

I211

Maywan Krach

From: Aline Ohanesian <alineoha@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:30 AM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Subject: Squaw Valley

Dear Placer County officials:

I recently read a disturbing article about the proposed development of the majestic Squaw Valley. As a longtime visitor to the region who values its natural beauty I'm deeply opposed to the "Mountain Adventure Center" under consideration.

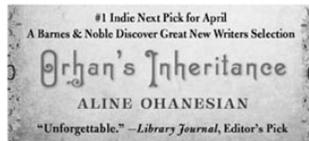
I bring my family to Squaw every year precisely because we want to get away from the over-developed corners of the world. We can afford to go anywhere in the world, but we come to Squaw to get away from large building, artificial indoor spaces. We come for the raw natural beauty for the low and sparse buildings.

To be honest, I've already been concerned and saddened by the rate and scope of development in the valley; it seems clear that environmental impacts are already threatening to permanently destroy the natural beauty of the area. In my frequent visits since the early 1980s, I've noted the dramatic increases in structures, cars, noise and pollution (including light pollution at night). These are MAJOR cumulative effects, and the proposed project will most certainly do far more and far worse damage.

PLEASE VOTE AGAINST this project.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Aline Ohanesian

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www.AlineOhanesian.com

"A remarkable, unforgettable novel." Publisher's Marketplace

I211-1
I211-2
I211-3

I211 Aline Ohanesian
July 15, 2015

- I211-1 The comment provides an opinion regarding the merits or qualities of the proposed project and does not address the content, analysis, or conclusions in the DEIR. The Placer County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors will take the commenter's opinions into consideration when making decisions regarding the project. Also, see the Master Response regarding the MAC.
- I211-2 The comment expresses concerns about the rate and scope of development in the Valley and the resulting cumulative effects of which the project will be a part. See the Master Response regarding the cumulative analysis.
- I211-3 The comment is directed towards the project approval process and does not address the content, analysis, or conclusions in the DEIR. Therefore, no further response is provided here. All comment letters submitted during the DEIR public review period will be reviewed and considered by the Placer County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors before a decision on the project is rendered.

I212

Placer County Community Development Resource Agency
Attention: Maywan Krach
3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: KSL Capital Partners Project

Squaw Valley is magnificent, just as it is.

Nature created a spectacular landscape at Squaw Valley. The huge, artificial project proposed would be ruinous of the gorgeous natural setting.

Surely there is an outcry against the construction of this monstrous project. The issues of natural resource protection, traffic, wasting of energy and water, sewer capacity, safety of users on foot, horse and bicycle are obvious.

Squaw Valley is already an attraction for recreational users. Let's not allow greed to sully Squaw Valley where people can truly recreate in one of the great natural settings of our country.

Please do not approve this project.

Thank you,

Christina Oldenburg
Christina Oldenburg
568 Montford Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941
and
3022 Serene Road
Soda Springs, CA 95728

I 1212-1
I 1212-2

I212 Christina Oldenburg
no date

- I212-1 Overall, the comment provides an opinion regarding the merits or qualities of the proposed project and does not address the content, analysis, or conclusions in the DEIR. The Placer County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors will take the commenter's opinions into consideration when making decisions regarding the project.
- In particular, the comment expresses concerns about natural resource protection, traffic, wasting of energy and water, sewer capacity, and safety of users on foot, horse, and bicycle. These issues are addressed in the DEIR and in the Master Responses in this FEIR.
- I212-2 The comment is directed towards the project approval process and does not address the content, analysis, or conclusions in the DEIR. Therefore, no further response is provided here. All comment letters submitted during the DEIR public review period will be reviewed and considered by the Placer County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors before a decision on the project is rendered.

I213

Maywan Krach

From: Ottenweller, Chris R. <cottenweller@orrick.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2015 5:06 PM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Subject: Squaw Valley Specific Plan EIR Comments

We are writing to comment on the draft EIR for the Squaw Valley Specific Plan. We are part-time residents of Tahoe Donner, Truckee, and frequent users of Squaw Valley, both during the winter and summer. We have been visiting Squaw Valley on a regular basis since 1983. Over that time we have visited Squaw Valley on average 20-25 days a year to ski, hike, and attend events. So we have a vested interest in the Specific Plan and the changes it will bring to the area. Our comments are divided into three categories: (1) size of the project; (2) impact on traffic; and (3) impact on water supply.

I213-1

Size

We are opposed to the overall size of the project. It is simply too large, too overwhelming, and too intrusive for the unique character of Olympic Valley. Consider that almost all of the Significant and Unavoidable (SU) and Significant (S) impacts can be directly traced to the project's size. Table 2-2 lists multiple SU and S impacts; many of these would not exist or would be substantially reduced if the size of the project were reduced. Yet the EIR does not assess how other alternatives, such as the Reduced Density Alternative, would affect these impacts. That is a failing of the EIR that should be corrected before the applicant and the agency move to a final EIR.

I213-2

In terms of environmental impact, the Reduced Density Alternative is a far better option. And the Reduced Density Alternative is more consistent with the SVGPLUO, the historic culture of Squaw Valley, and the unique surroundings. One fallacy of the applicant's plan is that it complies with the language and spirit of the SVGPLUO. A stated objective of the Specific Plan is to provide a resort in terms of size "on par with peer world class North American ski destinations." To the applicant that apparently means the bigger, the better. But the SVGPLUO does not endorse a "bigger the better" philosophy. It refers to a "top quality, year-round, destination resort." That does not say the build-out of Squaw Valley must rival Vail or Whistler. Squaw Valley already is a top quality, year round destination resort. Overbuilding it will detract from its attractiveness, not add to it. Adding to its amenities makes sense, to enhance its appeal, but doing too much will only bring problems to the area and detract from what is now an exciting, comfortable, and very user friendly ski area. Those qualities should not be changed.

I213-3

Traffic

It is obvious from Impacts 9-2 through 9-5 that the project will seriously and negatively impact traffic. Who wants to sit in traffic for hours to get to a ski area? Not us. Yet that is surely what these impacts allude to although they are written in a way to mask the true effects. The EIR does not adequately assess the effect on traffic. It refers to using three lanes on Squaw Valley Rd., changing the timing of lights, and using personnel to control traffic but those measures will only shift wait time from one group of cars to another; they will not solve the overall congestion. If the roads are not widened, and the EIR acknowledges they will not be widened, it is common sense that bringing more cars to the area will cause traffic jams. If the size is reduced, the congestion will be reduced. We would like to see a study of what impacts the Reduced Density Alternative would have on traffic delays.

I213-4

Water Supplies

It does not appear the EIR has considered the effect of the project on California’s drought conditions. How can there be planning of a large-scale development at this point without such a consideration, when each county is under orders to reduce water consumption? The draft EIR should be sent back for revision to consider the project under current state-wide drought conditions.

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I213-5

Finally, we urge you to require the applicant to prepare a revised EIR studying how the environmental impacts of the Reduced Density Alternative compare to the impacts of the Specific Plan.

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I213-6

Chris Ottenweller
Barbara Lovero

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For more information about Orrick, please visit <http://www.orrick.com>.

I213

Chris Ottenweller & Barbara Lovero
July 11, 2015

- I213-1 The comment is an introductory statement and does not address the content, analysis, or conclusions in the DEIR. Therefore, a response is not provided here. See detailed responses below to the detailed comments in this letter.
- I213-2 The comment states that the DEIR does not address how other alternatives, such as the Reduced Density Alternative, would affect the project's impacts. Chapter 17, "Alternatives," of the DEIR describes alternatives to the project, including those considered but not evaluated further (Section 17.2) and those selected for detailed analysis in the DEIR (Section 17.3). For those alternatives that were selected for detailed analysis in the DEIR, including the Reduced Density Alternative, an analysis of impacts is provided in the DEIR followed by a comparison of the alternative's impacts to those of the proposed project (using such terms as "less," "similar," and "greater" in italics following the impact discussion). These comparisons are compiled in Table 17-14, which shows the impacts of the alternatives as compared to those of the proposed project. This table was used to determine the Environmentally Superior Alternative (Section 17.3.8).
- CEQA does not require EIRs to evaluate alternatives at an equal level of detail as the proposed project. Rather, as stated on page 17-1 of the DEIR:
- The State CEQA Guidelines require that the EIR include sufficient information about each alternative to allow meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison with the proposed project. If an alternative would cause one or more significant effects in addition to those that would be caused by the project as proposed, the significant effects of the alternative must be discussed, but in less detail than the significant effects of the project as proposed (CCR Section 15126.6[d]).
- I213-3 See the Master Response regarding the Reduced Density Alternative. Regarding project consistency with the SVGPLUO, this issue addressed in the DEIR under Impact 4-2 (beginning on page 4-21).
- I213-4 The comment states that the DEIR does not adequately address traffic. See the Master Response regarding traffic and response to comment O8d-14 which addresses adequacy of the DEIR's traffic mitigation measures.
- The Reduced Density Alternative and its potential effects as compared with the proposed project are described on pages 17-24 through 17-31 of the DEIR. Specifically, transportation and circulation impacts associated with this alternative are described on pages 17-28 through 17-29. As described therein:
- traffic impacts would be less under this alternative; however, impacts would remain great enough that most, if not all of the mitigation measures required for the proposed project would likely also be required for this alternative. In addition, significant and unavoidable impacts identified for the proposed project (Impacts 9-2, 9-3, 9-4, and 9-5) would remain significant and unavoidable under this alternative. (*Less*)
- I213-5 See the Master Response regarding water supply for a discussion of the drought.
- I213-6 The comment asks that a revised EIR be prepared to study how the environmental impacts of the Reduced Density Alternative compare to the impacts of the Specific Plan. However, for the reasons discussed under response to comment I213-2, the analysis is adequate and no changes to the DEIR are necessary.

I214

Maywan Krach

From: Scott Patrick <scott@baypack.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 8:09 PM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Subject: Village at Squaw Valley Specific Plan

Project Manager Alex Fisch and Placer County Planning Department,

Please accept this comment on the Draft EIR for the above referenced project. (State Clearinghouse # 2012102023).

As a homeowner at the Squaw Valley Lodge I have rounded the corner of Squaw Valley Road South onto Squaw Peak Road scores of times and all-too-often encountered foot-traffic from skiers walking in the middle of the road to the Tram from their cars, delivery trucks maneuvering into the Tram loading dock and day skiers stopping at the Tram curb to load and unload. These are safety and traffic congestion issues that will only get worse with the new development and the addition of hundreds of new homeowners and skiers. But there is no mention of this impact in the dEIR. Please ensure that it is addressed at this time.

I214-1

Also, with construction comes the inevitable noise and traffic necessary to create a future Village. Yet there is the expectation that, Placer County regulations notwithstanding, there will be unavoidable and excessive noise and traffic. I ask that Placer County review their regulations specific to this project and recognize that we are a vacation and resort community and not a strip mall in Roseville and thereby warrant special consideration to limit the construction noise and traffic.

I214-2

Thank you for considering our thoughts above,

Scott Patrick
201 Squaw Peak Road Unit # 113
Olympic Valley, CA. 96146

I214Scott Patrick
July 15, 2015

I214-1 See the Master Response regarding traffic issues at Squaw Valley Road and Squaw Peak Road.

I214-2 The comment is directed towards the project approval process and does not address the content, analysis, or conclusions in the DEIR. Therefore, no further response is provided here. All comment letters submitted during the DEIR public review period will be reviewed and considered by the Placer County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors before a decision on the project is rendered.

I215

Maywan Krach

From: Sandy Pavel <tahoecedar@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 9:42 AM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Subject: The expansion in Squaw Valley

The expansion of the resort in Squaw Valley is preposterous. Already low on water, and already difficult to maintain a year round business, why do we need more! We have not had decent snow for several years now, and already so many rooms empty and businesses barely able to make it. The noise from the resort is already too loud, and so many visual eyesores...I am totally against wrecking this historical valley any more. Especially bulldozing into new terrain. For decades, the mass rape of the land has gone unchecked. Like the time the resort planned a meeting about the trees and while everyone was at the meeting, they went out and clear cut the trees. I am tired of seeing such a beautiful treasure exploited and ruined. The water polluted, trash, noise, giant ugly buildings instead of pretty trees and native plants. We are not all greedy, only a few of us...

I215-1

I215

Sandy Pavel
May 19, 2015

I215-1

Overall, the comment provides an opinion regarding the merits or qualities of the proposed project and does not address the content, analysis, or conclusions in the DEIR. The Placer County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors will take the commenter's opinions into consideration when making decisions regarding the project.

In particular, the comment expresses concerns related to water supply, occupancy, noise, visual resources, historical resources, and tree removal. These issues are addressed in the DEIR and in the Master Responses in this FEIR.

I216

Maywan Krach

From: susanpelican@gmail.com on behalf of Susan Pelican <susan1@beeman.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:55 PM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Subject: Squaw Valley Village Specific Plan is Offensive.

The proposed *Squaw Valley Village Specific Plan* includes a series of highrise condo projects with more than 1,500 new bedrooms and a massive indoor amusement park with waterslides, fake rivers, arcades, and simulated sky-diving.

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State planning law requires thorough environmental review of large development proposals and an opportunity for the public to weigh in with citizen comments.

As a tourist who comes to Tahoe, I am offended by the size and scale of this proposal. High rises in a forrest of high trees?
An indoor amusement park when outdoors is the park we come to visit.

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I216-2
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Please do not accept this plan which is so offensive to people who visit Squaw for its pristinme and rustic beauty...We might have to find another place to visit.

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I216-3
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Susan Pelican, Nevada City, CA

I216Susan Pelican
July 16, 2015

I216-1 No specific issues related to the content, analysis, or conclusions in the DEIR are raised in this comment. No further response is provided here.

Section 1.7, "Project Review and CEQA Process," of the DEIR describes the CEQA process conducted to date for this project, including the opportunities for public involvement.

I216-2 Overall, the comment provides an opinion regarding the merits or qualities of the proposed project and does not address the content, analysis, or conclusions in the DEIR. The Placer County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors will take the commenter's opinions into consideration when making decisions regarding the project.

In particular, the comment expresses concerns related to the size and scale of the project, height of buildings, and the MAC. These issues are addressed in the DEIR and in the Master Responses in this FEIR.

I216-3 The comment is directed towards the project approval process and does not address the content, analysis, or conclusions in the DEIR. Therefore, no further response is provided here. All comment letters submitted during the DEIR public review period will be reviewed and considered by the Placer County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors before a decision on the project is rendered.

I217

kperlroth@gmail.com

Mark & Karen Perlroth
102 Hidden Lake Loop
Olympic Valley, CA
96146
June 17, 2015

Placer County Community Development Resource Agency
Attention: Maywan Krach
3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190
Auburn, CA 95603

Dr. Ms. Krach:

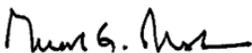
I and my wife are home owners in Olympic Valley. We have lived there for 10 years and love the place, its recreational activities and the splendor of the scenery and surroundings. It is an ideal retreat for year-round activities such as hiking, bicycling, skiing, swimming (at our pond) and general outdoor recreation.

We were *horrified* to learn of the plans for the construction of the projected enlargement of housing and crowding as well as the totally foreign concepts of what recreation in Olympic (Squaw) Valley is all about.

Those of us who came to Olympic Valley never contemplated a carnival Disney-like atmosphere. We are already troubled by the traffic and road noise. Are we now expected to tolerate a complete transformation of the Valley into a crowded, noisy, exhaust-polluted Disney-like project which would utterly transform our environment? We cannot think of a *less* welcome idea.

We urge you to reject the proposal in its entirety and will certainly do all we can to resist these unwelcome plans.

Yours truly,


Mark G. Perlroth MD


Karen A. Perlroth

I217-1

I217

Mark & Karen Perloth
June 17, 2015

I217-1

The comment expresses concerns related to the MAC, traffic, road noise, and air pollution. These issues are addressed in the DEIR and in the Master Responses in this FEIR.

The remainder of the comment is directed towards the project approval process and does not address the content, analysis, or conclusions in the DEIR. Therefore, no further response is provided here. All comment letters submitted during the DEIR public review period will be reviewed and considered by the Placer County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors before a decision on the project is rendered.

I218

Maywan Krach

From: Brandon Perry <brandonperry0@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 9:02 AM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Subject: Pro Squaw Valley Development

Hello,

I am in full support of the development proposal by KSL for Squaw Valley. I believe that they want responsible progress to occur in the Squaw Valley area. If the proposal becomes a reality Squaw Valley could become a world-class year round destination that would not only cater to skiers and boarders, but to a whole new group of people that could benefit by using the new areas throughout the year.

There is a lot of negative press coming from KSL opponents. They obviously don't want change. It's too bad that they don't see the big picture and that progress can be good... even if it's progress by a big corporation.

Sincerely,
Brandon Perry, Truckee resident

I218-1

I218 Brandon Perry
 June 19, 2015

I218-1 The comment provides an opinion regarding the merits or qualities of the proposed project and does not address the content, analysis, or conclusions in the DEIR. The Placer County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors will take the commenter's opinions into consideration when making decisions regarding the project.

1219

“Places behave as though they possess an imaginal interactivity or “presence” that reflects what was done to them and upon them, and they communicate this to their inhabitants and investigators through dreams, trauma, folklore and replays of past events” — Craig Chalquist, Ph.D., Terrapsychology

July 16, 2015

Dear Maywan:

Please consider the following commentary in response to the EIR for the proposed development at Squaw Valley. I realize that I may be submitting far too much for you to read, however, it may be digestible, and if nothing else, you can pull it up when you have a few minutes.

My father, Gardiner Pier, M.D. was a founder of Truckee Tahoe Medical Group in Squaw Valley in 1959. I was raised in Squaw Valley and am among many who are very strongly opposed to the proposed development. Reviewing the EIR strengthened my position. My viewpoint does not even attempt to consider the potential financial or economic gains from such development; it does not attempt to find redemption in tourist appeal for adventure parks, bowling alleys, more swimming pools, and other frivolous amenities that serve every whim and fancy. Instead, I am focused on a collective attitude that we can continue to expend resources, destroy our habitat, and worry about the consequences later. The indicators are stunningly obvious that the time for us to stop behaving in this way is right now. I find it astonishing that people like Andy Wirth continue to prevail despite the signs that we can no longer afford to have his type of attitude and behavior.

1219-1

I will begin with my response to the Sierra Sun article of July 1, entitled, “Sierra Watch-Unavoidable is unacceptable.”

What stands out for me is Chevis Hosea’s remark, “There’s been a lot of focus in the community once this (EIR) document came out on the number of significant unavoidable impacts.”

To say that the impact is “unavoidable,” is a lie. Of course it’s avoidable. Hosea’s choice of the word “unavoidable,” conveniently shifts responsibility away from the true source of behavior, in this case, KSL and Squaw Valley Ski Holdings LLC, as if the choice to destroy and develop is perpetrated by a supernatural force of some sort. In reality, it is simply reckless and opportunistic behavior being marketed in the same way junk food is marketed as nutritious. The corporations whose motive is profit over stewardship and conservation love using words such as “unfortunate,” or “unavoidable,” or “inevitable,” when their choices conflict with what they know on

1219-2

some very deep level, is immoral, unjust or destructive. But, as usual, lack of consciousness about such behavior prevails.

In this time of climate change, much of which is human influenced, where massive wildfires swallow millions of acres of forests, lakes and rivers dry up, and weather events impact seasonal change, many people including me, believe that we are being given a strong warning to change the way we think and behave. It is time to stop developing when there is no real need; time to stop feeding the addiction to more money and fatter profits; it is time to stop squandering our precious and very limited natural resources. Right now.

To say negative environmental impact is “unavoidable” is a costly lie. The word “unavoidable” immediately has the effect of convincing people not to argue. Historically, we have just shrugged our shoulders, complicit and compliant, as we were when millions of indigenous people were killed in the name of God and the survivors shoved onto corners of dried up land. We habitually lie to ourselves when we are struck by a desire to have what we want, failing to acknowledge the shadow. We consume without consciousness, we tell ourselves we’ll deal with it later; and we weave clever stories that serve our schemes at the expense of the greater good.

The more honest language for Hosea and KSL and Squaw Valley Ski Holdings LLC to use is,

“We are choosing to develop an area that should be left alone. We choose to build adventure parks and more shopping and hotel rooms even though we really don’t need to. We choose to perpetuate irresponsible and reckless behavior toward Nature. We are making a conscious choice to indulge our desire for profit at the expense of Nature and it is *not* our priority to make what we have more sustainable. We are in the business of making money and we really don’t give a damn about the cost in terms of contributing to the destruction of our natural resources. Like many corporations and individuals whose motive is profit, we have the collective mindset of a rapist who cares only about getting what he wants, denying any responsibility for causing pain and suffering, and hoping he will not have to accept the consequences for his destructive and damaging choices. We’ll do what is necessary to pacify, appease, and placate our doubters, including writing checks to non-profit organizations to make ourselves and others feel better about us, but in the end, we are just opportunists who will stop at nothing to get what we want.”

My question is, when you were little boys (and girls) and your mothers told you not to engage in immoral, destructive and careless behavior, did you listen and abide by her counsel? Or did you shove her into a corner, stuff a sock in her mouth and behave badly anyway?

So as you, KSL, Andy Wirth and Squaw Valley Ski Holdings LLC bulldoze trees, choke off water sources, and destroy beauty that you have absolutely no right whatsoever to destroy, at least be conscious enough to tell yourself and others the truth about

I219-2
cont.

what you're really doing. Just because we arrogantly call ourselves, "landowners" does not give us the absolute right to destroy what was here long before we left our heavy boot-prints in the soil. Nature is your ultimate Mother. Be good to her and love her as she has loved you. The consequences for not doing so are becoming more obvious. Don't be surprised if She decides that winter will never come again to Squaw Valley. It will be Her way of slapping your greedy little hands.

I2 19-2
cont.

Squaw Valley- Silenced Land

by Kimball C. Pier, Ph.D

Eight miles south of Truckee, a turn west out of the Truckee River canyon, brings you into Squaw Valley, the site of the 1960 Winter Olympic Games. It has since evolved into a world-renowned ski resort. During my growing up years, from 1959 until 1976, the little valley was mostly a lush green meadow embraced by high granite peaks from which the snow melted into creeks that tumbled down the mountains feeding into the Truckee River. Long ago, before the paved road was put in, there was a dirt trail winding its way through the forest used by Basque shepherders in the summers. The trail led to a camp in a grand meadow covering the entire valley floor giving their herds a full summer of grazing and water from the creek flowing through the meadow's center. The mountains surround the valley like great arms melting down into hands that open out as a mother's arms do when she welcomes her children home. Squaw Valley's meadow was an established home for the Native people until the whites came and pushed them out after gold fever struck in the 1850's.

The meadow was my summer playground with the creek running through its center, wide and deep enough in places to take the horses in swimming. I could find refuge in the shade of the gentle willows along the banks and float along, finding the sandy banks again when I'd had enough. There was a stable on the north side of the meadow where Squaw Valley's residents kept horses in the summer and where children could learn to ride for three dollars. As the sun went down, and the phonograph that played Western songs sung by Hank Williams and Kitty Wells was finally turned off, the horses were turned out onto the meadow to graze after long days of walking the trails taking care not to harm any of their riders. There was room to run and shake the feeling of the saddles from their backs.

I2 19-3

In 1980, most of the meadow was turned into a golf course and the old Basque sheep camp homes and outbuildings were demolished to make way for the construction of a luxury resort hotel all made of dark glass and aptly nicknamed, "The Darth Vader Hotel" by the locals. At the east end of the meadow, luxury homes were built up on the hillside, many of which are second homes only occupied a few weeks out of the year. As a result of hasty construction and development over the past fifty years, and little concern for environmental impact, Squaw Creek has been starved down to a small stream and many trees have been sacrificed in order to build more ski runs and ski lifts. Only patches of the meadow remain, supplanted by golf course grass and signs that say

“Private Property – No Trespassing.” Erosion resulting from deforestation has caused massive disruption in the ecosystem affecting the water table and inhibiting or preventing new growth of indigenous plants and trees.

In childhood, I spent a lot of time on my horse exploring the meadow and all of its magical little hiding places where I felt called to linger and feel into some kind of story the land had to tell. Getting down on my knees to look more closely at the earth and the rocks was a favorite pastime, soothing my mind and body as I explored and wondered. In my slow and timeless world of imagining, I came upon many abandoned camps left behind long ago by the indigenous people. If the exodus from these places was a choice, I would expect to see only a shadow of evidence that they’d been there at all. Under threat, one runs, dropping a cup or leaving a boot, or half-finished arrowheads. Close to the creek bed, I saw grinding stones lying alongside the big granite rocks and shavings of slate and obsidian for arrowheads scattered about. If I wanted to, I could collect enough beautifully articulated arrowheads to fill up one of my socks. In my solitude, kneeling close to the earth, I touched an old boot half buried in the dirt, an old leather hat rotting under the summer sun, an old tin teacup rusting away under the trees and sometimes, I would find skulls and skeletal remains of horses or cows which made me shiver and want to run home as fast as I could.

These Indians faced what can only be termed genocide, though such a practice did not reflect the position of the U.S. Government. However, between 1848 and 1870, Indian deaths exceeded 70,000 mostly the result of white slaughter. California’s Governor, Peter H. Burnett wrote in 1851: That a war of extermination will continue to be waged between the two races until the Indian race becomes extinct must be expected - Joanne Meschery, “Truckee”

As I approach crone-hood, I am no longer afraid to say out loud that I hear voices from the land and the water. My walks and trail runs in and around Truckee and Squaw Valley and the surrounding communities give me an opportunity to listen in to the voice of place. By listening and witnessing as one would listen to a survivor of rape or silencing, I am doing what is possible for me in containing my alarm and redirecting it in a way that may offer reconciliation or healing. I find it sickening and debilitating to witness the sacrifice of place and the soul of place for the sake of profit as more nouveau riche resorts are built or continuously expanded and I feel it in my bones and muscles. I ask the water how it feels; I touch the trees and wrap my arms around them. Perhaps they know better being so much older and wiser than I, and all will be repaired one day long after I am gone.

The sprawl of luxury homes, the charming and expensive restaurants and the plethora of expensive shops belie this area’s history of genocide where stealing the skin off of the backs of the most vulnerable was a fulfillment of Manifest Destiny. Truckee’s old buildings and streets speak to me of silenced grief and a longing to reconcile the past in a way that honors the dead and extends forgiveness to the perpetrators. I notice the rows of buildings that refuse to be rehabilitated and the land that refuses to be purchased and the businesses in converted saloons and houses of prostitution that fail to thrive. The

I219-3
cont.

land seems to speak its memories, longing to be recognized and re-membered according to the actual memories rather than the preferred memories of the white people, sanitized and wallpapered, polished and paved.

The shadow of a sinister past persists, and manifests itself in various ways in Truckee and in Squaw Valley. Such manifestations appear like warning signs to me, not random occurrences or syndromes linked to lack of snow, the economy and loss of revenue. In attuning to the voice of place and seeing through the shadow associated with past trauma and abuse perpetrated on its ecosystems and its indigenous people, the accidents and syndromes do not seem random at all to me. Rather, I hear purposeful warnings and messages for us to pay attention, to listen down and in to the anguish and grief that has been gagged and entombed under the carefully antiqued cobbles of the Squaw Valley Resort's "Village," and beneath the brick and concrete sidewalks of Truckee where the mud once mixed with blood and human bone fragments now make for good walking.

But we are deaf to the language of suggestion and intimation. When machinery stops working or the snow won't come; when pipes explode or fires tear down a newly constructed building or when land won't sell, I look for meaning rather than explanation. The crone in me turns her ears to hear the voice of the land and focuses her cloudy eyes to see the symbols in the collective consciousness. My heart rolls over wonder if escalating suicides in this area and elsewhere in our culture could be a message from Gaia, The Great Mother showing us that we are killing ourselves with our own hand. As we strangle the earth's waterways, we cut off our own circulation; as we pollute lakes and oceans, we poison our own blood; as we drain resources without regard for replacing what we have taken; we starve ourselves, unconscious of the hunger's true source and as we further degenerate our connection with Nature, we amputate our own limbs and atrophy our vital organs. I pull my shawl tighter around my bones and imagine a great awakening.

We seem not to heed nature's kinder and subtler signs that the waste and consumption has and will continue to cost us so dearly. In the destruction of our Mother Earth, we are effectively slashing our own wrists, but when we see instant gain in destroying our flesh and bone, we are careful not to cut deeply enough to feel pain. Instead, we put a bandage on and tell ourselves we'll worry about infection later. When teenagers cut and burn, we look for reasons inside of *them*, but not to the greater culture for an understanding of the symbolism of their behavior. Could it be an expression of what is occurring on the very flesh of the Mother herself?

De-Sacralization for Profit

There are no visible memorials in the center of Truckee to the thousands of Chinese laborers who either died building the railroad or were killed by whites envious of their relentless work ethic and ability to endure horrific working conditions, only a small plaque sitting by itself among some crumbling old buildings at the top of Old Highway 40 where the railroad once disappeared into a tunnel through the mountainside. There are no parks or preserves dedicated to the thousands of indigenous people who were dislocated or killed by white people, and no publically visible acknowledgement that

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cont.

Truckee and its surrounding communities exist at the expense of so many thousands whose only transgression was having darker skin.

The modern day cowboys for conquest, whose interests have been in development for profit at Squaw Valley between 1948 and today have not walked slowly. They have not knelt down to touch the skin of the earth, or leaned in to the soil and granite to ask for its blessing before the ignition of chainsaws and the maw of bulldozers, no prayer for permission to sacrifice trees, suffocate the aquifer with a blanket of asphalt or assassinate the humble meadow for the entitlement of golf course grass. Squaw Valley’s first CEO, Alexander Cushing, who claimed ownership of the mountains around the valley and successfully bid on the 1960 Winter Olympic Games, had his vision, unmitigated grandiosity. Nature was in his way and he carried on the white Western mentality that She was simply an obstacle to be conquered and his quest for what he boasted would be “a world-class ski resort,” would not be thwarted. His lawyers and minions kept the enforcers of federal and state regulations distracted while the forests were hastily defiled, his skills for manipulation and salesmanship sharpened on the whetstone of ego and his wallet fat enough to cover his fines, the land around Squaw Valley wore its new costume with the same resignation as the Washoe people wore the white man’s suits and dresses.

But the half-spent diesel barrels buried beneath the flesh of the mountains would not be silenced. The melting snow encouraged the rust that ate holes into the metal, burping and regurgitating into the earth and the streams. The bodies of hundreds of trees illegally cut lie inert, unable to stop the land from sliding its way down into the water supply. And the men still meet in big rooms and unroll plans without inviting the land to speak and the bulldozers and trucks groan their way up the mountainside and the land waits to be asked what can be done to re-member what has been dis-membered in the process of development, to replant the hair torn out of our Mother’s head, trees uprooted like bones from their sockets.

Over the decades, more has been bled out of the land in and above Squaw Valley and resorts like it to indulge a love for skiing it. When did the horses and sleighs that pulled us up the hill so that we could ski down stop being enough? When did our legs and hearts stop being strong enough to walk up the mountains so we could ski back down? When did the quiet of a snow-covered mountainside punctuated only by the sound of our heartbeats and the music of our own breath stop being enough? Our legs grow weaker, our breath is shallower and our hearts hide in the corner behind the endless noise of ego. In Squaw Valley, for all the enjoyment of the resort life and all that that it has cost, there have been only token gestures at sustainability. Like a white man who flips a quarter to the black man who shines his shoes, or eyes a woman as if she is prey, he sees no common psychic or physical connection.

The existing village at Squaw Valley serves every little whim and wish from liquor to lattes; from long johns to limousines; hundreds of luxurious hotel rooms; spas and salons that cater to wealthy visitors looking to find relief from the disease of overwork and overwhelm. The stores whet appetites for consuming, as the tickled brain wants to take it all and heads swivel from side to side wanting it all and trying to decide. Shall we have burgers or filet mignon, pizza or sushi? Shall we go in there and buy that new

I219-3
cont.

ski outfit, and a pair of pajamas for just three hundred dollars along with some soap and bubble bath? And then a spa treatment, another pass through Starbucks; a stop for new skis, boots poles and all other accessories for snow sports, and yes, some new booties for the dog. We shall not be hungry, not even for five minutes, we shall not be made to wait or go without even as the oceans become acidic and the earth dries out, we will not decide to walk instead or choose a smaller car to drive.

The song of the wind outside will try to call us but we will not hear. We will turn up the volume so that everything is louder. Instead of flutes and guitars, nimbly dancing across our eardrums, we want the assault of amplified drums and electric guitars that keep us from having conversations.

We cannot sip, we must gulp we cannot taste, we must gobble, we cannot just watch one television screen when we can have twelve screens in a bar with ten different football games on each, and ten beers on tap. Next door, there are ten wars going on in the video arcade and the children know how to run from gunfire and chase people through cities; they can aim semi-automatic weapons that kill twenty, one hundred or a thousand people until they run out of quarters. Outside, the wind inhales and tries once again to call, singing through the trees and whispering the snow from the branches.

Now, we are on the cusp of 2015 with enough scientific proof that our consumption and hunger for development has been catastrophic in terms of sustaining our sources of water, clean air and the natural ecosystems. And the men and women of KSL Corporation and its latest bed-partner, Squaw Valley Ski Holdings LLC, roll out the plans on the big cherry wood meeting table. Between sips of bottled water (because the tap water isn't good enough), they discuss how to appease their objectors and build more hotels, restaurants, shops, and ski runs. Where there could be a garden or perhaps a memorial constructed of old dead tree bodies, ruins of old sleighs and the rocks shoved out of the way to make dirt roads up the mountain; a monument to all the Native people killed and chased out of their homes in order for us to have a ski resort, there might be a roller coaster or another bar or a video arcade. I reach for my book, *The Nature Writings of C.G. Jung* :

"But our progressiveness, though it may result in a great many delighted wish-fulfillments, piles up an equally gigantic Promethean debt which has to be paid off from time to time in the form of hideous catastrophes (CW 9.1, PAR. 276).

In their meetings, between the bed-sheets of plans and designs, and between bites of crudité, the corporate leaders of KSL and Squaw Valley Ski Holdings LLC show no fear around accrual of Promethean debt and I wonder what Mother Nature might have to do to get their attention. In our culture, we seem to need disasters to pull our attention away from dirt biking, using motorized water craft on pristine lakes and shopping, but we soon forget the wildfires that burn our expensive houses down; the hurricanes and floods that the confused ocean and earth express as a reminder, or the oil tankers that hemorrhage and poison everything within a thousand mile radius forever? We still build Las Vegas and lament the water shortage; we still build luxury homes on fault lines and

I219-3
cont.

then call earthquakes horrible tragedies; we drive Hummers and snowmobiles and complain about the high price of gas. Maybe we give a slight nod to the warnings around the dying oceans, but still we do not change.

The new regime at Squaw Valley know better than to be unabashedly anti-environment, employing slick marketing such as their new slogan, "Skiing has a soul and it lives here," and they give money to local charities, licking away any burn of suspicion. Like predators, they know how to engage their prey and strike when the intuition and suspicion has been sufficiently stifled. It's winning at all costs, the Titanic culture's home plate. But when the Promethean debt accrues to a certain level, Mother will demand payment.

"What America needs in the face of a tremendous urge toward uniformity, desire for things, desire for complications in life, for being like one's neighbors, for making records, etcetera, is one great ability to say "no." To rest a minute and realize that many of the things being sought are unnecessary to a happy life..." (C.G. Jung)

Making Reparation

What an extraordinary turn of events it would be if developers like KSL and Squaw Valley Ski Holdings LLC with all their collective resources, made a decision to exercise a great ability to say "no?" Imagine an awakening of such magnificence occurred that instead of a bowling alley, noisy arcades, water parks and shops; a gathering place was created with big trees and indigenous shrubs, wildflowers, and the creeks' blood flow was restored? Instead of a larger parking structure, we would choose to find the quiet, clearing the air of exhaust fumes and noise, finally coming home to ourselves. And a magic sweep of raised consciousness crept into the dreams of developers and profiteers at Squaw Valley, a Dickensonian revelation, where profit could only be realized if the well-being of Nature and the community was the guiding principle? A memorial created in honor of the ancestors could stand in place of hotels and bars, for all who died or were down-pressed for the sake of constructing the transcontinental railroad through Truckee and the ski resorts around Lake Tahoe?

Imagine a place of reconciliation and remembrance honoring the indigenous people who once cared for this home-place so tenderly, who danced, chanted and sang in gratitude to Nature, for the medicine of snow that brought the winter's sleep, to the sun that awakened a paralyzed tree in spring and stirred the bear and her new cubs at precisely the right time, for the spring wind that brushed across the meadows and coaxed the tendrils of grass to life. This is a Crone's yearning for a collective turn, a bow to the earth to gather the feathers and bones that construct an honest and humble nest in homage to the Land and Her indigenous people for their sacrifice.

I219-3
cont.

I219 Kimball C. Pier, Ph.D
July 16, 2015

I219-1 The comment is an introductory statement and does not address the content, analysis, or conclusions in the DEIR. Therefore, a response is not provided here.

I219-2 See the Master Response regarding significant and unavoidable impacts.

The remainder of the comment provides an opinion regarding the merits or qualities of the proposed project and does not address the content, analysis, or conclusions in the DEIR. The Placer County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors will take the commenter's opinions into consideration when making decisions regarding the project.

I219-3 No specific issues related to the content, analysis, or conclusions in the DEIR are raised in this comment. No further response is provided here.

I220

Maywan Krach

From: Timothy Polishook <t2mothy@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Placer County Environmental Coordination Services
Subject: proposed Squaw Valley Village Specific Plan

The proposed *Squaw Valley Village Specific Plan* includes a series of highrise condo projects with more than 1,500 new bedrooms and a massive indoor amusement park with waterslides, fake rivers, arcades, and simulated sky-diving.

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I have seen the effects of these large project in Beaver Creek and in other parts of Colorado, it is very sad. With the continued water problems and traffic my wife and I urge to reduce the size and scope of this project

thank you for your time

Warm Regards
Timothy M Polishook

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Timothy Polishook
July 17, 2015

I220-1

The comment is directed towards the project approval process and does not address the content, analysis, or conclusions in the DEIR. Therefore, no further response is provided here. All comment letters submitted during the DEIR public review period will be reviewed and considered by the Placer County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors before a decision on the project is rendered.