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To Whom it may concern:

I am writing to give you input on the proposed redevelopment plan for the Main Lodge area at Mammoth Mountain. I have many concerns, but I will keep it to three.

I am concerned about the new water needs that will be created by this project. The increase in visitors on a year-round basis (up to 1,216 per night) may strain the wells that are already there. Is the USFS monitoring how much water is currently being pumped? I believe there was a plan to drill a new well to help provide for these needs, and I don't know where that plan stands. I worry that our drought which may remain with us for many years to come is already stressing the surrounding forest and expansion of development at Main Lodge may stress the forest even more, especially the Dry Creek/Inyo Craters/Deer Mountain areas. There are already five wells pumping to keep the existing water needs supplied at the Main Lodge area, and inserting larger, more demanding straws will create problems we cannot even imagine.

I am also concerned about fire. I assume there is a mitigation plan to thin the forest and create defensible space, but I wonder about evacuation. You could have a situation where people are fleeing from Devil's Postpile, and now you move from the Main Lodge area.

Finally, I am concerned about the height of several proposed structures. The parcel A building at eight stories will certainly be visible. Visitors come here for a wilderness experience, and while we want to make their stays comfortable, this smacks of cramming as many in as possible for economic gain. What about the light pollution as well? Visitors who expect to be able to step out and see stars may find that they see only as many as they would in a city area.

There are so many more things I could bring up. How "green" is this project? What about expanded snow making areas? How will the employees necessary to run this expansion be housed?

The USFS has a mandate to provide recreation but at what cost? There will be environmental costs for sure, but what about the socioeconomic costs to the town? It feels like we can barely provide what is needed for the existing number of visitors. Inviting even more to the party will strain our already strained services.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Debbie Boucher