

Bridger Canyon Planning and Zoning Commission
311 W. Main, Third Floor
Bozeman, Montana 59715

April 16, 2007

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is in regards to the Bridger Mountain Village P.U.D. I am neither an advocate nor opponent of the said P.U.D., and wish to offer my comments as a scientific analyst. I completed three years of field research specifically within the Maynard Creek Watershed for my Master of Science thesis in Earth Sciences at Montana State University. My thesis, entitled *Hydrogeology of Surficial, Unconsolidated Quaternary Aquifers, Maynard Creek Catchment, Bridger Range, Montana (1996)*, focused on geomorphology, and shallow groundwater and surface water origins and availability.

Although I have no knowledge of the current P.U.D. proposal, I am an expert on certain aspects of the hydrology and geomorphology of the Maynard Creek area. There are three specific geologic circumstances that exist at Maynard Creek that I believe should require extensive investigation. First and foremost, extensive research performed by myself and others, has clearly identified the difficulty in development of highly productive groundwater wells in the immediate area. Second, groundwater discharge areas are located where wetlands, springs and streams originate, and are directly connected to the few aquifers that do store limited quantities of groundwater at or near the landscape surface. Finally, mass movements, a.k.a. landslides, are very active and common within the clay-rich surficial geologic deposits and soils found near Maynard Creek. These aforementioned geologic phenomenon should demand complete recognition prior to large-scale structural development that may occur within the Maynard Creek watershed. I recommend that all pertinent information be rigorously reviewed by a group of objective analysts prior to further development of the area.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

John F. Whittingham, Owner
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