

**[EXTERNAL] Woodgate Glen PUD Security Fence Installation / 400 Gate Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95401**

Clare Mata <cdmata310@gmail.com>

Tue 6/30/2020 3:32 PM

To: Wixon, Mike <MWixon@srcity.org>

To:

Mike Wixon

Contract Planner

City of Santa Rosa Planning and Economic Development

100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room #3

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

From:

Clare Mata

310 Harvest Lane

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

707.478.5204

[cdmata310@gmail.com](mailto:cdmata310@gmail.com)

Dear Mr. Wixon:

As a creekside resident of Woodgate Glen, I wish to convey the vital importance of constructing our approved and funded 8' high ornamental steel security fence along our south/west border adjacent to Irwin Creek. This fence will protect and improve residents' quality of life in three main areas: security, health, and environmental protection.

Our complex has become a thoroughfare for foot traffic cutting through from West Third to Woodgate Oaks apartments behind us, and on to Occidental Road, severely compromising our security. Homeless people cut through to the creek, camp there, use drugs there, and defecate there. These transients intimidate young residents by making inappropriate requests such as asking to "pet their dogs", and they verbally threaten adult residents for questioning them. Young students on the way to J.X. Wilson elementary school have found used hypodermic needles discarded on the pathway. Please note that Wilson school erected a fence closing off its grounds between Woodgate Glen and Woodgate Oaks to address this problem as well. Campers have been removed from the trees in the creek, behind garages, and on our green common areas. Homeless people in need of mental support regularly walk the service road shouting obscenities no more than six feet from my front door and those of my immediate neighbors. A fence would detour these people away from our complex by removing their shortcut to adjacent areas.

Also, the service access driveway between Woodgate Glen and Woodgate Oaks apartments, designated for emergency vehicles only, is regularly abused. Vandalism ranging from gross graffiti to theft of cars and garages have become much more prevalent. During a drive by shooting through this very access drive last year, shots entered the residence at 302 Harvest Lane. A fence along our back perimeter would drastically discourage these sorts of incidents since most trespassers enter from West Third only because they know they can get through to the apartments, Occidental Road, and some favorite, though illegal campsites along the creek.

Threats to health include human feces of illegal campers, cast off refuse of illegal campers, residual drug paraphernalia of campers and trespassers and piles of garbage and litter left by non-residents cutting through the property. The Covid quarantine has dramatically highlighted these and other problems. More people are at home, and more non-residents are regularly using our private property service road as their exercise track, their easy access to Oliver's Market, and their own recreational use. These activities are occurring less than six feet from my front door and those of my immediate neighbors, compromising safe distancing rules. A fence, by discouraging non-residential foot traffic, would mitigate this problem.

Along with these illegal activities comes a threat to the environment of the Irwin Creek and the plants, trees, and animals there. Creek beds are being used for latrines, trees and plants are being broken and killed during frequent attempts to cross the creek, and animals are being endangered

and driven out of their natural habitat. A fence would help alleviate these environmental problems simply by making it less convenient for humans to trample through undergrowth while still allowing free access for animals, who would benefit from less human traffic.

This ornamental fence will greatly enhance the quality of life for Woodgate Glen residents. It in no way blocks the view of the creek area, and it bolsters natural boundaries that have long been abused. It will be an attractive addition to our community and allow us to better enjoy the beauty of our property by discouraging acts of vandalism, trespassing, and drug use that currently mar this beauty. Emergency vehicles have ample access to the service road if necessary. Police SUVs, fire engines, ambulances, and service vehicles of all sorts have always been able to drive, unimpeded down this road and the fence will not narrow their passage. In case of fires, earthquakes, or other catastrophic events requiring mass evacuations, vehicle access to anywhere will be difficult, as proven in the 2019 fire evacuation, in which traffic was as backed up on Occidental as it was on West Third Street. In fact, motorists trying to cut through to Occidental only succeeded in further ensnaring traffic between the two complexes, allowing for fewer drivers to get out. If residents are reduced to fleeing on foot, then they can flee through the access drive gate between Woodgate Glen and Woodgate Oaks, which will be coded and opened by emergency personnel or through the wide open area leading to West Third Street and beyond.

This fence is necessary, overdue, and much anticipated by Woodgate Glen neighbors. It will be an attractive addition enhancing our quality of life and an effective deterrent to unacceptable and unsafe behaviors in our community.

Respectfully submitted on June 30, 2020,  
Clare Mata

Jennifer Cook  
300 Gate Way  
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Bill Rose , Contract Planner  
Planning and Economic Development  
City Hall – 100 Santa Rosa Ave. Rm. 3  
Santa Rosa, CA

December 30, 2019

Dear Mr. Rose:

I am a homeowner in the Woodgate Glen townhouse complex. My house faces the Irwin Creek and the parking lot of the Occidental Road Spiritual Center. I would like to express my strong opposition and my many concerns about the installation of an 8 ft. iron fence around the Woodgate Glen complex. I believe this fence is a very poor idea and will be an eyesore to the community. My front door, living room, and Master bedroom all face the creek area. I am able to observe all the activity which occurs beside my area of the creek. It has been my observation that everything (groups congregating) occurs across the creek and never on the Woodgate Glen side of the creek. There has always been a natural barrier, in the form of blackberry bushes, which prevented people from crossing the creek in front of my house. A few years ago, the HOA instructed landscape gardeners to remove the natural plants along the creek, which destroyed part of the natural habitat. Luckily, many of these bushes have grown back, due to the rains, and the blackberry bushes are now helping to prevent people from crossing so close to my front door. Round Table Pizza has a restaurant with a parking lot adjacent to the Spiritual Center. Many people like to cross the creek in an area with stepping stones, also near my house, but also on a path which links Woodgate Glen to some nearby apartment buildings near Harvest Lane. In my section of the creek there is a flimsy, short fence in front of the stepping stones to discourage people from crossing the creek in that area. When I moved into Woodgate Glen In 2004 I asked one of the HOA board members about the flimsy fence. I was told, "This area next to the creek is a greenway. The animals who inhabit the area next to the creek must be able to enter and access the creek. A chain fence would prevent that and destroy their natural habitat." I don't think this has changed. I believe that the area next to the creek is still a protected greenway and that a fence would alter and destroy the creek. The 8 ft. fence would also prevent access to the creek by the people who live in this neighborhood. Many people walk to the stores and restaurants in this area by

crossing the creek. People like to walk around the perimeter of Woodgate Glen using the frontage road which runs along the creek. Currently, it is pleasant walk next to a creek which often has trees full of birds and many green, lush plants. An 8 foot iron fence would block out all the beauty of the creek and not provide any extra security. (I have lived here since November 2004 and have never felt in danger.) The Spiritual Center installed a very long fence around their parking lot, as well as very strong, movement sensitive lights. In spite of these measures, the Spiritual Center employees someone to patrol the parking lot at night by driving a car with a strong search light around the perimeter. The most effective way to keep a neighborhood safe has always been to use Neighborhood Watch Patrols. An iron fence will not make Woodgate Glen safer. It will be ineffective and a waste of money. It may even be a safety hazard. I live at the back of the complex, at the very end of Gate Way. This is the oldest part of the complex. The buildings were built on top of a small woods. The trees were cut down and soil was put on top of the trees. So the foundations are not really very secure. Luckily, all the electrical wires are underground, but so are the natural gas, sewage and telephone lines. There is only ONE FIRE HYDRANT on my street for an estimated 20 to 22 family units. The streets are very narrow. There is only the frontage road along the Irwin Creek to allow access to emergency vehicles. House fires and earthquakes are very real possibilities in Santa Rosa. If the 8 foot iron fence is built there will no way for the people in this neighborhood to escape, since there will only be one way out of the complex. No one would be able to flee across the creek or even across the sides of the complex. The frontage road is very narrow and one section curves sharply. If the 8 foot iron fence were installed, it would probably greatly diminish the width of the frontage road. The fence would prevent emergency vehicles from coming into an area with very limited access to water. This fence could be lethal for this neighborhood. The proposed iron fence would be 8 foot, but I thought the building code was for a maximum height of 6 foot for fences in residential areas. The wooden fences around the patios in Woodgate Glen are 6 foot. The fence would add another two feet, which is a violation of the housing code. Such a large, imposing fence will make this neighborhood feel like San Quentin. I will be opening my front door and looking out my windows onto an imposing fence, rather than a beautiful creek. Furthermore, the fence will prevent the maintenance of the creek. It will make it impossible for Woodgate Glen to fulfill its obligation to keep Irwin Creek free

flowing when it rains. Because no one will be monitoring the area next to the creek, it will make the accumulation of garbage and waste more inevitable. People will feel they can now dump things into the creek, since no one will be able to see what they are doing. The illegal activities which occur at the back of the parking at night, will increase since no one will be able to see what is occurring and thus will not be able to stop it. Once again. I think an 8 foot iron fence around the perimeter of the Woodgate Glen townhouse complex will be an expensive and useless eyesore. Active neighborhood watch patrols have historically been much more effective. The blackberry bushes which have always grown next to the creek on the Woodgate Glen side have also been effective and aesthetically pleasing deterrents to people crossing the creek. I hope that the City of Santa Rosa will consider my many concerns and will also oppose the installation of this 8 foot fence.

Sincerely:

Jennifer Cook  
Woodgate Glen homeowner

**From:** Ernesto Mata <[casademata310@gmail.com](mailto:casademata310@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 1, 2020 4:03 PM  
**To:** Wixon, Mike <[MWixon@srcity.org](mailto:MWixon@srcity.org)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Woodgate Glen PUD Security Fence Installation

To: Mike Nixon, Project Planner City of Santa Rosa/  
Phone: 707-543-4659

Email: [mwixon@srcity.org](mailto:mwixon@srcity.org)

From: Ernesto Mata, Woodgate Glenn Resident/  
707-331-3391

Email: [CasadeMata@gmail.com](mailto:CasadeMata@gmail.com) Phone:

July 1, 2020

Mr. Nixon,

I am an owner resident at 310 Harvest Lane. My front door faces the Irwin Creek swale.

I support the decision to install an 8' high ornamental steel security fence and gate along the southerly/westerly boundary of the Woodgate Glen PUD adjacent to the Irwin Creek swale.

In the 3 years of living at my residence, I have personally encountered multiple incidents regarding security of property and safety.

At 4:00 am, somebody attempted to unlock my patio gate, which is in the adjacent view of the trail that borders Irwin Creek.

I have been awakened numerous times during the early hours (12am-5am) by transients scavenging through the recycling bins in the common driveway, garage and parking areas of the Woodgate Glenn residential compound. These perpetrators are looking for opportunities of unlocked gates, unlocked cars and any other unsecured items.

During these confrontations with perpetrators, I have made personal contact alerting them that they are trespassing on private property. If they don't live here, they have no business being here. I then notify local law enforcement.

At times while taking a casual evening stroll around the compound to include the Irwin Creek, I am confronted by trespassers who are loitering or camping overnight.

I have personally removed and disposed from the Irwin Creek, bed mattresses, sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, tents, tarps, clothing, debris of trash and garbage. Nobody has asked me to do this. I only desire for my neighborhood to be a health hazard-free safe zone.

My neighbors have reported personal property stolen from their garages and automobiles, and we are all concerned about our protection and safety. Although nobody can guarantee a 100% crime free neighborhood, we can improve our security by installing this fence to make our homes sanctuaries of safety and comfort.

The service road that borders the Irwin creek is unsecured, therefore providing an all too easy access for trespassing on private property. The Woodgate Glenn residential compound and its roads adjacent to W. 3rd street are private property to be used only by its residents and invited guests.

Installing a security fence and gate along the Irwin Creek swale would greatly reduce the amount of uncontrolled trespassing, significantly increase the protection of personal property, and allow for a peaceful, undisturbed quality of life.

Respectfully,

Ernesto Mata

July 1, 2020