

Molinar, Tess

From: Karen Stoffers <klstoffers@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:51 AM
To: Molinar, Tess
Subject: Advance public comment regarding basement excavations in single-family residential neighborhoods

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To Members of The Pasadena Planning Commission:

I understand the Planning Commission is considering new standards for basement excavations in single-family residential neighborhoods. I am writing to share my experience living 3 houses away from this type of construction.

My husband and I have lived at 770 Old Mill Road since 1993. Over the years, many neighbors have renovated their homes, including the neighbor next door to the rear of our property. None of these projects caused the amount of disruption as the remodel and basement excavation ongoing since August 2019 at 808 Old Mill Road. For me, the disruption falls into the 3 categories outlined below and is magnified by the long duration of a project this size.

1) Noise Pollution - The heavy earth moving equipment used to dig a basement under an existing house and to then haul away the excavated dirt creates tremendous noise and vibration. Many days throughout this project my walls and windows rattled from the excavation work. It feels like little earthquakes all day long. It's unsettling and distracting when working from home.

2) Air Pollution - Digging a basement in a residential neighborhood creates an enormous amount of dust and grit. It lands on cars, plants, walls and, most alarming for me, I can feel it in my teeth when I walk outside (so I'm fairly sure we're all inhaling it). Also, the large trucks and digging equipment emit exhaust that lingers in the neighborhood.

3) Traffic - A project of this scale seems to require a large crew. So in addition to all the heavy trucks and equipment, for the past year we have had many, many smaller vehicles parked near our homes. The construction crew and the trucks used for excavation and deliveries often arrive between 6:30 and 7am and wait in their vehicles until they can start at 8am. Our bedrooms face the street and all these cars and trucks arriving can be quite loud.

Thanks for taking the time to read my input.

Respectfully,

Karen Stoffers