

August 12, 2005

Association Board of Directors  
Summit Ridge Homes  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

RE: Summit Ridge Re-Siding

Dear Members of the Board,

In 1977 Fisher-Friedman Associates designed your project at Summit Ridge. Our inspiration for the design was inspired by the Northern California movement into modern architecture as practiced by Charles Moore, Joseph Esherick, Bernard Maybeck, Bill Wurster, and Bill Turnbull to name a few. Your project is a successful interpretation of this unique Northern California architecture. We are pleased to have received many national and local awards from the American Institute of Architects. Specifically in 1979, Fisher-Friedman Associates won both the AIA Red Cedar Shingle Bureau Merit Award and the PCBC Gold Nugget Merit Award for Summit Ridge.

At the time of the design of your project Hardiplank and Hardiboard materials were available but we did not think they were appropriate materials to fulfill our design objectives. I strongly urge you to continue with the use of natural red cedar shingles. I am absolutely sure that they will serve you functionally and aesthetically. I do however recommend that the remedial work be done with the traditional application methods as opposed to a panelized shingle product. As you continue your annual maintenance over the next decade you will be able to continue this process over and over again as a regular process. Red cedar shingles have been successfully used in Northern California and the East Bay for over a century and there is no substitute for the warmth and charm of this natural organic material. A dark grey manufactured slate should be used to provide an incombustible roof.

In the event that the Board changes materials I think irreparable harm will be done aesthetically to your beautiful community. We do use Hardiboard, Hardiplank, and Hardishingles in other locations, as shown in our University Village project, and in those events it produces a completely different architecture, one that is entirely different from the indigenous qualities of using natural shingles. If the Board does make this radical change to James Hardie product, we would be forced to disassociate ourselves from the design of the project entirely.

If you should need any additional information, please contact our offices directly.

Very truly yours,

FISHER FRIEDMAN ASSOCIATES

Rodney F. Friedman, FAIA  
President

Encl: FFA Monograph  
Photo Sheets - Summit Ridge  
Project Sheets - University Village