

Riverdale Meeting Comments 06/21/23

- There are a lot of unique cases in this small community. I have lived here 10 years and have seen no changes. We need parks, paved streets, there are no trees, there are fallen trees are not cleaned up. When it rains the streets get flooded. Security is a big concern for us because there has been a rise in homeless people.
- During the pandemic we had no access to vaccines, we had to drive to other towns to get our vaccines. We don't have any spaces to gather at in case of an emergency or natural disaster. We worry about housing cost for our children being too high and about the dairy's being next door to our children's schools.
- We are worried about the implementation of the changes of our water and drainage (sewer) systems. Water contamination is very bad because there are a lot of cattle in the surrounding areas.
- In the town of Lanare the problems are similar but more severe because people are living in ruins (homes that are not legal). This should not be happening in a nation as rich as the USA. This nation moves a lot of money for this to be happening, all this money is made off the back of these community members and they are forgotten. We need a better quality of lives for them like better streets and reliable electrical. They deserve to have better living quarters.
- Our children and grandchildren are the future of this area, we need to leave them behind something better than this. As far as air quality, the state is coming up with electric car laws. The people from this community cannot afford these so what happens to us? We get left behind. We need change.
- Is the community plan for Lanare going to be updated? It has not been updated in over 40 years.
 - A: we are in the process of identifying the order all of the community plans will be updated. We will be going to the Board of Supervisors in July or August to get the order approved. There are 10 cities once we get the order approved, we will start with the first one.
 - Follow up: it is very important to us to get our community plan updated because if it doesn't our community gets left behind.
 - A: I want you guys to know that all the community plan update is going to do is zone land for certain things. For example, we will zone land for a business or for a health center, but none of these things will happen until a developer comes and builds it. The county is not going to build any of these, just zone land for it so when someone want to come and build in your community, it is ready to go.
- Is there any way we can put in regulations to limit the amount of cattle the dairies are allowed to have? We don't want to get rid of them, we just want to limit the amount of pollution that come from them.
 - A: There is a dairy ordinance that was adopted in 2006 or 2007 that limits dairies. It applies to new dairies or ones that want to expand. Existing dairies can continue to operate as they have unless they shut down. The environmental justice element will address pollution. For warehouse it will address some of those issues you are talking about but not at the community plan level but at

the county level. For the housing element it will be updated to include an ADU ordinance. There is some at the state level, but we will be adding it to our general plan. We will be looking at infrastructure, air quality, but we will still have to take into account that air quality will be affected with the growth county wide. More scrutiny will come from the state and federal level, not the local level.

- Why is it not possible to add policies regarding water contamination? We know dairies contribute to that so why can't we create policies for it?
 - A: The County is not currently working on that at the moment, if policies like these would be created it would be at the state or the federal level not the county level.
- We would like for these comments to be incorporated. We understand it has to be a balance between the businesses and the workers. The business needs the workers to survive but the workers can't survive because their water is being contaminated by the businesses, there needs to be a balance. We have some of the worst air quality and it is not fair that we have to use air purifiers in our homes just to be able to breath.
- We also need housing development. There is a lot of big lots that can have more houses made on them. The county needs to educate the landowners with illegal dwellings so they can also benefit from the tax dollars and the community can grow. We also need affordable housing. We need to be able to hook up to the Riverdale water and sewer system.
 - If we don't have enough house to connect to the sewer/water system the water and sewer bills will be very expensive because it will be divided between a little bit of homes.
- We need places to gather at as a community. If there is a natural disaster we have no where to go. During the pandemic we had to figure it out and risk our health just to help out our community with the food bank.
 - A: Lets talk about community cooling centers for example, when it is 115 degrees outside and your senior citizens without A/C or they cant turn it on because their energy bill will be too expansive, where can they go? There is no where for them to go because no one want to open their doors. It is a liability to have people in their space which will cause insurance rates to go up and energy bill to go up, and they will have to pay someone to be there during those hours. How will this be paid for?
 - Response: we should be taxing the marijuana facilities and smokers and use the tax dollars to pay for that.
- Is there any CDBG funds that we can apply for to build a park? there is no open space for our kids to play in.
 - A: There is but in order to apply for CDBG fund you need to have a management plan for the project. Who is going to maintain the park? The county cant maintain the ones it has now.
The community plan update is not going to fix the problems. Its just a guide for how the communities are going to grow. For example, Laton was the most recently updated community plan in 2012. In the 11 years since it was updated,

nothing has happened in Laton. An updated community plan is necessary to have so that we are ready when someone want to come and build something in the community.

88

* Regulations on dairies to avoid them affecting the water
quality of the community and the homes here

* Lack of affordable & dignified housing

* EXcessive flooding when it rains

* Need for an Emergency Community Center

* Need of trees on Mt Whitney St

More attention should be given to review and improve the dangerous county ~~inter~~ intersections. That is to say, if there is a need to at the very least establish four way stop signs at intersections that have a high ratio of accidents. In particular the intersection of Excelsior Ave. and Marks Ave, Fresno Co. in cooperation with Kings Co. should make that intersection with four stop signs since there is reoccurrence of vehicle accidents and of those some have been fatal.

Improved remaking of rural county roads or lasting repairs (not just patch work) is critically needed.
