

NORTH COUNTY TIMES

Cedros project benefited from input

By: MARION B. DODSON - Commentary

As the former mayor for the city of Solana Beach, I was in office in 1991 when the original Cedros Crossing train station project was approved. That was 15 years ago.

Today, the project has undergone significant refinement as a result of extensive community input. While I agree with the Lodges' observation in the Sept. 27 edition of the North County Times ("[Now is time to question Cedros project](#)," Community Forum) that this project will help redefine downtown Solana Beach, it is hardly in the "beginning stages of the public review process." There have been at least 20 major community meetings on this project since 2000 alone.

Criticisms by small and vocal minorities are not new, and over the course of the past decade their concerns have been addressed by significantly reducing the size, height and intensity of the project, and by requiring the developer to pay for traffic mitigation measures. In addition, the Reduced Massing Alternative proposed in the draft Environmental Impact Report has 965 total parking spaces, including 528 spaces for train users ---- far more than is currently available.

Those of us who have been around for the duration of this marathon review understand this project holds enormous promise in terms of meeting the city's state-mandated affordable-housing requirements, extending vibrant resident-serving retail uses onto North Cedros, and producing badly needed tax revenues.

The time has come for the City Council to act on this project. I encourage the residents of Solana Beach to continue participating in the public discussion about this important project, committing themselves to an honest public dialogue based on the facts. The draft EIR comment period has ended and the responses will be out for review in December. The City Council has set aside dates in January 2007 ---- Jan. 16, 17, 30 and 31 ---- for the review of the environmental impact report.

The Cedros Crossing project centered around the Solana Beach Train Station is an important step into the future for the city.

Rancho Santa Fe resident Marion B. Dodson served on the Solana Beach City Council from 1986 to 2000.