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Comments: I was born and raised in Coldsprings, California, and have since been an employee, business owner, and now simply a visitor to the Pinecrest Basin. I have spent my entire life enjoying Pinecrest for what makes it special: its natural beauty, peaceful mountain environment, and outdoor recreation opportunities.

I strongly oppose the Pinecrest Basin Management Direction - Community Center proposal because I believe it moves the area further away from those values and toward unnecessary commercialization of National Forest land.

Over the last several years, with the increase in recreation and visitation, we have already seen clear impacts from overcrowding, including illegal parking, lack of parking enforcement, increased trash and human waste in forests and lakes, and, at times, a disregard for the rules currently in place. Because of this, I believe it is unrealistic to assume there would not be additional environmental impacts surrounding the proposed community building, especially in what is currently a lower-trafficked and less-developed area.

The increase in vehicle traffic, foot traffic, utility demands, and infrastructure necessary to sustain this level of commercialization will undoubtedly have environmental impacts and reshape the landscape of the Basin as we know it.

Additionally, I fear that pushing for more commercialization within the Basin (despite the fact that the current businesses and services already adequately meet the needs outlined in the proposal) will create momentum for even more future development. This opens the door to additional rezoning of spaces that were never intended for commercial use and risks transforming the Basin into something it was never meant to be.

I believe community and federal resources would be better spent addressing existing infrastructure and environmental concerns in order to properly support the goals of the EXPLORE Act while still preserving the pristine beauty that makes Pinecrest so special.

I also worry that placing too much focus on adding convenience and commercial spaces for recreation visitors detracts from the authentic outdoor experience that Pinecrest is meant to provide. We should instead prioritize conservation, serene natural settings, and thoughtful stewardship of our public recreation land: especially in a place that is already commercialized enough to support the current level of visitation.

The larger infrastructure issues already facing the Basin should be addressed before introducing additional development that could further strain traffic, congestion, utilities, and the environment. The proposal itself acknowledges the possibility of both short-term and long-term impacts in these areas. Properly maintaining and protecting the Pinecrest we already have can accomplish the goals of the EXPLORE Act without requiring unnecessary additional infrastructure or commercialization.

Furthermore, the proposal itself highlights concerns regarding increased water and sewer infrastructure demands. These are not issues that can be taken lightly in a Basin with limited capacity to provide those services.

Lastly, I feel this rezoning process is moving too quickly, seemingly more to address a current non-conforming use violation, as referenced in points 1 and 2 of the proposal, than to genuinely meet unmet public needs. At this time, visitors have not demonstrated that existing public-private partnerships are failing to provide adequate services.

Given the significant potential environmental, recreational, traffic, and business impacts identified in the proposal itself, such a major decision should not be made hastily simply to bring an already out-of-code business into compliance.

I urge decision-makers to allow for a more thorough and deliberate environmental review process over a longer period of time-one that reflects the value and sensitivity of this land. Damage to the Basin could occur that cannot be undone.

For decades, changes within the Pinecrest Basin have been slow, intentional, and carefully considered with the best interests of the land, wildlife, and community in mind. Compared to that history, this proposal feels rushed, and the long-term consequences deserve far greater consideration before any irreversible decisions are made.