

Oct. 29, 2020

To: Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Record Number PLN-2020-16689

RE: Humboldt County Fair Association, Ferndale area.

I am unable to comment at the November 10 public hearing, but I did participate in the Planning Department hearing on September 17th. I submit this letter in lieu of commenting at the meeting on November 10, 2020.

This letter to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors is in response to the appeal to the Planning Commission to **deny the Mitigated Negative Declaration and to not authorize the use of the Humboldt County Fairgrounds for new motorized and other loud events.**

My name is Janet Carney, I am a resident of Ferndale. During the earlier hearing on this issue, I watched as the members of the Planning Commission disregarded the concerns of myself and other neighbors and voted unanimously to approve the Conditional Use permit. The Planning Department has not done the CEQA properly, nor has an Environmental Impact Report been done at all. I am confident if both reports are properly done, the permit will not be granted.

I was frankly offended by two of the members of the Planning Commission who commented before voting. They apparently live near Redwood Acres and acknowledged it wasn't great at their homes putting up with noise that happens there, but told me to "Go inside and turn up the music" so that I would not hear the obvious noise that would come from the events at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds in Ferndale. In other words, 'buck-up and bear it as we do in Eureka'. It also was an admission of sorts that they know it WILL be loud - but too bad for me. I do not appreciate this attitude. I investigated Ferndale and the neighborhood before I bought my home, and the Annual Fair was a disclosure that I agreed to 16 years ago.

The proposed new loud events, I do not accept. They will be impossible to ignore from my house. The noise from the unsanctioned motorcycle event that happened at the Fairgrounds in 2017, did not allow a conversation in my own backyard – It was too loud. I moved inside, but it was still LOUD INSIDE of my house. Years ago I fully insulated my home, including the walls, under the floors and the ceiling, which normally helps with noise outside – but there is not enough insulation on the planet to block out the incredibly loud noise for the proposed motorcycle racing and other events.

So - let's be clear about what is happening here. This is NOT about the annual fair. This is about hosting new, very loud events. These events are disruptive to me and the noise is unbearable. In addition, I have zero confidence that the Fair Board will not simply ADD MORE EVENTS once they have this permit approved. And ALL of this disruption is so they can make up financial shortfalls. I want the Fairgrounds to turn a profit, but not at my expense.

It appears the Fair Board has not considered other types of events to make money. I have read that many fairgrounds across the country are facing shortfalls. Humboldt County Fair Board should get creative with the use of the facility. Find a use that has less impact on the lives of their neighbors. There are other ways to turn a profit.

The value of my house and property will be impacted by the proposed events and could result in a smaller tax revenue for the County due to that fact.

There is a term for what is being proposed by the Fair Board. It is called **Externalized Costs**. The term means – A business will maximize its profits by off-loading indirect costs and forcing negative effects to a third party. Someone ELSE has to pay those costs. I am the third party – all of Ferndale and its residents are the third party. I will not accept these costs.

Soon Ferndale can be referred to as THAT CUTE AND HELLISHLY LOUD LITTLE TOWN THAT WE USED TO VISIT. Noisy events discourage the kind of tourism Ferndale has cultivated over many years. Forget "The Victorian Village", that title, will no longer fit this community if this permit is approved.

I respectfully ask for a thorough CEQA and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT BE DONE, as it is required by law.

I will accept nothing less.

Signed:



Janet Carney

Ferndale Resident