

Daniel Wells - Jefferson School District Trustee

Allow me to begin by stating my opinion that the Tracy Hills project is on the whole a good project with basically a good plan - although there is some question of the issues arising out of the proximity of the development to Site 300. One would expect good planning for Tracy Hills since it has been in the works for over a decade. The mitigation agreement offered to the Jefferson School District by AKT Development Corp. and approved by our school board in October 2003 is a comprehensive agreement that ensures the funding of facilities needs of the Jefferson School District generated by development in Tracy Hills. Further, their anonymous donation to support this year's Parents Clubs' Fall Carnival was a generous and welcome gift.

The Tracy Hills project in its entirety will be built

within the Jefferson School District. The South Schulte project, which is the majority of the development defined within Measure V, also resides within our district. Thus, the impact of either measure is greater to the Jefferson School District than to any other local entity. Therefore, these ballot measures should hold greater importance to residents of our district when they cast their votes. These developments will occur regardless of the outcome of the election, it is just a matter of when.

That said, the passage of either Measure U or V is bad for residents of the Jefferson School District, and here's why. It is the ultimate intention of our district to Unify and build our own high school in our own district. Then, students of our district would no longer feed into the Tracy Unified district to attend high school, nor

deal with the issues that face students attending both high schools within the Tracy Unified School District.

As a representative of the residents of our district, the overwhelming feedback I have received from the parents in our community is to have their children attend a high school located in and managed by our own district.

Unfortunately, our district would have already begun the process of unification if it were not for a state requirement that 25 percent of our student enrollment be of high school attending age. The results of the most recent analysis of our district determined last year was that our percentage was at 24.7 percent, thus

disqualifying our district from becoming eligible for unification at this time.

If Measure U or V were to pass NOW, young families with young school

age children would move in to our district, keeping our percentage of high school age children lower than the required 25 percent, and further delaying the possibility of the unification of the Jefferson School District.

From a personal perspective, I observe that Measure A was initiated by a group of citizens whose motive was not profit-based, but rather that for a quality community with a city capable of providing adequate services to those citizens already living here, before

allowing massive development to outpace infrastructure and service capacity. Measures U & V are developer-initiated, and their primary motivation is profit.

I do not believe our community would be best

served by allowing developers to have their hands in our

ballot boxes. As a city, we would do well to vote down such initiatives and to vote into office a city council with enough guts to grab the reins and represent those citizens who actually voted them into office, and who also voted for slower, better-managed growth, rather than leaving a city council in place that cow-tows to developers and their developer fees.

As Jefferson School District residents, unless you wish to continue sending our kids to Tracy Unified high schools, vote against Measures U & V, and increase the possibility of your children attending our high school within our district.

