

EXHIBIT 3



Eastern Sierra Unified School District

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Heidi Torix

Superintendent

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April 14, 2020

Wendy Sugimura
Mono County Community Planning Commission
Community Development Director
PO Box 347
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

RE: Tioga Community Housing Plan and the impacts on the Eastern Sierra Unified School District

Ms. Sugimura and the Mono County Community Planning Commission,

Here at Eastern Sierra Unified School District (ESUSD), we open our doors and welcome each child as they come to us. Aside from student safety, our primary job is to educate our students to the best of our ability. In order to do so, the district must ensure we have properly credentialed teachers, appropriate supplies and facilities, and appropriate class sizes (student-to-teacher ratio). ESUSD is funded by our property taxes (Basic Aid), not by ADA (Average Daily Attendance, or the number of students we have in seat). Since ESUSD is a Basic Aid school district, and because of our limited means of revenue, I'd like to address a few items put forth in the Subsequent Environmental Impact Reports dated June of 2019 and March of 2020.


As found in pages 5.5-22 and 5.5-23 (which addresses goal 12.A Improving Community-School Support), the plan points out that ESUSD will receive enough developer fees to cover a variety of costs including new facilities and community programs. To clarify, ESUSD would receive developer fees that could possibly cover the need of an additional portable classroom. These fees are restricted from being used

for salaries, which would be the on-going, unfunded cost the district would incur. Specifically, for grades K-3, California schools must follow Class Size Reduction which means that our class sizes cannot handle more than 24 students without having to hire an additional teacher. If we see an influx of students in our primary grades, the dollars don't automatically come with those students; instead, the district is forced to hire an additional teacher(s) with limited tax dollar revenues. Any additional programs that might've been mentioned in the creation of this plan are not budgeted in the districts multi-year budget; these programs would also be additional costs to the district.

Specific numbers of students and the impact on our Lee Vining schools is mentioned beginning in section 5.8 of the Environmental Impacts and Mitigating Policies and Actions Impact Services. Though ESUSD cannot predict the number of students this project could possibly bring, it should be stated that any influx of students will also have an impact on class sizes other than K-3. One must look at the significant difference of educating a classroom with less than 20 students versus a classroom with many more. Communication that occurred with our prior CBO, Mollie Nugent, (as mentioned in comments coming from ESUSD) should not be the sole basis of communication with the district. As noted, the discussion involves the infrastructure immediately needed should the project go through, not the on-going staff costs the district would incur.

It is not my intent to deter growth in Mono County as the school district is responsible for educating students, not building infrastructure. However, I want to be clear that as the Superintendent of ESUSD, I can say for certainty that additional students without equal funds to support staffing could put a great financial burden on our district.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (760) 932-7443, or email me at htorix@esUSD.org.

Sincerely,

Heidi Torix

Cc: Michael Draper, Planning Analyst
Cetera Rohl, ESUSD Chief Business Officer
Eastern Sierra Unified School District Board of Trustees