

Project questions abound

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I've got to admit, on the surface it sounds pretty appealing. I'm speaking about the health sciences campus proposed for the hills overlooking beautiful Millerton Lake. In the same scenic area, the Tesoro Viejo and Friant Ranch proposals are also being planned. But this is not smart growth. And it is not sustainable growth.

Several questions cry out for answers: How do these developments fit in with the Sustainable Communities Strategy now being fleshed out by the Fresno Council of Governments and our state? And how do these plans fit in with Fresno City's General Plan, which calls for more in-fill, and less sprawl?

The proposed developments, located about 25 miles from downtown Fresno, would clearly increase the number of vehicle miles traveled. How would the developers mitigate the significant increase in air pollutants caused by all that extra driving? How would these plans address the increased production of greenhouse gases, as mandated by SB 375? And finally, how will these foothill projects protect our water resources, protect the core of our cities, help our local economy and preserve our beautiful foothills?

All these questions need to be answered before the plans go forward.

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