

My thoughts, concerns, and questions regarding the West Park proposal:

1. I wonder how many people who are involved in the decision making process of West Park have even been at the site. There are a few thousand feet of dilapidated runways and a few buildings. That is it. Nothing else. The rest is beautiful farmland.

2. People in favor of West Park talk about how the valley needs this for the future. What the future needs is an affordable variety of food products, clean air, and water. West Park will pave over thousands of non-replaceable farm land resulting in a loss of food products. Once this land is paved over, it is gone forever and no program can ever replace that land. With the cost of living expected to continue to rise with demand in the world increasing, it is unimaginable that people would want to continue to lower the supply of food products by taking land out of production.

3. Traffic. It is not just an issue for those around West Park but for those who live anywhere along a route to West Park. I live off Crows Landing Road and it is already so busy day and night with four lanes. I have heard that Crows Landing Road will be expanded to possibility six lanes to accommodate traffic to West Park. I will have big trucks driving in my front yard if that is the case. I know the plans include widening other roads as well, like Carpenter Road. My parents live on Carpenter Road and if that happens, my parents will have people driving 55+ mph within feet from their front door. Does the developer and the county plan to pay for them to move their house back a safe distance away from the road and any others who might be in the same predicament?

4. Water. Many believe that future wars will be fought over water. Is it smart to build facilities that will require so much water to an area that is already struggling with acquiring enough water to irrigate crops? At least new farm technology is allowing crops to grow using less and less water. Water is a limited resource that can not be created.

5. Jobs. Those in favor of West Park talk about the 37,000 jobs that will be created over the next 30 years as a way to help the valley keep growing and to sustain that growth. My first question is why do we need to grow? Nobody is ever able to give me a good answer to that question? Why not do what we need to sustain the current population we have right now. There does not have to be more growth. People will not live where there is no work; therefore, if we curtail our growth to our current population, people will just move elsewhere. Why is California expected to carry the burden of

so much of the nation's population? Our resources are already diminishing and eventually will be gone.

6. Jobs. If Stanislaus County is going to destroy thousands of prime farmland, increase truck traffic in the valley from freeways to West Park, add more pollutants in the air, and demand more water, how can the citizens of Stanislaus County, who will suffer from all this, be guaranteed the 37,000 jobs that West Park is to create? Those jobs could go to people living in neighboring counties and even people willing to commute over the hill to the valley.

7. If the EIR report is to cost millions of dollars and it will be paid for by the developer, how can I as a citizen be guaranteed that the report will be unbiased?

Those in office now need to really look at the future and do what is best for the next generation, not what is best for their own name and what may be the popular thing to do at the moment. I look at my child and I already predict that the quality of life will be so poor for him in Stanislaus County that he will move elsewhere.

Lastly, open land is not wasted land or land in need of changes – it is land that provides us with agricultural products necessary for our survival.