

Text

Paper

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**DECISION 'OBVIOUSLY'
PREDETERMINED**

We came, we spoke, they didn't listen.

What a civics lesson experience dealing with the Orange County Planning Commission. The Esperanza Hills Final Draft Environmental Impact Report No. 616 was agendized for the Planning Commission on Jan. 14 for its recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the matter.

Speakers stepped up and made heartfelt 3-minute objections as to why 340 homes should not be built in the foothills above Yorba Linda which involve: two years of bulldozing 1.6 million cubic yards of dirt off natural rolling hills; building homes near the Whittier earthquake fault; building in a Wildfire Urban Interface Zone; and adding 4,500 vehicle trips per day to existing city residential streets (the same streets that were jammed while evacuating the area during the 2008 Freeway Complex fire) was a dangerous idea.

After public testimony, the commission members appeared to struggle with issues, asked each other questions, pondered, deliberated then the chair abruptly proceeded to read from a prepared statement and, bingo, they recommended that EIR No. 616 proceed to the Board of Supervisors. The obvious predetermined destiny of this matter was sickening. But not as sickening as what we found out later.

There was a pre-meeting held on Nov. 6 with the Planning Commission and various public agency representatives to discuss EIR No. 616 in advance of the full commission hearing on the matter. It was open to the public, but no public was in attendance. Among the public agency representatives was Yorba Linda City Manager Mark Pulone. Check out Mr. Pulone's testimony at [ocplanning.net /audio](http://ocplanning.net/audio) under "November 6, 2014." You can find him at 1:25:56 on that audio clip.

- *Marlene Nelson,
Yorba Linda*

[Open the Newspaper](#)