

March 23, 2023

To Whom It May Concern

My name is Nora Herrera Oest. I am the mayordoma of the Acequia de Los Prados on the south side of the Rio Hondo in Valdez. As a descendant of people who have lived in Valdez since the early 1800's, I am here to protest the proposed expansions at TSV.

I consider more condos and more restaurants and more trails a desecration of these sacred mountains. "Water is life" means more than another condo or more money in millionaires pockets.

The proposed expansions at TSV affect the downstream and residents, not only the families who live on or near the Rio Hondo, but all residents of Taos County.

As downstream residents many people feel that we are not being heard nor will we be. The perception of many people is that TSV has pushed locals out of jobs and instead hired people from other countries for positions that Taosños could fill. The perception is that no matter what we do or say, TSV is going to do whatever they want to do with the blessing of the forest service

They will have crossed every + and dotted every i, hired every expert and every attorney to tell us that there's nothing to see here, that they're taking care of everything, taking care of the environment, the trees, the river, the quality of the water. Not to worry, we have it covered. Well, no you don't. You speak with forked tongue. We may not have the experts to tell you that you are taking precious water, and the river will dry up for us.

You're sending your waste downstream to our properties as is clearly evidenced by dirty foam collecting on our acequia headgates once irrigation season begins.

Who is monitoring the sewage and sewage plant?

Another issue is the traffic situation. I live on the East end of Valdez. Skiers coming and going on Hwy 150 + 230 drive like they're still on the slopes. Aggressive drivers pass on the road constantly at high rates of speed, passing and tailgating on curves, up and down the hills, creating extremely dangerous driving conditions for everyone. Who will monitor the speeders? Who will fix the potholes created by evermore traffic?

Trying to get onto Hwy 150 from 230 in Valdez is sometimes close to impossible due to the volume of cars exiting TSV especially in the afternoons

Once the ski season ends and more construction begins, the dump trucks and semis drive back and forth all day long. The noise pollution is extreme in Valdez from the mufflers on these trucks or lack thereof, especially as they accelerate to go up the hill. Who if you care about that?

As a descendant of generations of family who have lived on this hallowed earth, not counting my native blood relatives before that, I treasure the earth, water and sky, and for what it's worth, I vehemently and categorically oppose more expansion at TSV.

Why another restaurant? Why deplete the water, the river, the very air we breathe with more and bigger? When is enough enough?

Sincerely,
Nara Herrera Oest

(b) (5)