

GREEN ANGLICANS



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RIVER CLUB DEVELOPMENT

To whom it may concern

In our Christian faith we are called to be stewards of Creation. We herewith fully support the Observatory Civic Association in its campaign to oppose the River Club Development Plans along the Liesbeek River. The River Club site is a unique heritage and environmentally sensitive riverine area and holds special heritage significance as the least untransformed wetland in the area and an important site for Khoi history. This is a history of Khoi resistance that has rendered the land sacred with deep cultural and spiritual significance for the indigenous Khoi people and their ancestors in the area. We know too well the injustice on people's culture and heritage when displaced from their land.

Moreover, any development on this land will aggravate flooding by infill of the flood valley and destroy the ability of the site to support the recharge of the aquifer, critically needed to render Cape Town more resilient in the face of Climate Change and drought. Climate Change forecasts tell us that we will face increasingly dry seasons and it is vitally important that we protect recharge areas so that we do not diminish our groundwater.

In a warming climate, the preservation of green spaces becomes increasingly important.

Recognising the job potential of the Amazon Call centre, it is also evident that there are many sites that can be used for such a construction.

I fully support the Observatory Civic Association and other partners in their planned court action to challenge development plans along the Liesbeek River alongside the River Club site.



Rev Dr Rachel Mash

Environmental Coordinator, Anglican Church of Southern Africa

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