

From: Terry Egan <peak50@charter.net>

Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 11:21 AM

To: Leonard Damian <l.damian@hoodriverfire.com>; Paul Blackburn <Paul.Blackburn@cityofhoodriver.com>

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Subject: Hood River - Road Capacities and Wildfires

Chief Damian and Mayor Blackburn,

The attached Santa Cruz Sentinel link and news article discusses evacuation routes in light of recent California wildfire activity. I think the issues noted apply as well to Oregon communities at risk. As you and the Mayor know, a number of people in Hood River are concerned about the plans to increase density/traffic flows resulting from the development of the Westside and, as result, direct increased traffic to the Wine Country/Rand Avenue and Cascade Avenue intersections, etc. From what I can see from the submitted ODOT traffic studies no flows have been considered from an emergency evacuation standpoint.

As a community perhaps we should consider the risk of wildfire in the planning process and one option, that a number of Oregon communities have undertaken, is to engage Headwaters Economics (Bozeman, MT – see link) as a Wildfire consultant. I would also recommend that ODOT provide emergency evacuation traffic studies prior to approving any portion of the Westside project.

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2019/04/26/california-roads-not-designed-to-handle-wildfire-evacuations-destined-to-burn/>

Link to Headwaters Economics

<https://headwaterseconomics.org/topic/wildfire/solutions/>

Thank you.

Terry Egan
Hood River