

# Public Comment

Good evening Mayor Brandvold and members of the council,

My name is Lori Wolf and I live in Wood Colony.

If you Google 'Wood Colony' you immediately receive sites that vary in their depth of information. There is a Wikipedia listing, several articles from the Modesto Bee, one even from the New York Times, postings from the Valley Citizen, blog spots, real estate listings, etc. Total results of 1,510,000 to choose from. That is fairly impressive for an area that covers only a few thousand acres. Once again the community of Wood Colony is appearing on maps being produced in an effort to put an urban limit line on the ballot. As a member of the Wood Colony Municipal Advisory Council I find it amazing that the process to include parts of Wood Colony in eventual development or incorporation into the City of Modesto just keeps coming at us. The reason we formed a Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) was so that there would be a proper place and conduit for discussion of things that are happening that will affect our community but instead it is still random people running around representing individual property owners. Property owners are free to determine what they do with their property. However, it is up to our official representatives, especially those who sit on LAFCO, to determine how and where cities should grow.

The quite unique qualities of Wood Colony should immediately disqualify our area for future incorporation into the City of Modesto. We have the Old German Baptist Brethren members, who are truly a small and vulnerable group whose very religious beliefs prevent them from voting and even participating much in the way of government so it has been left up to us, their neighbors, to assist them in continuing the practice their faith in their neighborhood without fear of disruption. During the period of confinement due to the COVID pandemic, life hasn't missed a beat out here in Wood Colony. Farming is an essential business and we have continued to farm, raise nursery plants, produce milk, cheese, animals for consumption, etc. This is all due to the bounties provided by the first class soil found in Wood Colony.

As you go forward in the process of deciding whether or not to produce an actual ballot measure regarding a urban limit line please be advised that should any line include portions of Wood Colony the majority of us out here will rise up again and

defend the uniqueness of our community and our fantastic soil against any incursion.

Thank you for your time.

# Public Comment

6/9/2020

Mayor and Council Members

My name is Lisa Dovichi-Braden I'm a life long resident of Modesto and have lived in Wood Colony for the past 20 years. So here we are again being the last to know that the City of Modesto is once again coming after Wood Colony.

I'm on the Wood Colony MAC Board and we formed the MAC so we would not be blindsided by the City of Modesto and them wanting to take over one of the BEST things Modesto has going for it, Prime Farm Land and the beauty of agriculture that is Wood Colony.

Promises after promises were made by the mayor to come to our MAC meeting so we could have some conversation, but you cancelled and then never responded to our request to reschedule.

Shame on the city council and all for the back door dealings and not honoring what you promised.

# Public Comment

Good Evening Mayor Brandvold and Members of the Council

This public comment is from all five members of the Wood Colony Municipal Advisory Council. Late last year one of our members reached out to the Mayor and was told that the process of reaching out to the Wood Colony Community would definitely happen prior to major decisions being made going forward in light of the issues raised during the last round of map drawing and plans to update the General Plan. There was an overture this spring to make this happen but then with pandemic issues the venue platform changed. However, it seems that the planning continued. Many of our community members have received individual letters regarding the Urban Limit Line and are calling us asking questions which we are at a loss to answer.

Transparency in regards to this could have been as simple as a courtesy email notice to our board. As we understand things there is a very tight time frame to get responses from the letter recipients and allow your board to discuss this issue at your June 23<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting. We feel that this is rushing an issue that is just as important to our community as it is to the citizens of Modesto. We are at a loss to understand why this is happening right now when the normal venues of participation in our government system have not been available to us. We look forward to the outreach that was talked about.

Wood Colony Municipal Advisory Council

David Jones, Todd Heinrich, Lisa Braden, Lina Alldredge, Lori Wolf