

Submitter DB ID 7259  
IP Address 107.137.70.144  
Submission Recorded On 04/23/2024 5:58 PM  
Time to Take the Survey 14 minutes, 51 secs.

---

**Page 1**

**1. First and Last Name**

Liv Madhani (Age 13) / Parents - Shannon Peavey & Akhil Madhani

**2. Email address ( will not be publicly displayed)**

[REDACTED]

**3. Organization ( Enter name of organization, business, or non profit if you are submitting comments on their behalf.)**

Ladera and Woodland School

**4. Street address ( will not be publicly displayed)**

[REDACTED]

**5. City**

Portola Valley

**6. State**

CA

**7. Zip Code**

94028

**8. Date of Meeting you are submitting comment for.**

04/24/2024

**9. Agenda Item number or name**

Safety Priority General Comment

**10. Comment**

Dear Town Council Members,

This is a comment, submitted here that I will address in person at the meeting on the evening of April 24. I am an 8th grader at Woodland School in Ladera, and as part of my capstone project for this school year, I am looking at the fire safety and evacuation plans for Woodland and the Ladera Community.

In my research and conversations with Kim Giuliani and Rodney Reed at Woodside Fire District, I found that over the last 25 years, fire risks in California have been increasing exponentially, due to climate change and increased human activity in fire prone zones.

As you know, Portola Valley is a very fire prone zone. We sit right on the San Andreas Fault, making our risks even higher due to the possibilities of earthquakes and other risks due to ground instability.

In general, I am concerned that there is seemingly no viable disaster evacuation plan in place for Ladera, which of course includes the Woodland School and we know there are increasing concerns due to traffic in and out of the community and access points other than Alpine Road. I will mention the fire that happened recently in Maui, while rather extreme, as an example of what can happen when there aren't adequate escape routes. I also want to point out that we talk about Morro Vista Lane as an alternate escape route from Ladera, but that road is very narrow and is itself very fire prone; it's surrounded by trees, which are not trimmed back from the road.

I want to draw attention to the lack of information as a representative of Woodland School, where most students, parents and teachers are unaware of current evacuation routes and procedures. I also want to point out that most of the 1600 residents from the 422 households in Ladera are also unaware of the proper evacuation plans and procedures. My goal is to help make sure we have open communication between Portola Valley planners and our community as these plans take shape. I am aware that studies and consultation are in progress, but the timeline appears to be indefinite.

At the meeting, I will talk about recommendations to make the Morro Vista exit safer, such as trimming back the excess foliage surrounding the path. I will also suggest making a new route; through Webb ranch and/or the fields around it. Finally, I will name possible meet up points for Woodland, should its teachers and students ever have to evacuate on foot. These spots will include Ladera Shopper, Webb Ranch Pumpkin Patch, Sharon Park Safeway, and SLAC.

I will keep my comments under three minutes at the meeting; please let me know if I have followed the process incorrectly. Thank you for your time.

**11. Optional: You can upload a copy of your comments.**