

Testimony for the ECA Public Hearing May 20, 2013

Council Members,

I bring you a sample of my 'lawn' that is located on the south side of my house, but due to the fact that I cannot cut any of the trees to the south of it, it is only moss. You see, I border a flat portion of George Davis Creek that runs seasonally. Therefore, I have a 150' buffer that I cannot alter in any way. One of my favorite past times is gardening and I would love to remove a few trees so I can have a nice lawn to set off my beautiful plants.

When my husband and I moved here 35 years ago, there were no such buffers. However, after seeing what irresponsible development had done to the drainage and environment around me, I worked diligently on the Comprehensive Plan the County did in the 1990's after the GMA was enacted. I have been very involved in the recent Planning Commission Meetings on the update of the ECA. I have thoroughly reviewed the Ingelwood Sub-basin Plan Addendum. And, I have thoroughly reviewed the recent Best Available Science Study done by AMEC Environmental where most of the current Environmental Protections were preserved.

The City has granted variances or conditional use permits to build in these protected areas in the past. They are now considering 'pilot' programs that act pretty much like a variance but may have some follow up. I say, a rule is a rule. We all live here together. What one person does impacts another. If we have a rule for buffers around wetlands and streams or if we have slopes deemed too steep to build on, then those are the rules. I am willing to sacrifice my lawn because it is the law. I ask others to respect the law also and not to try to skirt around it.

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