

## **How to send letters to the editor:**

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## **Published Letters to the Editor :**

### **[Better sites to build retirement community](#)**

6/25/2021 East Bay Times [Print and online edition]

The proposed continuing care retirement community development at Seven Hills Ranch, currently 30 acres of undeveloped land adjacent to Heather Farm Park, is devastating. More than **17,000 dump trucks of dirt** will be rearranged or removed. The hills will be razed, the valleys will be filled and hundreds of trees will be cut down to create a large flat surface to build on, according to [savesevenhillsranch.org](http://savesevenhillsranch.org). And 6,000 of those dump trucks of dirt (12,000 round trips) will be hauled out via Ygnacio Valley Road.

If we as a community decide such a development is needed (sometimes hard to imagine as we are asked to cut back on water and electricity due to mass shortages), we should start with already developed lots (a la Shadelands) vs. building over some of the last large plots of natural land, especially given its location next to a park.

Kristen Lomasney  
*Walnut Creek*

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### **[Too few benefit from costly development](#)**

6/23/2021 East Bay Times [Print and online edition]

The huge development proposed for Seven Hills Ranch property next to Heather Farm Park is emphatically NOT housing for workers and families. In fact it's not really considered "housing", so it will not include ANY market rate or below-market units. It is primarily a residential medical facility serving only a sliver of wealthy elderly residents who will leave behind multi-million dollar homes that no worker could afford to buy.

We might make the sacrifice - paving over and building out 30 acres of natural habitat, cutting down 350 trees (many heritage oaks), and razing the seven hills and dumping them in the creekbeds - for family housing, but this is not that. It benefits only a privileged few in a narrow age group.

Find out about it at [www.savesevenhillsranch.org](http://www.savesevenhillsranch.org).

Rosalie Howarth  
*Walnut Creek*

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[Preserve open space for Walnut Creek](#)

6/10/2021 East Bay Times [Print and online edition]

The open space in Walnut Creek is an attribute to our community.

The Seven Hills Ranch property abuts Heather Farms, and the continuity of open space must be preserved, not only for ecological reasons but for humankind.

It's a respite in our busy city.

Nancy Simmons  
*Walnut Creek*

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[Few would benefit, land would suffer from project](#)

3/17/2021 East Bay Times [Print and online edition]

Regarding "[Planned senior community hits opposition](#)," (Page A1, March 11): Troy Bourne, a project official for Spieker Senior Development Partners, said, "The property's beauty will be preserved even after the retirement community is built."

I have seen the Spieker project arborist report to the county. Spieker plans to remove [353 trees](#) that are considered protected trees by the county's own [tree protection ordinance](#). This is called deforestation.

This project is proposing to grade down the beautiful rolling hills to a flat parking lot for 500 cars, condos and a convalescent hospital. This pristine 30-acre property is zoned for agriculture, not commercial, property. The general plan for this neighborhood is medium density/single family. I suggest Mr. Bourne read his own company's report on how his corporation plans to decimate this land into a sprawling upper-end retirement village that only benefits itself.

Rosemary Nishikawa  
*Walnut Creek*

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Last update 6/26/2021