

Dear Safeway Delegation,

As one the neighbors who will be most affected by the proposed Safeway project, I wanted to make some suggestions. These suggestions are very reasonable and if implemented will most likely facilitate in the project being approved and going forward faster.

I'm going to avoid talking about the project being too big for Albany and whether or not it will hurt existing small businesses. I'm sure others will debate these points.

Since my home abuts the Safeway property, this project has been a source of deep concern and stress to me as you know. I do want to say that I think this is the best proposal so far and with some tweaking, I can see myself living with it.

The suggestions I'm about to make are reasonable and I hope you take them seriously as I'd rather not have to lawyer-up.

- 1) This is the most important suggestion: I understand that there would be a new wall erected to protect us from sound. The new wall I believe was to be 12 – 15 feet high. The current wall by the some of our bedrooms and bathrooms is only about 6 feet high. Although I like the idea of a wall to protect from sound, a wall that high would really make it dark and create a feeling of being engulfed. I suggest creating a 7 – 10 ft. easement so that the 15 foot wall is not so close to our home. You could compensate for this easement by reducing the green buffer a little and other slight tweaks of scale. This can be done and you'd still have the enormous new store you want.
- 2) The parking garage is open. Although I know some people who don't live near Safeway fear an enclosed parking garage I believe those fears are unwarranted. If the garage is designed with proper lighting, it should be as safe as an open garage. An enclosed garage will protect us from sound like the inevitable car alarm going off.
- 3) I see you have customers entering and exiting very close to our homes on Neilson. I won't go into the pedestrian safety issues on the sidewalk. A few of us thought it would be a great idea if we could put up a barrier on Neilson St. where customers could only turn left out of the parking lot. Neilson would be two way from Marin to the barrier but one-way after the barrier. No, we don't like having customers exiting and entering so close to our homes but with the barrier we could accept it. Give and take.

As you can see, the suggestions I make are reasonable, can be implemented without hurting your bottom-line, and could even help expedite the approval process. I do hope you can incorporate these suggestions as soon as possible. Feel free to contact me at the number below.

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