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Public Comment

1. The entire idea of the Town Center in Sammamish was predicated on the need to follow the King County GMA and to build high density housing to avoid urban sprawl and unnecessary impact on the environment. This act assumes that there will be 428k additional jobs by 2031 (based on 2011 data). All the assumptions of this model has changed now that we are dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic and there were 273k jobs lost between March 1st and May 2nd of this year in King County (19x greater than in the preceeding two months). The trend of unprecedented increases in jobless claims has continued over the past three months. June's unemployment rate for King County stands at 9.3% up from 3% one year ago. Given the fact that the City of Sammamish will have to pay a large sum of money if the Town Center is built and given that there is a very small percentage of low income housing, I think we need to revisit if this is even in the best interest of our City.

2. Sammamish is geographically constrained and there are limited improvements that can be made in transportation so Concurrency data is very important to our City. There are only a few ways on and off of the Plateau. Before the Town Center Can be built, we must increase bus service to the Plateau and ideally the train should be built coming into Issaquah.

3. Sammamish is also constrained by wetlands, watershed, landslide hazard and other water management issues. Everything we do on top of the plateau impacts Lake Sammamish down below. The water management is already of great concern which is why there is no building allowed in Critical Areas and part of the reason for a citywide building moratorium. The more we increase impervious surfaces (IE pavement) the more water will flow downhill. I don't think the full environmental impact has been properly investigated as to the impact the building of the Town Center will have on these sensitive areas.

Finally, if we are going to go through with building the Town Center I think the project should be divided into phases in order of the greatest value to the City. I consider it a high likelihood that the developer will run out of money and leave the City and its residents in a big mess. Therefore, the developer should either put enough money for the whole project into a trust managed by the City up front, or they should build it in phases so that the damage is more easily controlled if building needs to stop.

There has never been a vaccine developed for a coronavirus. Other vaccines took on average 15 years or more to develop. Our lives have been forever changed by Covid 19. To proceed forward with the Town Center as if we still need to follow the GMA and nothing has changed is sheer madness and folly. Further, the City staff have already made clear that a more in depth environmental impact study is required before construction on the Town Center can resume.

I implore those in a position to make a decision to carefully consider the consequences of their actions. Once something is built it cannot be unbuilt. We are rushing to build a Town Center without following the advice of our City Planners at a time when we frankly don't need the new infrastructure and there is the potential for irreparable harm on our environment in Sammamish. Please reconsider.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kathleen C. Thompson