

High Costs of Sprawl

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Body

To the Editor:

Sprawl has indeed become a political issue, and an important reason for this is that sprawl can be as bad for a community's economy as for its environment (letters, Feb. 10).

In many communities the taxes generated by low-density sprawl development do not support the new schools, roads and other services that new residents demand. Inappropriate development can also pollute groundwater, necessitating the construction of expensive water-treatment plants, and can exact other economic costs.

Sprawl development consumes open space, damages quality of life, destroys community character and is bad for the bottom line. For many voters these are reasons enough to control growth and preserve open space.

WILL ROGERS

President, Trust for Public Land

San Francisco, Feb. 10, 1999

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