



“Faith communities committed to cherishing living earth.”

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Our Appeal to our Courts of Law

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TWO RIVERS

We have only one planet, one home. When we destroy the natural environment and the life of the natural environment, it has gone forever. We all know that we live in an incredibly wonderful and unique part of the world. The Table Mountain chain and its Fynbos is magnificent and found nowhere else. Add to that our coastline and marine life and we live in a paradise – or it could be.

The test is how we care for it and how we care for one another in this paradise.

We are deeply concerned that in Cape Town we have allowed economic interests and profit to dominate over the care and well-being of people and planet. We know of a number of “developments” that have been undertaken over the years under previous Mayors when the City’s own Environmental Management Department has turned them down.

Now we face a new and serious instance, located in one of the few remaining unspoilt sections of Cape Town’s river systems, the confluence of the Liesbeek and the Black rivers, at the River Club, the site of a new “development” of massive scale.

Our Mayor has agreed to it, he says, as it will bring much needed investment and employment. But there is no reason why it should be located there, where the costs will be considerably higher because of all the concrete needed to stabilise the site. This also increases the carbon emissions dramatically. There are plenty of other locations needing development, with unemployed living within easy access.

Our concern is that our City of Cape Town lays greater emphasis on “economic growth” than growth in the well-being of people and the care of the natural world.

This is not to imply that economics are not important. It is to say that we must make our investments to benefit people and care of the environment, not just for what is most profitable.

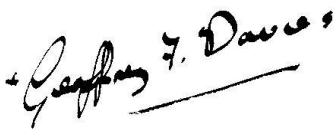
With local elections coming up, we hope our Mayor will show that his concern is for the people of Cape Town and its natural environs. He can show us that he cares for our unique planet and our local surroundings by moving the “Amazon” development to a less damaging site.

However, since Mayor Dan Plato has shown no indication of hearing the people, we turn to the Courts for justice. Our Courts are proving to be a far greater protection for our new found democracy than politicians.

In the not too distant future it is anticipated that Ecocide will be a crime under the jurisdiction of courts of law and the International Criminal Court. Those who make irresponsible decisions regarding the natural environment will become liable to prosecution.

However, we appeal to the Courts now, as a matter of urgency. If the Courts do not provide us with protection this unique site will be lost forever.

Yours sincerely,



Bishop Geoff Davies
Patron and Founder

