

The Press Democrat

Letters to the Editor, Friday March 14

Reject gas station

EDITOR: The Santa Rosa Planning Commission has an important decision to make at a public hearing on April 10 — whether to approve or deny a proposal for a new gas station at Highway 12 and Wright Road.

One of the requirements for a conditional use permit is that the project should be for the public health, safety and welfare. This project has been in the pipeline on and off since 2007, initially rejected by the Planning Commission and City Council. Approved in 2013, it was never built, and the permits expired.

Much has changed since 2013. The serious health impacts of toxic pollution from gas stations, including links to childhood leukemia, are better understood. The impacts of the climate crisis have escalated. The traffic and other environmental studies are outdated, ignoring many changes that have occurred. The project would conflict with the city's climate policies and aspects of the general plan. A coalition of over 20 organizations submitted a letter last fall urging the Planning Commission to deny the project. It's time to say no and consider the best interests of the community.

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