

Letters to the editor: Fairgrounds proposal deserves fair shake; public safety take wrong

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Fair hearing for Fairgrounds plan

In the late 1990s I recall meeting then-Ventura City Manager Donna Landeros for lunch.

As she arrived, I could tell she was agitated so I asked her what was wrong. She told me that the survey of city residents had been completed and 9 out of 10 Ventura residents had agreed with the statement: “I like everything the way it is in Ventura and do not want anything to change.”

“How are you supposed to manage a city when no one wants any change?” she asked.

Some attitudes never change.

I am not here to argue that the proposal for the Fairgrounds currently being heard should be rubber stamped. I would, however, like to see it receive a fair hearing. But it seems some citizens are determined to make sure the proposal is dead before it's heard.

Although the Fairgrounds is on state property, citizens of the city are clinging to the notion that nothing should change. I would classify the current state of the Fairgrounds as dated, decaying and decidedly uninviting. Further, it's unoccupied for 85% of the year. It needs to change, and the repair bill will be expensive.

Things change. Communities need projects to revitalize and energize the citizens and merchants. Not to mention filling the adjacent city's tax base so it can afford better streets and public safety.

The current proposal deserves a hearing in the light of day. So do proposals from any other bidders. But let's not bury any progress just because it's different.

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