

DAILY PILOT

Monday, April 16, 2012
2:39 p.m. PDT

- HOME NEWS SPORTS LIFE + ARTS OPINION OFFERS & DEALS
- O.C. Now Business & Real Estate Education Politics Public Safety Obituaries For The Record

IN THE NEWS: VIRGEN: ABBOTT KEEPS INSPIRING | COSTA MESA CANCELS MEETING ON CHARTER OVER INADEQUATE NOTICE



Home > News > Opinion

Commentary: A developed Banning Ranch will make us miserable

Comments 10

Share 52 +1 0

By Gary Reasoner
April 5, 2012 | 9:35 p.m.

I recently attended the Newport Beach Planning Commission meeting where the draft environmental impact report for the Banning Ranch development was approved (["Planners send review onward," March 24](#)).

This was hardly a surprise given the current city management's unrelenting focus on pushing this development through and the commission's makeup, where newest member Tim Brown had already blogged before his appointment to the commission that the proposed development of the 400-acre parcel was a win-win for the city of Newport Beach and that the open space initiative by the citizens should be ignored.

Unless you are one of the few, like the Newport Banning Ranch LLC or anyone else lining their pockets with the large amount of money this development will generate, there is nothing about this proposal that is a win-win. This is not another welcome and productive addition to Newport as was Newport Coast.

TOPICS
[Petroleum Industry](#)

The addition of 1,735 new residences, the preponderance of which are high-density, three-story condos, will mean excavation of millions of tons of highly toxic soil from the old oil fields, 10 years of nonstop construction with noise, dust, congestion and the corresponding negative impact on existing property values. There is nothing about this development plan that could be considered a win for Newport and certainly not for Costa Mesa.

Just the traffic implications are a nightmare, especially in light of the formal cancellation of the 19th Street bridge in

Stay Connected

Follow us on Facebook »
@TheDailyPilot



Times Community News Staff on Twitter



LAWilliams30 Ex-wfe who was allegedly tortured by hus in work breakroom won't look at him, began crying when asked to ID him in court. 11 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite



LAWilliams30 Defense in McClain trial telling jurors client acted in self defense before he snapped calling him "completely overwhelmed". 24 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite



BritneyJBarnes Read about one of @THINK_together alumna who succeeded and came back to help the next generation bit.ly/HHNlf4 24 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite



Joannaclay RT @latimesmost: Toll from Oklahoma tornadoes rises to six dead 20 injured lat me/1090MI



LAWilliams30 Ex-wfe who was allegedly tortured by hus in work breakroom won't look at him, began crying when asked to ID him in court. 6 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite



LAWilliams30 Defense in McClain trial telling jurors client acted in self defense before he snapped calling him "completely overwhelmed". 19 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite

BritneyJBarnes Read about one of

Costa Mesa ("OCTA removes bridge from plan," March 13). The traffic has to either use Superior Avenue, Pacific Coast Highway or surface streets in Costa Mesa, all of which are already congested.

Estimates are that if this development is allowed to go forward as planned, it will add about 4,300 cars to the area with some 34,000 trips per day, not including additional traffic from the hotel and accompanying strip mall. The cost in time and frustration will add to the commuting misery for all residents, making each day like a summer weekend.

This development as proposed will increase Newport's population by almost 10% while providing no funding for additional schools, police, fire or other critical city support services. Newport Beach residents will have their essential city services diluted, which will raise costs in the long term.

Throw into the mix that one of the last large tracts of open land along the coast from here to San Diego is going to become a high-density community and a glorified strip mall, it just doesn't make sense.

Newport Beach residents have made it clear on several initiatives over the last decade that the preference is for Banning Ranch to be used as a park and open space.

At one time, I supported a limited and modest development of this parcel, but after careful examination, this development as it currently stands is not acceptable. I urge all Newport Beach residents to take a close look at what is proposed, forewarned is fair-warned.

This is a quality of life issue for all Newport and Costa Mesa residents. This development will present nothing but headaches and problems for every citizen to deal with long after the developers have made their money and left.

GARY REASONER is a Newport Beach resident.



Comments 10

Share 52 +1 0

« Previous Story More Opinion Next Story »

- It's A Gray Area: Health-care plan arguments centered around 1942 case
- JWA to offer flights to Mexico



@THINK_together alumna who succeeded and came back to help the next generation bit.ly/HHNlf4

19 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite



joannaclay RT @latimesmost: Toll from Oklahoma tornadoes rises to six dead 20 injured lat me/1000MT

Tweets and retweets from Times Community News staff.

advertisement

PlumberSurplus.com
Point. Click. Plumb.™

Low Prices & Free Shipping
on 1000s of Products!



Orange County
LVN School

- Day, Evening & Weekend Classes Available
- Accredited Program
- Graduate Services

Call Now!
800-640-2291





fattyboup at 9:13 PM April 05, 2012

1. The proposed development at Banning Ranch is OVER TWICE AS LARGE AND FOUR TIMES AS DENSE as anything ever built along along the OC Coast in recent memory. It plans for nearly as many homes as all of Newport Coast, on a parcel about 1/10th the size of Newport Coast. It is a super-sized mega development on steroids!

2. At nearly 1400 homes and 3000 people, it is, in effect, a small town. It is the absolute largest project allowed under the General Plan.

3. In its current state, Banning Ranch has a thriving wildlife population (including endangered species and species of special concern). It is truly nature's last stand in this area. The addition of 3000 people onto this small mesa will simply overwhelm the current wildlife and destroy the habitat (not to mention create traffic nightmares for the surrounding neighborhoods).

4. The Banning Ranch Conservancy's vision will result in a superior public open space, park and coastal nature preserve involving ALL of Banning Ranch, at a lower cost and in a more timely manner than the developers' plan. A wonderful legacy to leave our children!

5. We need your help! Please join the Banning Ranch Conservancy.

www.banningranchconservancy.org or call 714-719-2148

Avenging Eagle at 3:48 PM April 05, 2012

Does the Coastal Commission need to weigh in on this? Can't imagine they'd sign off on it, and that's a good thing. Keep the 19th Street bridge off the master plan!

DorothyKraus at 3:44 PM April 05, 2012

For those of you who think Banning Ranch is a 'degraded' parcel of land, you can thank the owners and developers of Banning Ranch who continue to mow and roto-till the entire property well beyond the 100' fire safety buffer. Their objective is to kill everything out there so that more people like Mr. Ellis buy into the 'degraded' nature of the property, and thus justify this very bad development. Banning Ranch is a flourishing ecosystem that would better serve Newport Beach and its surrounding communities as open space. Dorothy Kraus, Newport Beach

[O.C.'s Janitorial Service](#) Free Quote! Commercial buildings & restaurant cleaning and maintenance executivejanitorial.co

[Kitchen & Bath Remodeling](#) Beautiful & Affordable from People You Can Trust www.preferredkitchenandbath.com

[Massage Heights Newport](#) \$49.99 Intro 1-Hour Massage + Free Aromatherapy. Call today! www.MassageHeightsNewport.com AdChoices ▶



Burbank Leader | Coastline Pilot | Pasadena Sun | Daily Pilot |
Glendale News-Press | Huntington Beach Independent |
La Canada Valley Sun

Media Partners | Beverly Press & Park Labrea News | San Clemente Times |
Dana Point Times | The Capistrano Dispatch

Terms of Use | Privacy Policy, Updated: 10/19/2011 | Daily Pilot, 1375 Sunflower Ave.,
Costa Mesa, California 92626 | Copyright © 2012

Site designed by Jacob Reed.

A Los Angeles Times Website.