for a project of this size and nature. After going much slower than expected, I met Tom Cole how you could help me expediate the process and he told me that it is a long process and the EIR document has to be perfect to protect from any law suits later.

Two and a half years after submission, the Draft EIR was finally published. It was my understanding that if the Draft EIR did not contain any significant impacts that could not be mitigated, then the purpose of the public hearings was to objectively address any pending issues or those items needing revision. We have always been open to discussing and addressing items that help the project move forward.

My expectation was for a process that would objectively review the project, review the responses that were provided by the applicant to the questions raised during the public hearings, and provide a fair hearing for all parties involved.

With the prolonged public comment period and the inability to have a true dialogue because of the video conference set-up of the public hearings, the hearing environment has become unfair. After the public comment was over, whenever a new issue was raised, we were not actually given a chance to respond instantly, even though me and my consultants were available. For example, the issue of traffic has been raised multiple times during the commissioners' discussion in regards to increased traffic volume and ridesharing programs. The public hearings would be more productive, if my traffic consultant could have addressed those concerns immediately.

Other jurisdictions have set up their video conference hearings to allow for two-way discussion between the commissioners and the applicants and their consultants. This dialogue not only helps quickly clarify any issues, but helps to maintain a more equitable hearing environment. Please follow the links to other public hearings: [San Bernardino PH](#), [LA County DRP PH](#)

The most unfortunate and hurtful comments were those from the third public hearing on March 2. One of the planning commissioners, forgetting her official position, said without hesitation that "the donations from Steve Kim foundation to local non-profit organizations was done to buy their support." Please find the commissioner Lisa Eichman's comment from the video clip: [planning commissioner's comments on Mar 2, 2021](#).

Is it permissible for a public official to distort the good and innocent intentions of others with a negative and critical attitude during a public hearing?

During the same public hearing, a member of the Stop Sand Canyon Task Force made the prejudiced remark that "Steve Kim would be pulling staff from Chinatown." Not only did the comment reflect racist thinking, none of the commissioners asked for restraint or even addressed the inappropriateness of the remark.

Due to the project getting repeatedly attacked by the same persons with the same false claims and accusations, and the Sand Canyon HOA board arbitrarily blocking me from sharing project information with their resident members, I have made the effort to publicly share all the project related EIR documents in our new web site: www.sandcanyonresort.com. I also sent letters to all of the opponents asking for the meeting in person and have a chance work together but not a single person responded. Sadly, I cannot help but think that what occurred at the last hearing was damaging to the ideals of fairness and impartial review.

The development of golf resorts like this is a very good opportunity for the fast-growing city of Santa Clarita. Even though there are a few oppositions, I believe that you as a commissioner should support this project for the whole community of Santa Clarita.

We will be submitting additional project information in regards to the latest revisions and to comments from the last public hearing within a few days. After reviewing the materials, I want to address any questions in person or over the Zoom meeting. Please arrange the meeting through Hai Nguyen.

Thank you,

Steve Kim
Sand Canyon Resort