

Debbie Peterson  
280 W. Grand Avenue #B  
Grover Beach, CA 93433

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)

November 29, 2015

Dear Ms. Phipps:

I am writing in support of the new behavioral health facility proposed to be built in Templeton. A facility of this kind is desperately needed in our county to serve children, adolescents, adults and senior citizens who are experiencing acute mental health issues and need intensive inpatient care. Our County falls far short of its remit to provide care for our citizens by having no such facility.

This is a problem with its roots in the 1980s when many western countries over-reacted to the need for reform and cost cuts in mental health care and closed facilities, leaving the mentally ill on the streets. Thirty years on we realize that this "reform" was shortsighted. Our first responders, law enforcement, and municipal staff are acutely aware of the need for this kind of facility. Please help redress this social problem and the health and safety of SLO County by supporting this much needed health service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DOR', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Debbie Peterson



**For the Billig Project / SUB2013-00053 / PC 12/10**  
**Holly Phipps** to: Ramona Hedges

11/30/2015 10:53 AM

Hi,

See below:

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Holly Phipps, MCRP  
North County & Winery Planner



976 Osos Street, Room 300  
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408  
805-781-1162  
<http://www.sloplanning.org>

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 11/30/2015 10:52 AM -----

From: Corinne Muriset <cmuriset@charter.net>  
To: [hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
Cc: Adam Hill <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 11/28/2015 07:52 PM  
Subject: Memory care and behavioral health hospital~

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San Luis Obispo County Planning Department

976 Osos Street #200

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300

[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

Dear Ms. Phipps,

We are very fortunate to have a state of the art memory care facility and behavioral health hospital proposed for our county. I hope that you will focus on all of the main positive reasons to approve this project: The help that it will give to people of all ages in crisis; the ability of patients to stay close to home and loved ones while undergoing treatment; the new mental health professionals to be recruited to our county; the jobs in the two facilities; and the huge economic impact to the county. This looks like a “win-win” situation for everyone. I’m asking you to support this project. We need it.

Sincerely,

Corinne Muriset  
2111 Canvasback Place  
Avila Beach, CA 93424

---

*Corinne Muriset*

Real Estate Web Site Dev. & Management  
Internet Marketing / SEO SEM Consultant

Work: (805) 541 5884 Cell: (805) 440 4269  
PO BOX 2114 Avila Beach, Ca. 93424

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 11/30/2015 10:52 AM -----

From: James Clark <slajdclark@att.net>  
To: "Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us" <Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 11/28/2015 08:11 PM  
Subject: Templeton Behavioral Hospital

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Dear Ms. Phipps,

My wife and I are writing you in hopes it will influence your position at the pending hearing on Thursday. We are a normal family like most others in the country except that we have one daughter who is affected by mental illness. It is because of her that we become involved in NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) as part of our search for help for her.

We like most people were generally aware of mental illness in our community but only later recognized the degree of its presence and the limited resources available to treat it. We were greatly encouraged to hear of the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital next to the Templeton Twin Cities Hospital.

I admit we were a little surprised at the apparent local reaction which seems to miss the importance of the underlying project by people who are ruled by lack of knowledge about mental health and have the quick "not in my back yard" response. We have personally experienced a good indicator of what the likely lack of problems will be in their neighborhood based on the relocation of the Transitions Mental Health facility in SLO which is close to our house. We have had no effects on our neighborhood quality of life or other impacts since its relocation.

I hope you and the commission are not dissuaded by a few loud voices from making the right choice on a reality that affects both those who suffer from mental illness and the rest of the wider community. It's a problem we cannot afford to ignore. It will not go away without people in authority facing the issue and taking meaningful action such as the proposed 96 bed facility.

Thank you for taking time to consider our experience

Jim and Kathy Clark  
2220 Exposition # 56  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 11/30/2015 10:52 AM -----

From: "Rita Mills" <rrm321@att.net>  
To: <Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 11/28/2015 09:20 PM  
Subject: Rita Mills Re: Templeton Hospital to be built

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San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hphipps@co.slo.ca.us)

Dear Ms. Phipps:

I am writing in support of the new behavioral health facility proposed to be built in Templeton. A facility of this kind is desperately needed in our county to serve children, adolescents, adults and senior citizens who are experiencing acute mental health issues and need intensive inpatient care. There is no facility of this kind in our county and as a result our loved ones must travel great distances to receive the treatment they need.

Our world is in a terrible shape with regard to suffering because of lack of medical care. I have heard horror stories of those who have had to be transferred to Ventura enduring a lot of pain and suffering because they would be separated from their infant that they were breastfeeding, due to post partum syndrome. I have a roommate who has been diagnosed with bi-polar disorder. If he has an emergency, I will have to have him transferred to Ventura or even Los Angeles. As his health care advocate, I do not want to have to go through that.

We are hearing about horror stories all around us with regard to the mentally ill who are committing suicide or going on killing sprees, such as the one last year at UCSB, and many others not far from home here. I believe that this and the fact that we have the highest suicide rate in our county is due to the fact that individuals feel that there is no help out there for them.

Please do what you can to make sure this hospital gets approved. **I cannot believe that a group would be formed of human beings who would try to fight such a noble cause as this hospital is. Whoever in their right mind would prevent a helping type facility from coming to fruition.** It is just another sign of our times and the narcissism that is so prevalent in our world. **Why would anyone want to prevent SOMEONE ELSE from helping others, even if they did not want to do it THEMSELVES?** This is a mystery to me. Please, please help us to help *those who are HURTING* by making sure this hospital gets built.

Ann Robin, San Luis Obispo County Behavioral Health Administrator reported recently that she was unable to serve more than 350 patients last year, many of them children. These

patients had to be sent out of county to treatment facilities. When patients have to travel, the move presents both a challenge to those providing care and a strain on family members. It is very difficult for family members and loved ones to be part of treatment plans in facilities that may be in LA, Santa Rosa, San Mateo, Ventura or Santa Barbara.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults will suffer a mental illness in their lifetime and will need to seek help. We presently have 16 beds in our county to serve a population of 270,000 people. This is clearly not enough. We have an opportunity to build a facility in our county to serve the needs of the people who live here and need help. Please do everything you can to help this hospital get built!

Sincerely,

Rita Mills

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 11/30/2015 10:52 AM -----

From: Bridget Davis <bdavis@triviumcharter.org>  
To: Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us  
Date: 11/28/2015 09:42 PM  
Subject: Atascadero mental health facility

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SLO County Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)

Dear San Luis Obispo County Planning Department Representative Phipps,

I am writing in support of the 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed to be built across the street from Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton. The need for such a facility in San Luis Obispo County is great, and the proposed location of this facility within a hospital/medical resource hub seems ideal. It is important that a behavioral health facility be part of a medical campus so that patient care can be integrated and coordinated for optimal treatment results of the whole person.

With one in four persons expected to experience a mental health diagnosis in their lifetime and one in 12 children, the need for behavioral health care for families in crisis is imperative. Our local County Mental Health facility has had to send hundreds of patients out of county for treatment for lack of beds here. There is no facility in San Luis Obispo County that can provide several weeks of intense in patient behavioral therapy to family members in crisis. The closest facility for adolescents is in Ventura. Children often must go to UCLA Neuropsychiatric Hospital for treatment, creating a huge burden for our local families who must be part of the treatment and exit plans.

My husband had to go all the way to Cottage hospital for help. He suffered for 20 years, with out a diagnosis because of the stigma, and fear. I think if there were a facility that was welcome in our community it would help to lessen some of our fears and make care for mental health easier. The mentally ill and there families are in such anguish. Putting this facility at reach really sends a powerful message to those who need it most.

This is an opportunity that our county can not pass up to provide much needed services to underserved children , adolescents and seniors who need immediate mental health care in our county. The property is zoned for this use. The owners are willing to build the facility. Please help in any way you can to bring this much needed facility to our families and loved ones.

Sincerely,  
Bridget Davis

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 11/30/2015 10:52 AM -----

From: Debbie Peterson <debbiepeterson805@gmail.com>  
To: hhipps@co.slo.ca.us  
Date: 11/28/2015 10:01 PM  
Subject: Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital Public Comment

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Ms. Phipps,  
Please find attached a letter in support of the above project.  
Debbie Peterson  
280 W Grand Ave #B  
Grover Beach, CA 93433  
Tel/Text 805-550-4490



[DebbiePeterson805@gmail.com](mailto:DebbiePeterson805@gmail.com) 2. BHHSupportLtr.doc



**Re: Fwd: Templeton Psychiatric Facility proposal** 

**James Caruso** to: Francine Jansen  
Cc: hhipps, rhedges

11/30/2015 10:39 AM

Thank you for your letter. Ms Hedges will forward it to the Commission. The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on Thursday December 10th.

James Caruso  
San Luis Obispo County  
Department of Planning and Building  
Senior Planner  
(805) 781-5702  
[www.sloplanning.org](http://www.sloplanning.org)

From: Francine Jansen <[franjanslo@gmail.com](mailto:franjanslo@gmail.com)>  
To: [jcaruso@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:jcaruso@co.slo.ca.us)  
Cc: [rhedges@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:rhedges@co.slo.ca.us), [hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)  
Date: 11/30/2015 08:54 AM  
Subject: Fwd: Templeton Psychiatric Facility proposal

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Francine Jansen <[franjanslo@gmail.com](mailto:franjanslo@gmail.com)>  
Subject: Templeton Psychiatric Facility proposal  
Date: November 25, 2015 10:24:41 PM PST  
To: [jcaruso@slo.ca.us](mailto:jcaruso@slo.ca.us)

Dear Mr. Caruso,

I have some thoughts regarding the proposed Templeton Psychiatric Facility and I am wondering whether you might be so kind as to forward these comments to the Planning Commission.

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a private psychotherapy practice in San Luis Obispo. I began my practice in 1992 when I relocated from the Los Angeles area to accept a Therapist !V position with SLO County Mental Health in 1992. I retired from County Mental Health roughly 9 years ago but still have my private practice.

Before my transition to our beautiful paradise here on the Central Coast I was also in private practice and employed at two private psychiatric hospitals. Each located in affluent neighborhoods and each contributing a great deal to the collaboration of mental health services in the community. These hospitals were not only accepted in the community but added greatly. One of these hospitals was located in posh Calabasas and the other in Westlake, another very exclusive enclave.

The population served were mostly acute voluntary patients many of which were in crisis. Many were brand new to mental health and were relieved that there were safe inpatient services nearby where they could go to "just feel better." Treatment focussed on stabilization through education about their disorder, support, sometimes medication, a variety of group therapies, individual psychotherapy and referrals to community support groups and outpatient treatment preparing for discharge.

Diagnoses ranged from depression, severe anxiety, eating disorders, bipolar illness and also substance abuse to name a few. Often frightened at first, by some of the preconceived notions of a psyche. unit such as a the "snake pit" patients often were surprised when they discovered that the hospital was a beautiful environment, comfortable, folks were treated respectfully and most of all they were given hope.

The process of admitting oneself to the hospital was fairly simple. One needed only to make a phone call and transport oneself to the hospital. After intake, patients were given a complete medical examination and a psychiatric evaluation. There was a culture of support. Folks often stayed from a couple of days to roughly two weeks. After discharge Individuals were able to return to their normal lives-normal lives meaning families, jobs and being active members of the community. There were efforts to have a discharge plan where follow up out patient services were arranged as a transition.

My two hospitals attracted and served primarily the folks who lived and worked in the surrounding community.

One really neat thing was that there was a huge effort on the part of the hospital administration to encourage collaboration with all local mental health agencies, psychotherapists, physicians and the community at large often holding trainings, discussion groups and community outreach programs. The more involvement with the community, the less fear and stigma occurred.

I am excited that there is the possibility of creating a like philosophy and facility such as I experienced down South right here on the Central Coast. I've seen it work. I pray that others have the foresight to embrace a similar concept. It could only be a positive thing for our community.

Please forward these comments to the Planning Commission.

Sincerely

Francine L. Jansen LCSW  
805 541 7911



Fw: Concerned Citizen against Psychiatric facility in Templeton  
Frank Mecham to: Ramona Hedges  
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

11/23/2015 09:11 AM

Frank R. Mecham  
District 1 Supervisor  
1055 Monterey St. Rm. D430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
(805) 781-5450

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 11/23/2015 09:11 AM -----

From: Gwen Mecum Hunt <Gwen@americanserviceco.com>  
To: info@intempleton.com, dianegoneil@mac.com, hhipps@co.slo.ca.us, rhedges@co.slo.ca.us, dclarue\_air@yahoo.com, fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, darnold@co.slo.ca.us, Nanette@soaringeaglepress.com  
Date: 11/23/2015 07:42 AM  
Subject: Concerned Citizen against Psychiatric facility in Templeton

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*This email was sent previously to some of those listed above . We want to formally go on record as opposing this facility .*

To Whom it may concern :

We would like to take this opportunity to express our concern for the proposal of a Psychiatric Health Facility in the heart of our small town of Templeton .

We have lived here for over 35 years and have seen this town grow into a marvelous and safe place to live. Sought by many as the ideal place to live which includes many health care doctors, health facilities , hospital, and a great school district with a wonderful reputation , for our children to attend .

We have many rentals here in Templeton , one of which is directly behind the current hospital . This proposed facility would be a detriment to the safety and well -being of our children , our homeowners , and the large number of renters that reside in this little town .

Please note our objection to this facility being in such close proximity to all of the above .

Sincerely,

*Gwen and Harvey Hunt*

Gwen and Harvey Hunt

P.O. Box 66

Templeton, CA 93465-0066



Fw: Proposed Psychiatric Care Facility in Templeton

Frank Mecham to: Ramona Hedges

Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Cc: Vicki Shelby

11/30/2015 10:47 AM

Frank R. Mecham  
District 1 Supervisor  
1055 Monterey St. Rm. D430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
(805) 781-5450

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 11/30/2015 10:47 AM -----

From: Jeri Luther <j-luther@outlook.com>  
To: "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 11/25/2015 11:44 AM  
Subject: Proposed Psychiatric Care Facility in Templeton

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Dear Mr. Mecham,

I am a Templeton resident who is **STRONGLY** opposed to the proposed psychiatric facility being built in our community.

Of ALL the psychiatric care facilities in California, NONE are located within a community services district, and ALL facilities are located in cities with populations of at least 50,000 people.

Let's talk facts about several similarly sized (number of beds) psychiatric care facilities found in these California cities (and counties).

Sonoma County population: 493,285  
Santa Rosa population: 174,170

San Diego County population: 3.3 million  
San Diego population: 1.3 million

Ventura County population: 846,178  
Ventura population: 106,433

Alameda County population: 1.579 million  
Fremont: 214,089

Now, let's look at Templeton:

San Luis Obispo County population: 276,443

Templeton: 7,700

The facility operator and property owners have chosen to ignore the reality of our community; a rural CSD with limited services which will PRIMARILY be serving patients from **out of the area**. Both the property owners and the facility operator have had NO prior experience developing or running ANY psychiatric facility. They are NOT Templeton residents and will NOT be negatively impacted by their proposed facility .

The proposed site may be on a street which houses other medical services , but Las Tablas is PRIMARILY a residential area with homes surrounding the proposed site ; including the soon to be constructed "Vineyard Creek" 41-home housing development which is only a few hundred yards from the proposed facility .

Las Tablas is NOT a medical corridor suited for the proposed psychiatric facility . It is comparing apples to oranges to say that a hospital and various medical offices means that the proposed psychiatric facility is a 'good fit' for Templeton , or to say that Atascadero State Hospital is proof that Templeton residents shouldn 't be concerned about patients receiving psychiatric care. The proposed facility in Templeton is NOT a secure facility, and patients are NOT legally required to return 'home.' And similarly to what happens at the SLO county jail (where my husband has been a correctional deputy for over 20 years), as much as patients will be 'encouraged' to find a ride home from the psychiatric facility, as with jailed inmates who are released, psychiatric patients WILL BE allowed to simply walk out of the facility and on to Templeton streets .

I also wonder why it hasn't been mentioned that there is exactly one (1) single sidewalk/'cattle chute' (walk it yourselves if you are unfamiliar with it) which allows pedestrians access between East Templeton and West Templeton on Las Tablas Road with the only other nearest pedestrian access between East and West Templeton 1.07 miles away. As a regular user of this single pedestrian access under the 101 overpass, I find it's not uncommon to be faced with transients 'camping' out on the sidewalk ; blocking the ONLY pathway for pedestrians. Without a ride OUT of Templeton , it is likely that a newly released patient might also utilize that particular covered area for shelter (especially since a RTA bus stop is located close by along with Ride Share parking).

I haven't met a SINGLE Templeton resident who is opposed to greater mental health services in our county, but the proposed facility is a massive enterprise that is a poor fit for our tiny community services district. The MAJORITY of Templeton residents , those who will be most affected by this unwise proposal which is designed to serve the needs of patients **from out of the area** , DO NOT support the proposed psychiatric care facility in Templeton.

I ask that you do your homework, and DO NOT support the proposed psychiatric care facility in Templeton. TAAG DOES NOT support the proposed psychiatric care facility in Templeton.

Sincerely,

Jeryl Luther

135 Hawley Street

Templeton, CA 93465



November 20, 2015

SLO County Planning & Building Department  
976 Osos St., #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Attn: County Planning Commission, The San Luis Obispo Tribune, Atascadero News

Subject: Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital

Dear Commissioners and Editors,

As you know, there is such controversy surrounding the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton. I, for one, believe this is an idea whose time has come and an opportunity for the North County that is not likely to come again soon if this proposal is rejected.

Many of my friends and neighbors are needful of local services and nearby behavioral health treatment for their family members and themselves. Although some of them may be able to make the 3 to 6 hour or more journey to be near loved ones moved out of the county for for treatment purposes, it is a financial drain on them. So many in our local communities people cannot afford the cost of that travel and so don't get the treatment they may need. Recently articles in the newspaper have pointed out the higher incidence of suicides in rural areas—had proper treatment facilities been nearby these unnecessary deaths may have been prevented.

I believe those opposed to this facility have had their fears preyed upon and do not realize that the kind of person who would receive treatment there would likely be a suicidal teenager, a depressed post partum mom, a maniacal geriatric individual, or a veteran whose has fought for his country—all people upon whose travel to a distant treatment center would increase their anxiety and depression symptoms, and that a nearby facility could alleviate. None of those opposing this treatment center would likely opposed a dialysis center, or Alzheimers center. Their fear is that the 'crazies' will get them or their children, and it is unfounded.

I am sorry that fear is what motivates many public decisions and I think it is time to move forward and not make decisions based on fear but on a real quantifiable and common sense approach. Please support this important addition to the North County when you are called upon to make your final decision.

Sincerely yours,

Stevia Wilson Shaw  
7655 Bella Vista Rd.

Atascadero, CA 93422



Holly Phipps to: Ramona Hedges

11/30/2015 11:41 AM

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Holly Phipps, MCRP  
North County & Winery Planner



976 Osos Street, Room 300  
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408  
805-781-1162  
<http://www.sloplanning.org>

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 11/30/2015 11:41 AM -----

From: "Murray J. Powell" <murray@dfrios.com>  
To: Holly Phipps <hhipps@co.slo.ca.us >  
Date: 11/25/2015 09:01 AM  
Subject: SLO Planning Commission Mental FacilityHearing

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Holly,

We see that the December 10th Planning Commission agenda has been published . Attached to the agenda is your lengthy report with various attachments . Is this the report that is issued to the Planning Commission that I was advised would be issued about December 1st? Or will there be a different report issued to the Commission ?

Included in the report as Attachment 7 is the 105 page "Negative Declaration and Notice of Determination. The first page indicates your name as Project Manager but the document is not signed and dated. I see on page 2 that "A Mitigated Negative Declaration will be prepared". Attachment 1 states that the Mitigated Negative Declaration was issued on October 29th. Does the Attachment 7 report represent the Mitigated report although it is not identified as such? Has the mitigated declaration been prepared? If not when will it be prepared and distributed to the public? If so where can it be found? I assume that the SLO County Planning Department is the Lead Agency for this project . Is that correct?

I understand that there are certain notice requirements involved with EIR's that would be associated with this project. Have all proper notices to the public been distributed or published as required by law and CEQA? If so I would like copies of those notices. I understand that the Mitigated Declaration will require certain public notices . Have these notices been

published or distributed?

If possible, please email the specific legal existing property zoning information. I am interested in comments in Attachment 2 that somehow equates the existence of a 91 bed full service mental treatment facility that operates 24/7 with 91 patients and possibly as many staff to "medical office and professional buildings" that generally conduct operations 8 or 10 hours a day 5 days a week with much lower ratios of staffing than the mental facility will require. Please forward copies to me of the Ordinance and Building Code requirements referred to in Attachment 1 Item D. that are "designed to address health, safety and welfare concerns." I assume that you would be responsible for responding to these requests. Please let me know if I should be contacting someone else. Thank you for your time.

Murray Powell  
805-434-0707 (Home)  
510-914-3753 (Cell)

Sent from Surface

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 11/30/2015 11:41 AM -----

From: Jeri Luther <j-luther@outlook.com>  
To: "hhipps@co.slo.ca.us" <hhipps@co.slo.ca.us >  
Date: 11/25/2015 12:01 PM  
Subject: Proposed Psychiatric Care Facility in Templeton

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Dear Ms. Phipps,

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The proposed site may be on a street which houses other medical services, but Las Tablas is PRIMARILY a residential area with homes surrounding the proposed site; including the soon to be constructed "Vineyard Creek" 41-home housing development which is only a few hundred yards from the proposed facility.

Las Tablas is NOT a medical corridor suited for the proposed psychiatric facility. It is comparing apples to oranges to say that a hospital and various medical offices means that the proposed psychiatric facility is a 'good fit' for Templeton, or to say that Atascadero State Hospital is proof that Templeton residents shouldn't be concerned about patients receiving psychiatric care. The proposed facility in Templeton is NOT a secure facility, and patients are NOT legally required to return 'home.' And similarly to what happens at the SLO county jail (where my husband has been a correctional deputy for over 20 years), as much as patients will be 'encouraged' to find a ride home from the psychiatric facility, as with jailed inmates who are released, psychiatric patients WILL BE allowed to simply walk out of the facility and on to Templeton streets.

I also wonder why it hasn't been mentioned that there is exactly one (1) single sidewalk/'cattle chute' (walk it yourselves if you are unfamiliar with it) which allows pedestrians access between East Templeton and West Templeton on Las Tablas Road with the only other nearest pedestrian access between East and West Templeton 1.07 miles away. As a regular user of this single pedestrian access under the 101 overpass, I find it's not uncommon to be faced with transients 'camping' out on the sidewalk; blocking the ONLY pathway for pedestrians. Without a ride OUT of Templeton, it is likely that a newly released patient might also utilize that particular covered area for shelter (especially since a RTA bus stop is located close by along with Ride Share parking).

I haven't met a SINGLE Templeton resident who is opposed to greater mental health services in our county, but the proposed facility is a massive enterprise that is a poor fit for our tiny community services district. The MAJORITY of Templeton residents, those who will be most affected by this unwise proposal which is designed to serve the needs of patients **from out of the area**, DO NOT support the proposed psychiatric care facility in Templeton.

I ask that you do your homework, and DO NOT support the proposed psychiatric care facility in Templeton. TAAG DOES NOT support the proposed psychiatric care facility in Templeton.

Sincerely,

Jeryl Luther

135 Hawley Street

Templeton, CA 93465

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 11/30/2015 11:41 AM -----

From: Peg Pisani <pisanipeg@yahoo.com>

To: "hhipps@co.slo.ca.us" <hhipps@co.slo.ca.us >  
Date: 11/30/2015 11:23 AM  
Subject: Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton

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Dear Ms. Phipps,

Unfortunately stigma is alive and well against those living with mental illnesses in our county. The furor against the development of a Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton bears this out. What people do not realize is that mental illnesses affect many of us and those we love. And the need for services and treatment centers is imperative to help people get well.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults and one in 12 children are affected by mental illness at any time. Do the math and you will find that the 16 beds we have in our county to serve those in the acute phase of mental illness are woefully inadequate. People can recover from mental illness but only if they receive treatment during the times they are acutely ill. It is also important to have the support of family and friends in their community while ill.

The 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed near Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton will allow children, adolescents, adults and seniors to receive the treatment they need within their own county. Wrap around mental health services will be available to them when they go home to their nearby communities.

It seems like a no-brainer. The owner/developer is committed to building this much needed hospital saving our county the expense of purchasing and building a similar hospital. The location is within a greater complex of medical resources. Our loved ones will be able to get the help they need within their own county.

The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely,

Margaret Ann Pisani

704 Gardenia Circle

Apt 4

Paso Robles, CA 93446

Email: [pisanipeg@yahoo.com](mailto:pisanipeg@yahoo.com)

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 11/30/2015 11:41 AM -----

From: "Murray J. Powell" <murray@dfrios.com>  
To: "hhipps@co.slo.ca.us" <hhipps@co.slo.ca.us >  
Cc: "darnold@co.slo.ca.us" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us >, "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us >, "lcompton@co.slo.ca.us" <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us >, "bgibson@co.slo.ca.us" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us >, "ahill@co.slo.ca.us" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us >  
Date: 11/30/2015 11:29 AM  
Subject: Proposed Mental Care Project

---

Ms. Phipps,

Attached is an opinion piece published in the current edition of New Times magazine discussing our concerns regarding the proposed Templeton Mental Facility. I see that your online project report in the last section titled Correspondence Part 5 presents recent letters from the CEO of French Hospital, the SLO County Commission on Aging and from Dan O'Grady a former SLO County Planning Commissioner, that support the project in essentially its 91 bed design and Templeton location.

Please enter the attached Opinion piece into your system for the record.

Murray Powell  
805-434-0707 (Home)



510-91403753 (Cell) SCAN0072.PDF



Fw: Proposed Mental Care Project  
Frank Mecham to: Ramona Hedges  
Sent by: Vicki Shelby  
Cc: Vicki Shelby

12/01/2015 09:30 AM

Frank R. Mecham  
District 1 Supervisor  
1055 Monterey St. Rm. D430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
(805) 781-5450

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 12/01/2015 09:30 AM -----

From: "Murray J. Powell" <murray@dfrios.com>  
To: "hphipps@co.slo.ca.us" <hphipps@co.slo.ca.us>  
Cc: "darnold@co.slo.ca.us" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, "lcompton@co.slo.ca.us" <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us>, "bgibson@co.slo.ca.us" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, "ahill@co.slo.ca.us" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 11/30/2015 11:29 AM  
Subject: Proposed Mental Care Project

---

Ms. Phipps,

Attached is an opinion piece published in the current edition of New Times magazine discussing our concerns regarding the proposed Templeton Mental Facility. I see that your online project report in the last section titled Correspondence Part 5 presents recent letters from the CEO of French Hospital, the SLO County Commission on Aging and from Dan O'Grady a former SLO County Planning Commissioner, that support the project in essentially its 91 bed design and Templeton location.

Please enter the attached Opinion piece into your system for the record.

Murray Powell  
805-434-0707 (Home)



510-91403753 (Cell) SCAN0072.PDF



December 2, 2015

San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department  
976 Osos Suite 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Via email to: [HPhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:HPhipps@co.slo.ca.us)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today in support of the commission approving the building of the Behavioral Hospital in Templeton.

I have spent my 30 year career running facilities that serve children and adults suffering from mental illness and co-occurring addiction. Those that work in this field do so because of a passion for improving the lives of families, and Mark Schneider is no different. Mark's career as a healthcare executive demonstrates this passion, from his work in large healthcare systems to starting two successful behavioral health companies, and now Vizion Healthcare. Mark understands the importance of quality care, and I am convinced that he would not be proposing this hospital unless the need was clear and convincing.

The Behavioral Health Board of San Luis Obispo County has articulated repeatedly that it is a "priority of this County to have more mental health beds". This community board is promulgated to review and evaluate the community's behavioral health needs, services, facilities, and special problems, to ensure services are provided that improve and maintain the health and safety of individuals and families affected by mental health and/or substance abuse issues. In addition, the County Health Agency has published Facts about Mental Illness<sup>1</sup> that articulates the prevalence of mental illness. Together, the county has already made a strong case for the need.

As a long-time hospital CEO, I have first-hand experienced the same level of concern that you are hearing from some of the community neighbors. Despite the national attention that mental illness is now taking, fear of the unknown still exists. In my case, these same neighbors who expressed their concerns and fears within a year became our volunteers, our employees, and our patients. Please understand this fear, but don't let it sway you from making the right decision. For the sake of San Luis Obispo and the surrounding community, approve this proposal.

Approval of this hospital is the right thing to do, and your community will be healthier as a result.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark S. Richards'.

Mark. S. Richards, M.A.  
Behavioral Health Consultant

<sup>1</sup> FACTS ABOUT MENTAL ILLNESS

1. Mental illnesses are physical brain disorders that disrupt a person's ability to think, feel and relate to others and their environment. With appropriate treatment and support, individuals living with mental illness recover to enjoy full and productive lives.
2. Mental illnesses are more common than cancer, diabetes or heart disease.
3. In any given year more than five million Americans suffer from an acute episode of mental illness.
4. One in every five families is affected in their lifetime by severe mental illness, such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and major depression.
5. One in ten children and adolescents have mental illnesses severe enough to cause some level of impairment. Yet fewer than one in five of these young people receives needed treatment.
6. The number one reason for hospital admissions nationwide is a biological psychiatric condition. At any moment, almost 21% of all hospital beds are filled by people with a mental illness.
7. The total price tag of mental illness in this country is \$148 billion, including direct costs (hospitalizations and medications) and the indirect costs (lost wages, family caregiving and losses due to suicide).
8. Despite media focus on the exceptions, individuals receiving treatment for schizophrenia are no more prone to violence than the general public. Unfortunately, almost one-third of all U.S. jails incarcerate people with severe mental illnesses who have no charges against them, but are merely waiting for a psychiatric evaluation or the availability of a psychiatric hospital bed.
9. On any given day approximately 150,000 people with severe mental illnesses are homeless, living on the street or in public shelters.
10. Treatment works! The treatment success rate for schizophrenia is 60%, 65% of major depression and 80% for bipolar disorder. The success rate for treatments of heart disease ranges from 41 – 52%.

[http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/health/mentalhealthservices/generalinfo/facts\\_about\\_mental\\_illness.htm](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/health/mentalhealthservices/generalinfo/facts_about_mental_illness.htm)

12/1/15

Dear Commissioner Irving,

DEC - 22015

Please keep clearly in mind that there are over 280,000 people in San Luis Obispo County who will absolutely sooner or later directly personally benefit from the Proposed Behavioral Health Center across from Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton. Statistics clearly show that everyone will one day have a relative, friend, and/or neighbor needing short-term hospitalization for mental illness. In fact, one in four adults will personally experience at least one episode of mental illness in their lifetime. This is NOT commonly understood because of the tragic stigma associated with mental illness that we are only now overcoming, however slowly.

There are perhaps as many as 1,000 Templeton residents who live near the proposed site who have been rallied to believe this facility would be dangerous. That is just NOT true! It is true that the stigma, and ironically their unwitting promotion of it, could reduce nearby property values. The choice is crystal clear - 280,000 beneficiaries vs. 1,000 Nimbys. I implore you to do the right thing for the far greater good.

Most sincerely  
Bill Phil

9025 La Canada Ln. Atascadero

FC - 5304

# PASO ROBLES POLICE DEPARTMENT

November 25, 2015

JEC - 2015

SLO County Planning Department  
Attn: Planning Commission  
976 Osos St.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re: Need for Additional Inpatient Psychiatric Resources

Dear Planning Commission,

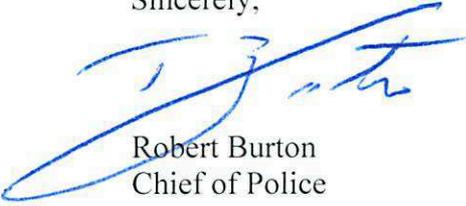
This letter is in support of additional inpatient psychiatric resources in the County of San Luis Obispo.

As a law enforcement executive in San Luis Obispo County, it is my job to provide for the safety and security of Paso Robles residents and visitors alike. Often times we are first responders to serve those in our community that are suffering from mental illness. In many of these cases we have very few resources to offer this segment of the community who have not committed a crime, but are in a fragile mental state and need assistance.

We ultimately seek the assistance of our partners at the County Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) located in San Luis Obispo. The PHF is the only resource in this County for inpatient care and is often full as it has a limited licensed capacity. In addition, the PHF only serves as a short term treatment solution and it is not uncommon for our agency to return to the PHF with the same individual on multiple occasions as they have not been afforded the long term care needed to make a difference.

I urge you to consider the great need in our County for additional inpatient psychiatric resources and approve proposals that make sense and will benefit those in need.

Sincerely,



Robert Burton  
Chief of Police

MS-34



# CITY OF ATASCADERO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*"Dedicated to Professional Service"*



**JEREL HALEY**  
Chief of Police

November 24, 2015

DEC - 2 2015

SLO County Planning Department  
Attn: Planning Commission  
976 Osos St.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re: Need for Additional Inpatient Psychiatric Resources

Dear Planning Commission,

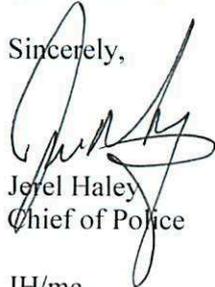
I am writing to ask for your support in procuring additional inpatient psychiatric resources in the County of San Luis Obispo.

As Chief of Police for the City of Atascadero Police Department, it is my job to provide for the safety and security of residents and visitors within the City of Atascadero, in addition to assisting our law enforcement partners in the county should the need arise. As first responders, it is our job to serve and protect individuals within our community who may be suffering from mental illness. Unfortunately, the resources necessary to tend to the needs of such individuals, whose mental state is fragile but show no criminal tendencies, is woefully inadequate.

Together with my law enforcement colleagues I am asking for the assistance of our partners at the County Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) located in San Luis Obispo. The PHF is the only resource in this County for inpatient care and is often full as it has a limited licensed capacity. In addition, the PHF only serves as a short term treatment solution and it is not uncommon for our agency to return to the PHF with the same individual on multiple occasions as they have not been afforded the long term care needed to make a difference.

I urge you to consider the great need in our County for additional inpatient psychiatric resources and approve proposals that make sense and will benefit those in need.

Sincerely,

  
Jerel Haley  
Chief of Police

JH/mc

5505 EL CAMINO REAL • ATASCADERO, CA 93422

General Business: (805) 461-5051 Administrative Services: (805) 470-3200 Watch Commander: (805) 470-3280 Fax: (805) 461-3702  
www.atascadero.org



COY OF A...  
M... ..



EC - 5301

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San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
976 Osos Street #200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300  
[Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us)

DEC - 2 2015

Dear Ms. Phipps,

Unfortunately stigma is alive and well against those living with mental illnesses in our county. The furor against the development of a Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton bears this out. What people do not realize is that mental illnesses affect many of us and those we love. And the need for services and treatment centers is imperative to help people get well.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults and one in 12 children are affected by mental illness at any time. Do the math and you will find that the 16 beds we have in our county to serve those in the acute phase of mental illness are woefully inadequate. People can recover from mental illness but only if they receive treatment during the times they are acutely ill. It is also important to have the support of family and friends in their community while ill.

The 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed near Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton will allow children, adolescents, adults and seniors to receive the treatment they need within their own county. Wrap around mental health services will be available to them when they go home to their nearby communities.

It seems like a no-brainer. The owner/developer is committed to building this much needed hospital saving our county the expense of purchasing and building a similar hospital. The location is within a greater complex of medical resources. Our loved ones will be able to get the help they need within their own county.

The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely,



REC-550K

Handwritten notes at the top of the page, including a date and some illegible text.

Handwritten notes in the upper middle section of the page.

Handwritten notes in the middle section of the page.

Handwritten notes in the lower middle section of the page.

Handwritten notes in the lower section of the page.

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page.



FW: Contact Us (response #2963)  
Vicki Shelby to: Ramona Hedges

12/02/2015 04:52 PM

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman  
Legislative Assistant for  
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham  
1055 Monterey St. D430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
(805) 781-4491/FAX (805) 781-1350

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 12/02/2015 04:52:12 PM-----

----- Original Message -----

From : Juliane Hendricks/BOS/COSLO  
To : BOS\_Legislative Assistants@co.slo.ca.us  
Cc :  
Sent on : 12/02 01:42:20 PM PST  
Subject : Fw: Contact Us (response #2963)

Forwarding this to everyone as it is regarding the Behavioral Health Facility

Thank you

Juliane D Hendricks

----- Forwarded by Juliane Hendricks/BOS/COSLO on 12/02/2015 01:41 PM -----

From: "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>  
To: "BoardOfSupps@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardOfSupps@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 12/02/2015 01:40 PM  
Subject: Contact Us (response #2963)

---

Contact Us (response #2963)

Survey Information

Site:County of SLO  
Page Title:Contact Us  
URL:<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm>  
Submission Time/Date:12/2/2015 1:40:28 PM

Survey Response

Name :  
Stevan Rosenlind

Telephone Number :  
805-927-1654

Email address :  
cambriacconnection1@gmail.com

Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):  
Dec. 2, 2015

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors  
1055 Monterey Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Board of Supervisors,

We are writing to you to express our support for the proposed behavioral health facility in Templeton. We believe the facility is one the county sorely needs. The currently- available 16 beds are not nearly adequate to serve both the individuals dealing with mental health issues and their families and friends who often must travel inordinately long distances to support their loved ones.

The proposed location in Templeton is zoned for medical facilities and close to other medical providers. We believe this location is sensitive to Templeton residents and offers nearby access to other services that patients may require.

We understand the perceived crime risk is of concern to some Templeton residents. Sadly, if left unaddressed the crime risk is greater if those with mental illness are left untreated. The assumed danger does not take into account that the facility would not accept violent or overly aggressive patients nor patients referred by courts and or the police. Those patients will be sent to the county hospital for treatment.

We strongly support the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to act in the best interest of all the residents of San Luis Obispo County and support development of this much-needed facility.

Respectfully,

Stevan Rosenlind  
President

On behalf of the Cambria Connection Board of Directors



FW: District 1 - Contact Us (response #424)  
Vicki Shelby b : Ramona Hedges

12/02/2015 04:50 PM

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman  
Legislative Assistant for  
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham  
1055 Monterey St. D430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
(805) 781-4491/FAX (805) 781-1350

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 12/02/2015 04:49:59 PM-----

----- Original Message -----

From : "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us >  
To : "vshelby@co.slo.ca.us" <vshelby@co.slo.ca.us >  
Cc :  
Sent on : 12/02 02:51:34 PM PST  
Subject : District 1 - Contact Us (response #424)

District 1 - Contact Us (response #424)

Survey Information

Site:County of SLO  
Page Title:District 1 - Contact Us  
URL:  
<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/District-1/District1ContactUs.htm>

Submission Time/Date:12/2/2015 2:50:54 PM

Survey Response

Name:  
Marcus Smith

Telephone Number:  
805-835-3985

Email address:  
tempmarc@charter.net

Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):  
Proposed Templeton Psychiatric Hospital... I urge you to make sure this proposal is kept out of our small town community. We do not have enough law enforcement or fire to handle such a facility. The recent San Bernardino shooting is to close to

home. The citizens that live around this proposed facility should not have to live in fear of a possible repeat incident. Can you guarantee with 100% certainty that this type of shooting would not happen at Templeton's proposed psychiatric hospital. I think not. Building such a hospital will only increase the chances of such an event. Thank you for addressing my concerns.



## Crystal Kidwell

805-434-3283

[crystalkidwell@gmail.com](mailto:crystalkidwell@gmail.com) 1582 Tanager Court Templeton, CA 93465

December 3, 2015

SLO County Planning Commission

976 Osos Street

#200P

SLO, CA 93408

To whom it concerns:

I am a Templeton resident writing to oppose the proposed 91 bed Behavioral Hospital that would be built 2 blocks from our home. There are many reasons I oppose this project but the reasons I will focus on are patient rights and police support.

Unfortunately, mental illness runs in our family. Four family members have been diagnosed with bi-polar disorder, depression and schizophrenia, some have combinations. I have a great deal of **first hand experience** living with these mental disorders.

At this juncture, the mental hospital is slated to accept insurance paying patients who voluntarily commit themselves. What the commission needs to understand is that the patient has all the rights. Unless they are a danger to themselves or others, they can check in and out anytime they want to. They can refuse rides home, they can refuse all help from their families, they can check out far before they are ready to rejoin society. I know these things because that is exactly what my sister did. She has bi-polar disorder and schizophrenia. She has checked herself out of the hospital multiple times before she was ready. She hid in bushes for days naked and menstruating in a residential neighborhood near the hospital until the police picked her up. She refused all help from family. She stalked my mother for 6 months and wrote letters threatening to kill her. She has accused male members of our family of bizarre sexual activities with their children. Our family is afraid of her. This is not someone any of us would want wandering around our homes.

With the beds filled at an average of a 10 day stay, this hospital would serve 3,600 patients a year. A certain percentage of psychotic patients will fall into the same category as my sister. They will refuse all help. They will wander in residential neighborhoods. They will need police. To build such a huge facility without police support is irresponsible. From my family alone police have had to be involved with two attempted suicides, one successful suicide and multiple incidents with my sister. Three sheriffs covering a huge area will not begin to be able to meet the needs of the patients.

Sincerely yours,

Crystal Kidwell





For the Billig / See Attachments Below  
Holly Phipps to: Ramona Hedges  
Cc: Donna Hernandez

12/03/2015 08:56 AM

---

Holly Phipps, MCRP  
North County & Winery Planner



976 Osos Street, Room 300  
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408  
805-781-1162  
<http://www.sloplanning.org>

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 12/03/2015 08:54 AM -----

From: "Murray J. Powell" <murray@dfrios.com>  
To: "hhipps@co.slo.ca.us" <hhipps@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 12/02/2015 05:48 PM  
Subject: Petitions in opposition to the Templeton Mental Facility attached

---

Ms. Phipps,

Attached are petition forms signed by individuals who oppose Mental Acute Care Facility proposed to be located in Templeton. There are 283 signatures on these petitions. Please enter these documents into the Planning Department report for the record. There will be additional emails to follow with petitions presenting several hundred additional signatures in opposition. Please call me if you have any questions or comments.

Murray Powell  
805-434-0707 (Home)



510-91403753 (Cell) SCAN0076.PDF

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 12/03/2015 08:54 AM -----

From: "Murray J. Powell" <murray@dfrios.com>  
To: "hphipps@co.slo.ca.us" <hphipps@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 12/02/2015 06:40 PM  
Subject: Signed Petitions Opposing the Templeton Mental Facility - File #2

---

Ms. Phipps,

Attached is a second file of petitions signed by 308 individuals who oppose the proposed Templeton Mental facility. Please submitted these documents to the Planning Dept. report currently available on your website.

Murray Powell  
805-434-0707 (Home)



510-914-3753 (Cell) SCAN0078.PDF