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# New gas station

Mar 14, 2025



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### *The Community Voice*

At a public hearing on April 10 the Santa Rosa Planning Commission will decide whether the proposal for a new gas station at 874 N Wright Rd. (at Hwy 12/Fulton) meets the requirements for a conditional use permit, including that it should be “in the best interests of public health, safety and welfare.”

This project has been in the pipeline since 2007, when the Planning Commission and City Council rejected it due to concerns about noise, traffic safety, idling cars and proximity to areas zoned for housing.

The current proposal is based on documents dating back to 2013, which in turn include traffic studies from 2006-2007. A great deal has changed since 2013. The human health impacts of exposure to gasoline, which has been linked to childhood leukemia, asthma and other diseases, are better understood. State and local ordinances have been passed with pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels. In 2022 the City of Santa Rosa, recognizing the deleterious impacts of gas stations, and in line with the County and five other cities, passed a ban prohibiting the construction of new gas stations. This one was exempted not because it was superior in any way, but because it was already in process.

The current proposal raises many significant concerns. The City of Santa Rosa has a rule that there should be no fueling station within 500 feet of another. There is a propane autogas fueling station right next door so the City would be breaking its own code in addition to conflicting with its 2020

Climate Action Plan and aspects of its General Plan. The traffic and other environmental studies are outdated. The proposed new traffic interchange at Hwy 12 has not been taken into consideration.

The site is a seasonal wetland next to the Joe Rodota trail. All gasoline stations inevitably produce leaks and spills impacting groundwater supplies, eventually needing expensive cleanup and often leaving toxic sites that cannot be developed for anything else. Over 20 groups representing hundreds if not thousands of county residents signed a letter in November opposing the project. It is time that the Planning Commission finally says No to this proposal and instead supports forward-looking projects that will benefit the community. A rally and news conference will be held at the site on March 25, 2-4pm. For information about the rally, email [congas.contact@gmail.com](mailto:congas.contact@gmail.com)

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