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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Sweetwater Lake Comments

Water - The Sweetwater property is subject to our current Western drought so more water demands for increased population is unwise and perhaps impossible. Alternatives 2 and 4 both call for more water use than is advisable for our drought conditions that will last an unknown length of time. Overestimating the water supply is naïve.

Evacuation Danger - On a recent drive to Sweetwater, we were stopped by county road crew working to remove mudslide debris that had closed the road. When combined with a singular evacuation route from the entire valley for all residents and guests, adding more people and vehicles to the box canyon make threats from wildfire even more dangerous than already exists. The simple fact that frequent wildfires in the area (Derby fire, 2025) are likely, and we must understand that more wildfires promote more debris slides, potentially trapping people in the valley. Due to this crucial factor, adding more guests increases danger to the public.

Commercializing this rural, quiet alpine valley of historical importance is both unnecessary and unwise. Building extensive developments as in Alternatives 2 and 4 will stress every resource in the valley from water to game habitat to road use to peace and quiet.

My concern for wildlife views the extensive addition of structures as eliminating crucial big and small game habitat.

I feel very strongly that spending more taxpayer dollars to further develop the Sweetwater Lake area is risky, unnecessary and asking for trouble.

Please do not proceed with either alternatives 2 or 4 for the reasons mentioned above. Making a compromise of Alternatives 1 and 3 is the very best choice for Sweetwater. A hybrid design - minor development with lots of preservation are the correct way forward.

Please heed the characteristics that make Sweetwater Lake special and leave it close natural as it is.

Very Sincerely, Susan Cuseo