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August 29, 2007

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Sacramento County Policy Planning Commission
700 H Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Sycamore Village Housing Development, Orangevale

Dear Members of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors,

This letter is to express the support of the Sierra Club Sacramento Group for the proposed Sycamore Village. The project's request for a change in zoning to 10 units per acre meets important community goals of smart growth and quality infill.

The Sierra Club advocates a reduction in sprawl, and is in favor of higher density infill projects. Sprawling development threatens our environment, our health, and our quality of life in numerous ways. Sprawl spreads development out over large amounts of land; puts long distances between homes, stores, and job centers; and makes people more and more dependent on driving in their daily lives. Sprawl pollutes our air and water. Sprawl destroys more than two million acres of parks, farms and open space each year. Quality infill is an excellent development alternative.

We understand the concerns of neighbors, who worry about changes in character or more traffic from this project, however the long term benefits of Sycamore Village greatly outweigh these concerns. These benefits include:

- High quality housing project will be a good neighbor and significantly enhance local property values.
- Increased use of the commercial corridor allowing for walking or biking to shops.
- Development that could be a model for other communities nationwide and does not contribute to local sprawl.
- Design features include compact development, clustered residences, giving a smaller footprint for more open space.

We encourage the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and Sacramento County Policy Planning Commissioners to support this project by rezoning the area for the higher density of 10 units per acre. We believe your approval of this project will send a positive message about maintaining the livability of our communities and the desirability of living close to shops and other commercial businesses.

Thank you for your careful consideration in this matter.

Sincerely

Kathy Ries, Chair
Sacramento Group, Sierra Club

Representing 6,000 Sierra Club members in Sacramento County