

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Don Handley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 5:41 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Referendum

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Despite the decades of fiscal mismanagement you have as precedent, you have a remarkable opportunity to show that you understand what your fiduciary responsibilities are. Spending multiple tens of thousands of dollars for an election when it is not necessary only serves to underscore the term "amateur politician".

Don't let the tail wag the dog.

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Rick Simpson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 7:42 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Development at momentary

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Holdogf on an referendum until  
At least July

Rick Simpooson  
[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 7:25 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Special Election Date for Referendum Signed by over 1,200 Sierra Madre voters, not a handful

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Attention City Council!

Any good faith negotiations between representatives for the Referendum and the proposing developers regarding meaningful concessions for the benefit of your constituents will need more time than the next few days. It is clearly not necessary to hold the election on May 9. This date creates an undue bias against citizens you are elected to represent. Please move the election date later, such as end of June or July, or at the normal election time in November, 2023. It would appear that pressure from the developer somehow causes you to fear using the normal, cost-free date of November, 2024. Moving the election date later than May 9 will allow more time for substantive concession negotiations which could modify or simplify the strife occurring in our community on your watch. Over 1,200 of your concerned constituents would notice, and would appreciate you saving the City money while actually providing us a fair interval to negotiate.

Sincerely,

Jean and Anke Bardenheier  
[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Sherry Wheelock <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 6:04 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** May Election

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

I live on [REDACTED] and I am NOT in favor of the housing project. But I am in favor of the concept of negotiating with NUW.

Serious negotiations take time and willingness by both parties to work out concessions. The **two** meetings that occurred with City Manager Jose Reynso were inconsequential in delivering any substantive concessions that would be meaningful enough to withdraw the Referendum. I request that the City not certify an election that does not allow time for real negotiations to make progress.

The citizens of Sierra Madre are the ones whose lives will be forever impacted, not NUW.

--

*Sherry Wheelock*

[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Patricia Barron <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 12:49 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Referendum Vote

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Council Members,

I am voicing my opposition to having a special election without more time to consider all of the negotiations regarding the monastery property development. A special election should not be considered, even if the developer offers to pay for it. Please don't let money override Sierra Madre citizens their right to vote.

Let the vote take place on the 2024 election cycle. After all, it's not that far away.

Sincerely,

Patricia Barron  
[REDACTED]

**Amber Tardif**

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**From:** Daniel Golden <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 8:30 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Comment for inclusion in Council record for 7 February 2023

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Please distribute the comment below to all City Council members and the Mayor as soon as possible. Please, as in the past, acknowledge receipt and distribution of the Comment to this email address.

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"We're in a hurry....slow down!"

This adage applies most tellingly to current efforts of the City to rush a special election in May on the future of the Meadows/NUW project. **There is too much at stake, including the full faith and confidence of your voters in your judgment to rush this special election.**

We all know why the Passionists and NUW are in a hurry--they are likely quite concerned about the depth and resolution of opposition their project has engendered in the community. And the latest round of disingenuous, deceptive and mendacious public ads and comments from their PR flacks and a tiny handful of their city resident allies fly in the face of proven facts concerning the dangers and inappropriateness of the Meadows project.

*But what's in it for you as our City's leadership to force the issue so quickly?*

***But what's in it for you as our City's leadership to force the issue so quickly?***

--it will be expensive to hold any election prematurely, almost cost-free to build it

into the November regular election, right? Is it prudent financial management on

your part to squander at least \$400K of our tax dollars?

-- why would you empower City employees to engage in 'negotiations' with the Protect

opposition representatives that offer such trivial, insincere and offensive 'concessions'

to the thousands of citizens who oppose the original project?

--why hasn't the City Attorney apprised all of you that the new, cynically-revised NUW

proposal with its ostensible nod to 'affordable' units has at least tripled the

potential for litigation against NUW and the City on many levels, up to and including

the state Attorney General and certain Federal agencies?

**My last question for you today:**

--why have your comments and tone of those comments, as documented in videos of

Council meetings, shown such an inappropriate level of pettiness and anger at those of

us who would challenge your wisdom? Most disheartening to blame us for the mess

your own lack of due diligence from the outset has created.

Your reaction to our loyal opposition is, for me, the most shocking and saddening outcome thus far in this sordid land grab affair. We deserve,

and our concerns deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, not chiding finger-pointing. We're not misbehaving children challenging parental authority in this situation.

The sting of your rebukes and dismissiveness will last far beyond any Meadows final decision, and taint our faith in you and the City.

The City of Sierra Madre needs more time for more citizens to hear answers to my questions above and other relevant questions before an election of such significance.

**Please hear the voices of those who have elected you and defer the election until November.**

Dan Golden

Dan Golden, PhD

Director, GOLDENWORDS College and Life Planning Consultants

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Make Every Word...A GOLDENWORD

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Mary Hopkins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 8:51 AM  
**To:** Public Comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Our family feels that you should **not** be certifying an election that would take place under such time constraints that the negotiators have no time to make any progress. We are requesting that the city council grant more time before the special election is scheduled to occur, and to remember that they represent the residents of Sierra Madre, not the developer new urban west.

There are many residents who feel this way. The city council is not representing the best interests of the community.

John and Mary Hopkins

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 8:54 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Monestary Project

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear City Council,

I am a Resident of Sierra Madre.

Sierra Madre has a long history of protecting ourselves from over development. We want to stay a unique small city.

I am trying to be as objective as possible, but it appears to me that the City Council and its City Manager are primarily listening to the developer who is representing the Monastery project who has a major financial interest and investment in furthering their project. This project does not comply to Sierra Madre's zoning. The monastery is zoned as institutional and the residents are clearly opposing a residential project up at the monastery.

The residents feel that they need to be listened to.

The residents are speaking to residents in town concerning our city. The developer takes non-residents out to dinner and gives them green T-shirts and asks them to show up 30 minutes early to our city Council meetings to fill the audience and displace residents. I personally witness this on two occasions. Clearly, this is a financially motivated project for New Urban West.

The city should not be certifying an election that would take place under such time constraints that the negotiators have no time to make any progress. I request that the city council grant more time before the special election is scheduled to occur, and to remember that they represent the residents of Sierra Madre, not the developer new urban west.

Sincerely  
Deborah Ross

[REDACTED]

**Amber Tardif**

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**From:** Henry Leung [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 8:57 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Council Meeting Feb 7, 2023

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

To Whom it Should Concern,

This message is in regards to the referendum of the new housing project proposed by New Urban West.

I request that the city council grant more time before the special election is scheduled to occur. Setting it for May 9th and not next November is unreasonable.

Please remember that you represent the residents of Sierra Madre, not the developer New Urban West.

Thanks,

-Henry Leung  
[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Derek Sample [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 9:18 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Do NOT certify the election tonight

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

The City Council is obviously under this Developer's control. The signs are there, the proof is there, and nobody wants to admit it since you have friends in town that will make money from this ridiculous plan that puts our lovely city in peril with all of the misinterpretations and false truths (lies) being shared every day in the local paper. That same paper has become incredibly slanted in their views resulting from the continuous income received from the same Developer's lame advertising and paid opinions in favor of their unscrupulous project that is being fought, and successfully, by a grass roots organization consisting of a large number of residents here in the city.

The 1,200+ people that signed this referendum (not a disgruntled few as the misinformation spreads), signed that document with strength and confidence in our elected officials that were put in office to properly and properly handle events such as this.

Please take the time to handle the referendum vote properly, instead of attempting to sweep it under the rug that will please the developer. I don't see the grass roots organization slowing down any as we aren't going away.

Thank you for listening.

Derek Sample

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Valerie Laughton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 9:25 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Do not the Developer persuade our city since you are feeling pressure

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

This developer is out of control and used to getting their way and everybody on the current city council is weak enough to fall for it. The share misinterpretations and false truths (lies) being shared every day in the local paper adds to the every day proof that we observe as active citizens and members of this tight community. This rather boring publication is incredibly slanted in their views and the reason would be the continuous income resulting in the same Developer's lame advertising and paid opinions in favor of their unscrupulous project that is being fought successfully by a grass roots organization consisting of a large number of residents here in the city (not s small disgruntled few as the developer has told them to say).

The 1,200+ people that signed this referendum, signed that document with the support and confidence in our elected officials that were placed in office to properly and truthfully handle events such as this.

Please take the time to handle the referendum vote with a moral compass that is right for this city, instead of attempting to sweep it under the rug that will only please the developer. I don't see the grass roots organization slowing down any as we aren't going away.

Thank you for listening.

Valerie Laughton  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** alice whichello [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:17 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Special Election Bailey Canyon Housing Project

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

I am requesting as a citizen of Sierra Madre to my City Council (as they represent me, not the developer New Urban West) that more time be given before the special election, regarding the Bailey Canyon housing project, is scheduled to occur on May 9, 2023. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Alice Whichello  
[REDACTED]

**Amber Tardif**

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**From:** Lou Losorelli [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:21 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Provide more time for Referendum Vote

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

The City Council must grant more time before the vote on the Referendum of the Meadows Project is scheduled.

The petition for the Referendum was signed by more than 1,200 voters, whose signatures were gathered in less than 30 days' time. The pool of residents who oppose this project is far greater in number than those whose signatures were hastily gathered to qualify the Referendum for a vote. The City Council must recognize and respect this large group of residents of Sierra Madre, from all sections of the City, who have now twice registered their objection to the Meadows development project.

Time is needed to allow all residents ample time to fully consider, discuss, and assess the issues raised by the Referendum, which are issues that are now highlighted by a different light than previously seen.

This is a matter that will affect the character of Sierra Madre for generations to come. To hurry a vote would be a disservice to your constituents.

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Jeff O'Shaughnessy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:41 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** City Council- Please Listen!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Hi,

Keep negotiating with us, don't rush to certify anything while we're still talking.

Grant more time before the special election is scheduled, don't feel pressured by the developer tactics.

Remember, you represent the residents of Sierra Madre, and I've lived here for many years and supported the community in baseball, scouts and my kids have been raised here.

You don't represent the developers and they certainly don't represent why I live in Sierra Madre

Jeff O'Shaughnessy  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Sim Salembier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:41 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Request: No certification of May 9, 2023 special election

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

As a long term resident of Sierra Madre, (thirty-six years) in a designated landmark home, it is my request that the Sierra Madre City Council do NOT certify an special election on May 9, 2023. Additional time and efforts are required and needed between the Protect and Preserve Sierra Madre, the City and the developer for meaningful negotiations and arbitration. In addition, Protect Sierra Madre should not be held to the deadline of Friday February 10, 2023 to withdraw the Referendum. The voices of our village residents dedicated to green space and our beautiful community require your diligent listening, your wise actions, consideration and respect. Please do not certify and/or approve a costly and non-essential May election.

Sincerely,

Valerie "Simmie" Salembier  
Elizabeth and George Jones 1923 Dairy  
[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Larry Davini [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:45 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Monetary property

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Hello  
Please do not hold a May special election Thanks Larry Davini

Sent from my iPhone

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Shelby Moser [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:52 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** City Council Public Comment

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to ask that you consider the residents of Sierra Madre ahead of non-residents' demands such as the current developer who wants to add time constraints to our due process. I request more time before special elections are scheduled since it was originally presumed this vote would be held in November 2024.

Thanks for your consideration,

Shelby Moser  
[REDACTED]

February 7, 2023

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Michael Daedalus Kenny [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:56 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Special election

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

I've heard and read that the primary negative consequence to the opposition towards the Groves development is we're going to have an expensive special election. You can wait and put the referendum on the next election, right? The cost is up to you? I'd say that's what's best for the city. I'm sure you know what development is the best deal for us, but skip this special election.

Thank you,  
Michael Kenny  
[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Murphy, Deirdre [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 11:06 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** NUW proposal

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

I am writing for myself and many others who are of the opinion that the city should NOT be certifying an election under such conditions. There are obvious time constraints and extrapolating issues that have not yet been resolved. We, those citizens who have elected you, ask that the City council grant more time before this proposed special election. This date should not be determined by NUW.

Thank you

Deirdre Murphy  
[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Siobhan Murphy-Boyd [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 11:12 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Stop the Housing Project

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Good morning,

I am a resident of Sierra Madre for 20+ years. I have grown up in the canyon by Mary's Market and consider it a magic place to call home. I am disappointed and quite frankly outraged to read about the election that is expected to take place under such time constraints in which negotiators have no time to make any progress. I request that the city council grant more time before the special election is scheduled to occur, and remember that they represent the residents of Sierra Madre, not the developers of new urban west.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this very important matter.

Siobhan

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Randy Boyd · Cobraside Distribution [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 11:14 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Cc:** Deirdre Murphy  
**Subject:** as a long-time Sierra Madre resident and property owner

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

I would ask that you do NOT bow to the wishes of the Monastery developers and hold the special election on May 9<sup>th</sup>, which does not allow sufficient time for ongoing discussions over our very real concerns. Please agree to delay this special election deeper into 2023.

Cobraside Distribution Inc.

**Please make note that Cobraside is currently operating Mondays thru Thursdays.**



## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Coriena Baer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 11:23 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Referendum

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear City Council Members,

I have been a long time Sierra Madre resident and deeply love our very special city, so I'm asking that you please hold off on certifying the special election on May 9th. This does not allow enough time for the negotiations to make any progress. Please grant more time before the special election is scheduled to occur. I know the developer is pushing for the special election to proceed, but as our elected city council members, please keep in mind that you are representing the residents of Sierra Madre, not New Urban West.

Thank you for your consideration.

Coriena Baer  
[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** H A [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 12:07 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** 2/7/23 Sierra Madre City Council Meeting Public Comment

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Sierra Madre City Council,

We recently learned that New Urban West chose the election date of May 9. It is the duty of the City Council (your duty) to govern Sierra Madre, not the developer's right. We feel like you are caving to the pressure of New Urban West.

Please do not ratify the May 9 election. Consider holding it at a later date.

Thank you,

Colleen and Heather Allen  
[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Maria Karafilis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 12:17 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Please grant more time before special election

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

I am writing as a 23-year resident of Sierra Madre to urge you to grant more time before the special election on the "Meadows" project. Please remember that you are to represent the interests of the residents of Sierra Madre (not the developer) and do not rush this. Allow more time for the negotiators to do their work and do not certify an election in such a rush. Doing otherwise smacks of bad faith and a rush to satisfy the demands of the developer instead of the good of the city. More than 1200 residents registered their demand that this project be rethought.

Sincerely,  
Maria Karafilis, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Helena Karafilis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 12:35 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Meadows of Sierra Madre

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

I have lived in Sierra Madre for 20 years and urge you to grant more time before the special election on the "Meadows" project. Please remember that you represent the interests of the residents of Sierra Madre (not the developer). Allow more time for the negotiators to do their work and do not certify an election in such a rush. Doing otherwise smacks of bad faith and a rush to satisfy the demands of the developer instead of the good of the city. More than 1200 residents registered their demand that this project be rethought.

Sincerely,  
Helena Karafilis-Spensley, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Connor Murphy-Boyd [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 12:35 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** No Special Election

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

I am writing for myself and many others who are of the opinion that the city should NOT be certifying an election under such conditions. There are obvious time constraints and extrapolating issues that have not yet been resolved. We, those citizens who have elected you, ask that the City council grant more time before this proposed special election. This date should not be determined by NUW, nor come at the taxpayers and voters expense.

Connor Murphy-Boyd  
[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Robert Nobel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 12:39 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Referendum

**Importance:** High

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear City Council Members,

I have been a resident of Sierra Madre since 1982, first as a renter and 20 years later as a property owner. Since then I had purchased another property in Sierra Madre of which I rent out. The reason I live and own 2 homes in Sierra Madre is that I deeply love our very special city. Its charm and uniqueness does not compare to any of the surrounding cities, so I'm asking that you please hold off on certifying the special election on May 9th. The time allotted does not allow enough time for the negotiations to make any progress. Please grant more time before the special election is scheduled to occur. I know the developer is pushing for the special election to proceed, but as our elected city council members, please keep in mind that you are representing the residents of Sierra Madre, not New Urban West.

Thank you for your consideration,

Robert Nobel  
[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Joseph W Catalano [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 12:40 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** May 9 Special Election

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

I encourage you to not set the special election date for May 9. As you know, you have wide latitude in setting the date. Setting it at the earliest possible date is a hustle for the developer, but not due process.

Thank you.

Joe Catalano  
[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Susan Neuhausen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 12:48 PM  
**To:** Public Comment; Gene Goss; Edward Garcia; Robert Parkhurst; Kelly Kriebs; klowe@cityofsierrmadre.com  
**Subject:** Public comment for February 7 2023 CC meeting

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

To: Mayor Garcia and Council Members

From: Susan Neuhausen

Re: Public comments for City Council meeting, February 7, 2023

As a member of Protect Sierra Madre and a concerned Sierra Madre resident, I request that you NOT rush into a special election and that you provide more time for discussion about modifications of the “Meadows at Bailey Canyon” plan that will allay many of the public’s concerns.

The rush is likely at the urging of New Urban West (NUW), and that is understandable considering how much money they have riding on this development. However, like the MOU that launched this long, regrettable episode, the benefits of rushing the election accrue almost exclusively to NUW and the Passionists, with next to nothing for other property owners and residents in surrounding neighborhoods. Consider that it looks as if city government has been captured by—and is taking direct orders from—a rich, out-of-town corporation. But you can easily deflect any criticism in that regard by erring on the side of fairness and providing more time.

We understand that NUW is currently working on city officials, trying to intimidate them into siding with them, starting with submitting an SB330 application with a housing density bonus. This is a blatant attempt to extort favorable decisions from the city. Their attitude seems to be, either go along with the Meadows project and quit dilly-dallying about the election, or we’ll redefine “high density” and do something to the monastery property that’s more terrible than you ever dreamed. It is just the latest example of NUW’s heavy-handed manipulation and failing to act in good faith. It’s likely that they have no intention of following through with the SB330 project because they would have to start from scratch and take on a new, lengthy, and tedious batch of disputes—within the city and, potentially, the courts. According to our city attorney, it may not be possible for NUW to withdraw the Meadows Project, and it is certainly not what their investors want.

Please be considerate of the wishes of many Sierra Madre residents, and don’t rush this election. Give the process time to work toward a just resolution for all concerned parties.

Thank you.

**Amber Tardif**

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**From:** evan steinberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 12:57 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** please not certify a special election in May 2022  
**Attachments:** CityCouncilEvanFeb7 2023.docx

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

To Sierra Madre City Council:

I am requesting that the Sierra Madre City Council please not certify a special election in May 2022 regarding the Meadows Project.

Here is my signed letter with more details:

Thank you for your consideration. Evan Steinberg, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

February 7, 2023

To Sierra Madre City Council

I have been a resident of Sierra Madre since 1977. For a variety of reasons, including inadequate infrastructure, water limitations, the location of proposed homes in a fire-risk area, I have not favored what is commonly referred to as The Meadows Project at Bailey Canyon. I continue to oppose this project as it has been presented. I favor more responsible development of our wonderful city.

I also do not feel wasting money is a ever good idea, whether that money is mine or part of the resources of the City of Sierra Madre. I do not see any reason why the City should pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for a special election in the near future, when an election is already scheduled for November, 2024. The fact that the proposed special election would be in service of the Meadows Project is particularly distasteful to me.

Therefore I strongly request that the Sierra Madre City Council not certify a special election.

Further, even if a special election is deemed necessary before November 2024, I feel strongly that such an election should be held later than May 2022 to allow ongoing analysis and negotiations regarding the Project to continue.

Again, I am requesting the City Council to please not certify a special election in May 2022 regarding the Meadows Project.

Sincerely,



Evan A. Steinberg



## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Philip Yao [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 1:01 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Cc:** Alexander Arrieta; Barbara Vellturo  
**Subject:** Objection to Special Election

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

City Council,

I and my neighbors on upper Sierra Keys Drive are very disappointed in the lack of representation by the City Council against the arm-twisting by New Urban West. It appears that you've forgotten you represent the citizens of Sierra Madre, not New Urban West (NUW). The fact that NUW would leverage SB330 shows that they have not been honest or ethical.

We don't need a special election on the Referendum. We don't need to spend the money for a special election. It should be held on the November 2024 election cycle, which would cost Sierra Madre very little. Instead, it appears the City Council is siding with NUW to pressure and out maneuver the voice of 1,200+ Sierra Madre citizens.

An explanation is in order!

Regards,

Philip Yao

**Amber Tardif**

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**From:** Mary Steinberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 1:06 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** please not authorize a special election in May 2022  
**Attachments:** CityCouncilMaryFeb7 2023.docx; CityCouncilMFeb7 2023.pdf

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Greetings:

I am requesting that the Sierra Madre City Council please not approve a special election in May 2022 regarding the Meadows Project.

Here is my letter, in both signed and un-signed formats, with more details:

Thank you for your consideration. Mary Eva Steinberg, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

February 7, 2023

To Sierra Madre City Council

I have been a resident of Sierra Madre since 1977. For a variety of reasons, including inadequate infrastructure, water limitations, the location of proposed homes in a fire-risk area, I have not favored what is commonly referred to as The Meadows Project at Bailey Canyon. I continue to oppose this project as it has been presented. I favor more responsible development of our wonderful city.

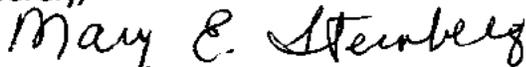
I also do not feel wasting money is a ever good idea, whether that money is mine or part of the resources of the City of Sierra Madre. I do not see any reason why the City should pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for a special election in the near future, when an election is already scheduled for November, 2024. The fact that the proposed special election would be in service of the Meadows Project is particularly distasteful to me.

Therefore I strongly request that the Sierra Madre City Council not certify a special election.

Further, even if a special election is deemed necessary before November 2024, I feel strongly that such an election should be held later than May 2022 to allow ongoing analysis and negotiations regarding the Project to continue.

Again, I am requesting the City Council to please not certify a special election in May 2022 regarding the Meadows Project.

Sincerely,



Mary E. Steinberg



## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Paul Smedley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 1:15 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Monastery Housing Project

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

City Council:

You should **not** be certifying an election that would take place under such time constraints that the negotiators have no time to make any progress. You should grant more time before the special election is scheduled to occur, and to remember that you represent the residents of Sierra Madre, not the developer new urban west.

Absolutely beyond disappointed in what is taking place here...we have overbuilt and completely encroached our Foothills...our home owners insurance has skyrocketed due to Fire danger and you willing to sacrifice our environment and current residents issues for the almighty dollar ...wrong on every level ...

Paul Smedley- Resident of Sierra Madre

Sent from my iPad

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** john clarke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 1:18 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public Comment for City Council Meeting: 2/7/23

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Mayor Garcia and Council Members,

As a long time resident of Sierra Madre, it is difficult to understand how the City Council could allow a high-density 42 unit housing project to be built on an alluvial fan that is critical to filtering rainwater that has run down from the San Gabriel's for decades and is a critical factor in supplying our aquifer.

You made a very poor choice that over whelming benefits a developer and does not fit or belong in our community. This is compounded by your failure to listen to over a thousand residents who brought this to your attention repeatedly over the past two years.

Your poorly orchestrated public relations stunt requesting that the Referendum be withdrawn and providing only two weeks for 'negotiations' to take place is arrogant and misguided and, as a result, unlikely to produce any worthwhile results that benefit the citizens you were elected to serve.

J Clarke

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Alison Snow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 1:31 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** referendum election

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am writing to plead that you please not rush to schedule May 9, 2023 for the Referendum election.

Over 1200 Sierra Madre citizens expressed their voice and VOTED to have the Referendum election take place, at no cost to the City, at the normal time of our General Election in November 2023. 1200 voices/votes is a significant number and is not "just a few" as the voters have been characterized.

Rushing the election date at the request of the Developer is NOT a fair and respectful way of recognizing the voice of your Sierra Madre voters. Much hard work has been put in by the two groups representing the voice of the Referendum voters and there is still much potential for withdrawal of the Referendum if allowed more time to negotiate with the City Manager.

Please don't be cowed by the Developer's threat to build an additional 8 houses under State law SB 330 by promising 3 "low income houses." No one in their right mind can rationally agree that the 3 proposed low income houses are affordable by any low income buyer on a \$16,000 annual income. Such a ruse would be a most difficult shame to hide from and bring a most unfortunate black mark onto the City and specifically the current City Council.

I would like to ask that you step back and allow more time for the legal process of honest and sincere negotiation to proceed. So much is at stake in this difficult situation of oversized development in a highly sensitive and irreplaceable natural area. Several important and extremely valuable concessions could be met that would bring much more success, good will and confidence to the minds and hearts of the citizens of Sierra Madre.

Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of this serious issue.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Snow  
[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Susan Hoskins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 1:38 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Stop Housing Project

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Public Comment:

Susan Hoskins  
[REDACTED]

Protect Sierra Madre. Please do not set the election date for the referendum vote to May 9, the date the outside developers are trying to force on us, and please do not waste city tax dollars trying to appease them. Please, instead, support the wishes of more than 1200 Sierra Madre residents who signed the Referendum and want the election to take place in November, during the regular election cycle. This gives time for current negotiations for concessions to continue and saves tax dollars. Rushing the process on this badly misguided development project will only increase the damage being done to our city.

Thank you.

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** bgh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 1:44 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** PROTECT SIERRA MADRE

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Hello City Council.

I have been following The Protect SM members and hope you give them the requested opportunity for more time before the vote. It appears the group is trying to help work out what is best for your people you represent. This is such an important decision for the city to make. We have the time requested. Shutting out the noise from Urban West is possible. They only see dollars. We live here and their project will forever change the landscape, not for the better, FOREVER.

PLEASE, give them a chance to work with those involved and extend the time requested.

Thank you.  
Barbara Gerber

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Hik Khoe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 1:53 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** STOPHOUSING PROJECT IN SIERRA MADRE

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

We understand that the City of Sierra Madre is considering holding and certifying an election on May 9 under pressure from the developer New Urban West, and that

a City Council Meeting will be taking place later today to discuss the matter. As residents of Sierra Madre for almost 50 years, we are writing to request that the City Council grant more time before an election is held (for example in Nov. 2024, which would come at no extra cost to the City) and that our views be represented at tonight's meeting. The City Council should not be holding and certifying an election under artificial constraints that prevent related negotiations from making any progress.

Thank you.

T.H. Khoe and K.G. Khoe

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Lynne Collmann [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 2:22 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public comments for City Council meeting, February 7, 2023

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

To: Mayor Garcia and Council Members

It is very disturbing that you have failed to reach a satisfactory arrangement with the Protect Sierra Madre group that would allow them, with the full support of their many followers, to pull the Referendum as you have requested.

It is in the best interest of our community that you negotiate a mutually beneficial agreement and put an end to the divisiveness that has affected us all.

Your willingness to hold off on setting the election at your January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting for two days was a step in the right direction, but your derogatory comment preceding this that it would 'give them time to come to their senses' was demeaning and counterproductive.

Further, your rush to comply with the developer's unreasonable request to hold the election in May was contrary to your stated objective of productive negotiations. You only allowed for a few weeks until February 10 for the parties to meet, and from all appearances, your unwillingness for the City to step up and bring anything substantive to the table will doom any chance of reaching a mutually agreed upon solution.

Likely, that was your intention from the beginning and this very obvious, disingenuous public relations attempt to appear conciliatory at the end has failed miserably.

Lynne Collmann

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Edward A Miller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 2:29 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** The referendum date is too soon

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear City Council,

Your actions make your intent very clear, which is disturbing.

1. By setting the date for the referendum on May 9, you are clearly doing the bidding of the Santa Monica developers, New Urban West, over the people of Sierra Madre and you really aren't interested in "negotiating" or the concessions offered by the referendum authors to withdraw the referendum.
2. If you were truly interested in negotiating, you need to allow more time, and postpone the referendum another month at least.

Your actions and those of NUW are highly cynical, in that:

1. You know in your hearts that the people of Sierra Madre are against high density developments, as they worked hard to make clear in the General Plan.
2. This is made evident by your support of NUW's very cynical threat to propose an even higher density development under SB330, if the Meadows project is voted down in the referendum.
3. In fact, under SB330 the City Council has the power to require NUW to repropose their development until it meets the General Plan or if they do not, you can reject the proposal. If you had the will to do that.

Your wholehearted support of the Meadows Plan and the out of town developers is obviously driven by money; in several ways:

1. You want all the cash the outside developers have promised (if you believe them), like money for retrofitting a new police station, fees from each new house, and money to supposedly mitigate the huge water impacts their project will have on us.
2. You are afraid of having to pay for our defense in a lawsuit that these outside developer bullies have threatened us with if we resist their plans for our city.

Maybe you should consider that the people of Sierra Madre would rather use our budget to defend our way of life against these outsider threats than to build a new police station and have extra cash for a year or two while these developer bullies from Santa Monica and Chicago make huge profits on our backs.

We would be thrilled to actually work with you to ensure the Meadows project conforms to the General Plan, or if we are forced to go forward with the referendum, to work with you to defend our city against the SB330 proposal until it aligns with our General Plan.

February 07, 2023

To: **City of Sierra Madre**  
**232 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard**  
**Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024**

To: **The Citizens of Sierra Madre**

To: **City Council**  
Edward Garcia, Mayor  
Kelly Krebs, Mayor Pro Tem  
Kris Lowe, Council Member  
Gene Goss, Council Member  
Robert Parkhurst, Council Member  
**City Manager, Jose Reynoso**

Cc: **Planning Commission**  
Thomas Denison, Chair  
John Hutt, Vice-Chair  
Yong Yoo, Commissioner  
William Pevsner, Commissioner  
Patrick Simcock, Commissioner

Via: [PublicComment@CityofSierraMadre.com](mailto:PublicComment@CityofSierraMadre.com)

From: Glenn Hickman, [REDACTED]

Re: **PUBLIC PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS IS FOR EXPERTS**  
**The Real Meadows for the People – Money for Some**  
**The Meadows at Bailey Canyon Development – SPECIAL ELECTION**  
**City Council Special Meeting of February 07, 2023**

Citizens of Sierra Madre and Dear City Council and Mayor:

I continue to advocate a Public Private Development for **The Real Meadows for the People – Money for Some**.

To oversimplify, the Monastery, it's Developer and the City need the Money ..... and the People need the Real Meadows – Community Wildlife Preserve, be reinstated in compliment with the Bailey Canyon Habitat.

Perhaps presumptuous, in as much as I haven't been invited and the negotiations scope remains unknown to me, apparently You All haven't been negotiating in favor of each other's needs. You All just started to listen to each other and are within minutes of the Doomsday Clock striking midnight.

More time for real negotiations is required, credible public private negotiation resources should be deployed, and a willingness on all sides to solve for the big picture of both Money & the Real Meadows.

Specific to this strife, with all due respect to the skills of the City Attorney and City Manager, Do-gooders, Et.al., I believe a Win Win requires a credible negotiator(s) and resources, with neutrality for all parties, and are very very unique with specialized skills, such as Alan Kotin, as referenced in my prior public comment. Unfortunately, my other recommended contact Peter Bedford, a pillar in real estate, pioneer in publicly traded REITs, recently passed away.

What might a Win Win Negotiation look like to result in the Money & The Real Meadows? All sides need to advance a public/private development, deploying credible resources within a realistic timeframe, in recognition that the Doomsday Clock could start to tick again, in as much as each Party maintains a MAD trigger.

- A kick start might be: **The City Leadership** evaluates the breadth and depth for a general bond measure and defers the Special Election. **The Monastery and its Development Partner** identifies its Meadows Acquisition Price, including its conservation donation/easement tax offset value proposition for the 35 acres above the Monastery, recognizes this certainty trumps the unchartered Assembly Bill litigation risks, the uncertainty of the current market, finance, construction, and sales; including the sleeping giant hiking community not yet heard from by LA County regarding the Bailey Canyon Habitat. **STOP** needs to PAUSE in favor of the best and permanent solution for All and support a general bond measure and conservation procurement. **All Parties** will need to set aside the 2014 false start to a Public Private Strategy due to its absence of credible resources and genuine willingness to negotiate and set a price.

Regards and Thank You in Advance of striking midnight,  
Glenn Hickman

Ref. City Council Meeting 01.10.23: Hickman Public Comments: for more Public Private Development commentary.  
Meadows Development City Council Meeting 02.07.23\_Hickman Comments 02.07.23verF.doc

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Chris and Diana [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 2:34 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Referendum

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

To City Council Members Of Sierra Madre

The Referendum must continue in place.  
If there is to be a vote by City residents, have that vote in 2024.

Respect that this is an issue for all of the residents.

Chris and Diana Houser  
[REDACTED]

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Gary Hood [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 2:54 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** CC 2-7-23

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Please don't certify an election that would take place under such time constraints that the negotiators have no time to make a complete evaluation under SB 330 rules.

Remember that you represent the residents of Sierra Madre, not the developer New Urban West or the Passionists of Chicago.

Many residents are upset to be called **a few disgruntled neighbors**, more than 1300 residents are unhappy with the councils decisions for 42 tract homes that have been pushed through.

Why would you choose to have a special election at a cost up to \$400,000 when you can wait till the next November 2024 election at nearly no cost. It's obvious you support the Church/Builders over the residents and that's why so many in the community are spending money to hear the truth and get the facts and get a chance to vote.

The local news paper, "MVN" has refused to publish many arguments against the tract homes. We all know NUW spent over \$250,000 pushing the Meadows project and paying the MVN up to \$1000 every time they paid for an ad.

Do understand, the list is long in telling where the City and Councils loyalties lie. Some decisions were made before the MOU protected you from lawsuits from the residents.

Have you and the City Attorney read the FPP again to see if it offers more protection and rights than local residents now have?

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 2:55 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Decision on Special Election

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Councilmembers –

I've been involved in real estate transactions over the years, albeit mainly in commercial development rather than residential. One of the oldest lines used is, "Give us what we want or there'll be a terrible alternative you won't be able to stop" – so trite it's become almost a laughable cliché.

In this instance, no one would seriously consider New Urban West returning to their investors to say, "You know that Meadows project you've had your money in these past couple years? Well, that's off the table – but take a look at this new 50-house proposal we've drawn up!" Not gonna happen. Nor would there be any way to push that proposal through as somehow qualifying under SB330 – and they know it.

The new proposal exists only as part of the strategy, "They fell for that '6500 sq ft Arcadia-style mansions' threat last November – they'll fall for this one, too." That anyone charged with protecting the interests of Sierra Madre be so gullible as to fall for the "Our way or else!" threat, or to actually be a party in promoting it, would be alarming.

Rushing the date of a special election on the referendum would only serve the interests of New Urban West, hoping their investors don't get cold feet, and the Passionists, hoping to get as much money as they can sooner rather than later.

My wife and I have lived in Sierra Madre for 25 years and raised our son here. For as many years as we have left, we intend to consider Sierra Madre our home.

The developer wants to rush the decision so they can keep their investors on board and focus on other projects. Perhaps the City Council simply wants to be done with it. But for us and thousands of others who call Sierra Madre home, the consequences are forever. What's the rush?

Howard Hays  
Sierra Madre

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** bruce and alice elliott [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 2:59 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** do not certify the election

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Council,

I would encourage you to delay the election on the referendum. It seems that NUW is pushing you (with money and threats) to move quickly. They have shown themselves to be wolves in sheep's clothing. If that is what they are pushing for, it's because they don't want negotiations to go on that would have a positive impact on Sierra Madre. This company is not out for the good of Sierra Madre but for their investors. Be wise!!!

Regards,  
Alice Elliott  
[REDACTED]

**Amber Tardif**

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**From:** Amy Wasson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 3:01 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Tonight's Meeting - The Meadows Project

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Attn: City Council,

I request that you do not certify an election that would take place under such time constraints that the negotiators have no time to make any progress.

Regards,

Amy Wasson

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## Amber Tardif

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 3:04 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Special election

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Council Members--

I am disappointed that the Council is considering certifying an election that would benefit an itchy developer over the interests of residents of Sierra Madre. The Referendum did not come out of nowhere. There are many of us who signed the petition who have not been vocal, who do not want New Urban West to max out their profits at the expense of residents, and who want more time for negotiations to protect the city we know and love and must live in after the developer has taken the money and gone away. The election can be pushed back to a later date that will not incur the costs of a rushed special election. New Urban West wants to protect their bottom line and we want to protect our city. Please do the right thing for Sierra Madre.

Thank you for your attention,  
[REDACTED]