

Attachment 6
Public Comment 15519 HCFA

From: jennifer raymond <vegicook@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 8:07 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>; PlanningBuilding <planningbuilding@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Comment on Proposed Project at Humboldt County Fairgrounds

I am very concerned that a use permit to add motorized racing events and concerts at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds in Ferndale is being considered without the benefit of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Both of these types of events constitute major changes in the use of the facility, with potentially significant environmental impacts.

The Noise Impact Study, prepared by Whitchurch Engineering, states: "For flat track racing, unmitigated CNEL [noise] values fall into the "clearly unacceptable range," and that even with mitigation, the noise levels would only be reduced to "normally unacceptable." Regarding monster truck events, the study states that "since noise from monster trucks is essential to the spectator experience" the only mitigation is to limit the number of events that can be held each year. The study concludes that even with mitigation, motorized vehicle events will create exterior noise that is not within normally acceptable limits, but that with a Conditional Use Permit "temporary exceedances can be disregarded."

According to the California Environmental Quality Act (Chapter 2.6:§ 21080):

(d) If there is substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the lead agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, an environmental impact report shall be prepared.

Based on the conclusions of the Initial Study and the Whitchurch report, there is substantial evidence that this project will have a significant impact on the environment and that an EIR is required. Any consideration of the project without a completed EIR will be inadequate, and thus, unacceptable.

Jennifer Raymond
1057 5th Street
Ferndale, CA 95536

*LaVonn and Charles Dennison-Bules
154 Francis St.
Ferndale, CA 95536*

Dear Steve,

August 10, 2020

We are aware of a proposal to use the County Fairgrounds as a venue for Monster Truck Events and both of us are completely opposed.

My wife and I are new residents of Ferndale, buying here primarily for the peace and quiet Ferndale offers. It is rare in California to live in a quiet small city without having to hole up somewhere completely out in the countryside. Cities up and down the state cannot make nearly the same claim to the level of natural beauty, structural authenticity and stress free daily life Ferndale offers. It is very unique to have so much of town so intact and maintained at this level. Our town is rare, much appreciated by us and our neighbors and we are proud of both it and the citizens here who volunteer excessive time and energy to keep it so.

We are vehemently opposed to this Monster Truck Rally because we come from Southern California and have direct experience with both the Winternational Races held at the L. A. County Fairgrounds and the Hydrofoil boat races held in Mission Bay – all negative in the extreme. Not mildly loud: over the top, dog screaming, bone rattling, head splitting noise; from the days of testing and tuning engines to qualifications and finally to the last day/days of nonstop heat after heat engine scream of a type no one should be made to endure. This is not the rev of a souped-up road car or irritatingly tuned Harley; it's a full volume bleating, crackling, earsplitting racket that operates in two modes; the blat, blat of a nitro-fueled rocket barely turning over or the full throttle scream of eight seconds of life you never want to live again.

We are also opposed due to another factor plannner's seem to want to avoid talking about -the types of vehicles and people who will coming here – no thanks again. We know the clientele that flocks to Monster Truck Rallies, we know them from the drunkenness, their own loud cars and the trash they leave in their wake - we know them too well and don't want to see them at all, at any level. Somehow "Victorian Village" and "Monster Truck Rally" just don't go together.

We sold that home in La Verne (the unfortunate city adjacent to the L.A. Fairgrounds) and left the area although we loved many aspects of that city. Similarly, although we enjoy Mission Bay we have for years avoided that entire (huge) waterpark and all the hotels, restaurants and bars in the area while hydrofoil season was on. It is that annoying.

Had we ever suspected Ferndale would ever fall prey to such a rotten slight-of-hand by the county as the prostitution of the Fairgrounds for such environmentally and culturally damaging event as a Monster Truck Rally it would have caused us not to purchase in Ferndale at all, anywhere in the area code. Please don't force us to leave a town we have quickly fallen in love with as result of a need for such poisonous revenue – I assure you it will cost far more than you think.

Most Sincerely,
Chuck and LaVonn Dennison Bules

August 8, 2020

Humboldt County Planning Commission
825 5th St., Room 111
Eureka, CA 95501



Re: HCFA Use Permit 9/6/2020

Dear Commissioners,

Please don't allow Ferndale to be disrupted again by motorcycle and monster truck racing.

We cherish the peacefulness of this town, in which we have resided for over 6 years now, and with which we became familiar many years ago. The events in 2017 were a major irritation to us.

Please deny the use permit requested by the Humboldt County Fair Association (HCFA).

Sincerely,

Larry and Ruth Blakely
405 A St.
PO Box 343
Ferndale, CA 95536

Steven Lazar, Planner
Humboldt County Planning & Building Department
3015 H Street
Eureka, Ca 95501

8/13/20



RE: SCH#2020070478

We are writing this letter in regards to the upcoming Planning Commission meeting on September 3 by the Humboldt County Fair Association asking for use permits to consider a request for motorized events and concerts at the fair ground location in Ferndale. As business owners and residents of Ferndale and living very close to the fairgrounds, we are very upset over this upcoming proposal and the burden it would place on our quiet community.

In 2017, the Fair Association held a Monster Truck Rally and a motorcycle race in Ferndale without seeking permission, notifying our community or conducting a noise study. The noise was deafening with the monster trucks and was felt and heard throughout the town of Ferndale. It measured way beyond the accepted levels. The motorcycle races were also extremely noisy and we had to compensate our guests at our BnB for both events for the inconvenience, not to mention calming our stressed animals. Our village and our business location is a place that people come to to escape the noise and confusion of the outside world. Having these events will destroy all that Ferndale has tried to achieve. We have worked hard over the years to make it a safe and peaceful village for it's residents and visitors. In a small Victorian village that is on the National Register of Historic Landmarks, our status would be jeopardized and there would be no reason for visitors to want to come, not to mention how the noise levels would affect the livestock and animals that reside in our area. An EIR is essential before any further consideration of the permit application. Our way of life, our business and property values are at stake with this proposal.

The proposal of 10 outdoor concerts a year is way too much, as that would be two concerts a month during the summer months. We ask that permit be modified to a reasonable amount. With the noisy events that the Fair Association are proposing, Ferndale would be impacted greatly. I would suggest that the two locations that Humboldt County has already authorized for motorized events, Samoa Peninsula and Redwood Acres are sufficient for our county. They are closer to the majority of people attending these events and do not overwhelm Fernbridge (traffic wise) and detract from Ferndale. I would also like to propose that the Association find events that would enhance our village and businesses for the long term, not jeopardize them with extreme noise levels.

Thank you for your consideration. You can reach us at 707 607 3023 or email victorianretreat@msn.com, 1060 5th St., P.O. Box 43, Ferndale, Ca 95536, if you have any questions.

Lynne and Lee Shobлом
Lynne and Lee Shobлом, Red Barn Cottage

From: change2peace
To: slazar@co.humboldt.ca.us; [Planning Clerk](#)
Subject: Ferndale forever changed!
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 9:14:43 PM

Please review your study for approval of noisy events at the fairground in Ferndale. We believe you are required to perform an Environmental Impact Report before proceeding. Please do so.

The addition of excessively noisy events as proposed would ruin the character of Ferndale forever and diminish its value to all of Humboldt in the process.

John Emig
Humboldt

--
change to peace

Re: Case# PLN-2019-15519
(HUMBOLDT COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS)



August 17, 2020

To whom it may concern,

The annual county fair held near me was disclosed as a condition of sale which I accepted when I bought my home. In fact, I have come to appreciate the fair and the fairground over the years. However, when the 1st unsanctioned motor event happened in 2017, the incredibly loud noise made it impossible to have a conversation anywhere on my property - even inside the house.

I ask everything be done that the law affords to prevent more events like this. For example, an Environmental Impact Report required to consider a change of this magnitude has not been done. 14 noisy events over 6 months - suffering through a massively loud event every other weekend, every summer, year after year - would be an unbearable environment for me and the resale value of my home would be permanently reduced. **This would mean less money to the county from property taxes for all real estate nearby.**

Noisy events discourage the kind of tourism Ferndale has cultivated. The outrageous whine of motorcycles and roar of monster trucks is hardly fitting to what makes Ferndale unique. Amplified concerts echoing back and forth through town off the hills reduces the value of Ferndale to all of us who've ever enjoyed time here. I am unwilling to see Ferndale absorb these "externalized costs". It's not right to sacrifice Ferndale to the fairground.

Signed,

Janet Carney
Ferndale resident

Date: August 18, 2020

To: Steve Lazar, Planner, Humboldt County - slazar@co.humboldt.ca.us

From: Pat Lydon, Ferndale Resident

Subject: Comments Re: Initial Study for HCFA Use Permit & MND

Steve:

I am a resident of Ferndale and have enjoyed the Humboldt County Fair since purchasing my home in 2007.

As an engineer (retired) I have had project management responsibilities for CEQA compliance. I understand the responsibilities of MND objective reviews, presenting comprehensive factual testing data, and I understand the importance of communicating proposed impacts to those affected by a project.

I reviewed the Whitchurch Engineering study, and the Initial Study, with the proposed CUP/MND. The Whitchurch Engineering study provides adequate factual noise testing data re: effect at the fairgrounds for motor cycle and concert events. However the study did not address the in town noise levels due to reflection from the surrounding hillsides.

The HCFA has not been transparent, and previously has failed to notify residents of non-fair events which resulted in noise affecting nearby and city residents. I was encouraged that you prepared a CUP/MND, and that you are acting as an independent and objective professional responsible for HCFA compliance with requirements. However, there is a significant amount of information to be studied and provided. The burden of proof for meeting CEQA requirements should be on the HCFA.

The decision to approve the CUP should be postponed until COVID safety guidelines for reopenings are published, and until HCFA can demonstrate financial solvency with a new General Manager in place.

If you have any questions regarding my attached comments on the Initial Study and proposed MND, please contact me by email at pmichaellydon@aol.com or on my cell 916-835-1699.

Pat Lydon
PO Box 153
1120 Cream Court
Ferndale, CA
95536

Date: August 18, 2020

To: Steve Lazar, Planner, Humboldt County

From: Pat Lydon, Ferndale Resident

Subject: Comments Re: Initial Study for HCFA Use Permit & MND

Sect: 2.3.1 Motor Sports Events

For the purposes of these comments below, I accept the Whitchurch Engineering study which provides adequate testing to regulatory standards, calculations of noise impact at the racetrack and suggestions/mitigation's for flat track racing and concerts.

- 1) However the CUP/MND approval of monster trucks; tractor pulls; go-carts and 4x4 truck events with no engineering noise study (similar to Whitchurch Engineering study) does not meet EIR requirements for impact assessment. Such a study would likely result in noise levels greater than CNEL L-max of 101 dB. Those noise levels would be a significant impact.
- Recommendation - eliminate monster trucks, tractor pulls, go-carts and 4X4 truck events if a noise assessment has not been performed or proven it does not meet Whitchurch CNEL Lmax = for attenuated motor cycles racing prior to 6PM.

Sect: 3 Environmental Factors

These Environmental factors were not checked for review/justification or scored as no-impact. These factors do have potential significant impact.

- 1) Sect: 3.2.17 Transportation - Existing use (2-weeks/year - Aug.-Sept.) when compared to the proposed change of adding 14 events/year (Mar.-Oct.) significantly increases the impact on Hwy-211, the City of Ferndale, and the neighborhoods of Arlington, Main, and Van Ness streets. The traffic flow for the fair builds gradually over the day. In the case of scheduled events there is a maximum flow to meet the event start time.
 - Recommendation - complete a review/discussion of HCFair attendance records compared to the proposed approval amounts which are 10,000 attendees/event X 14 events = 140,000 attendees. Even if a 50% (70,000) car pool vehicle reduction were assumed, this would result in 70,000 / 14 events = 5,000 vehicles/event.
 - Recommendation - In order to meet a Less than Significant score the mitigation measure (if assessments warrant) could be to limit the number of motor cycle events to 3/year and concert events to 4/year or less, March thru October depending on study outcome.
- 2) Sect: 3.2.19 Utility Service Systems - I am in extreme disagreement with giving a no impact score to sewer and water systems. There is no data/discussion of existing HCFair waste system discharge or water demand. The proposed approval of (10,000 attendees at 14 events =140,000 attendees) is significant contribution to the waste water collection and may exceed treatment plant capacity, inflow and time of year (Mar.-Oct.) discharge limitations. It may also exceed limits for solid waste. The water system demand may also be exceeded.
 - Recommendation - assessment of the HCFair (using average attendance) historical wastewater inflow to WWTP compared to the proposed 140,000 users. A similar assessment of historical water demand vs the proposed 140,000 user demand should be conducted so the City of Ferndale water is not adversely affected.
 - Recommendation - In order to meet a Less than Significant score, the mitigation measure (if assessment warrants) could be to limit the number of motor cycle events to 3/year and concert events to 4/year or less, March thru October depending on study outcome.

3) Sect: 3.2.15 Public Services - I disagree with the no impact score for Fire and Police protection.

- Recommendation - Have a discussion with City of Ferndale Fire Protection as it is a volunteer Fire Department. Providing coverage for the fair is very different manpower commitment than for 14 additional events.
- Recommendation - Have a discussion with City of Ferndale Police Department. Staffing is minimal for normal city coverage; overtime is used for coverage for the HCFair. Employee hours and overtime pay for 14 additional events would have considerable adverse financial impact on the Ferndale City budget.
- Recommendation - In order to meet a Less than Significant score the mitigation measure (if discussion warrants) could be to limit the number of motor cycle events to 3/year and concerts to 4/year or less and require HCFA to pay associated costs for Fire and Police coverage for all events.

Mitigation Measurement Monitoring

Measure 3

NOI-1 Whitchurch Engineering study indicates that the best compliance plan to mitigate noise for motorcycle racing should be no later than 6PM to meet CENEL of 70.3db.

- Recommendation - Require a Whitchurch Engineering noise study be performed at various city locations to eliminate concern for noise reflection off of the hillside.
- Recommendation - Mitigation could be requiring a maximum number of nine racers (allows for two heats) in accordance with Whitchurch table 6 restrictions for nine racers and to finish racing by 6PM.

Measure 8

NOI-6

- Recommendation - Eliminate one monster truck and other non-motor cycle events because no engineering noise study was performed. See comments above.

Measure 10

- Recommendation - Require that HCFA provide the year's schedule of events to the HC Director of Planning & Budget, and to the City of Ferndale before February for all events and concerts.
- Recommendation re "Note" - Add that HCFA is required to provide documentation for any events that did not meet the mitigations, operating restrictions, and project conditions. I recommend that if any of the mitigations or operating restrictions were exceeded for two consecutive events, this would result in a loss of the CUP.
- Recommendation - In my view, your note should not reference monster trucks based on my comments above.

Conclusion:

1) Given the amount of information yet to be studied and provided, I would recommend not approving the CUP until a full EIR is performed. This places the burden for proof on the HCFA.

2) The proposed changes to the lease agreement CEQA checklists assume that the existing conditions meet state regulations. The HCFairgrounds do not meet the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) accessibility requirements. The HCFA has received state funds to correct these deficiencies however they have not been implemented.

- Recommendation - Withhold any use permit approval contingent on HCFA implementing all required ADA improvements with final inspection and approval by regulatory authorities.



Humboldt County Farm Bureau

5601 So. Broadway, Eureka, CA 95503
Serving Agriculture Since 1913

August 19, 2020

Humboldt County Planning & Building Department
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: CUP Project: Humboldt County Fair Association PLN-2019-15519

Dear Planning Commissioners:

The Humboldt County Farm Bureau would like to support the approval of the Conditional Use Permit for the Humboldt County Fair's interim events. The issuance of this permit will allow the Fair to continue to provide a high quality facility for all residents of Humboldt County. We believe the sporting events, cultural activities and community celebrations are vital for our county.

Our Farm Bureau member's represent the rural community of Humboldt County and we value the many activities which take place at the Fairgrounds. We appreciate the historical activities of the past and look forward to many events in the future. The Farm Bureau would like to urge you to approve the application for the Conditional Use Permit.

Sincerely,

Katherine Ziemer

Katherine Ziemer
Executive Director

From: [Ani Knight](#)
To: [McClenagan, Laura](#)
Subject: Re: YES ON CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020 9:23:20 AM

So sorry, I thought the link was direct. Please approve Humboldt County Fair Association's request for conditional use permits for special events. The additional income will be vital to the fairs continuing existence. The Fairgrounds is a very important fixture in Ferndale. Thank you.

On Thu, Aug 20, 2020, 9:12 AM McClenagan, Laura <lmcclenagan2@co.humboldt.ca.us> wrote:

Do you have a project name or application number?

Laura McClenagan

From: Ani Knight <aniknight2016@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 5:23 PM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: YES ON CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

Please approve conditional use permit.



Phillip Ostler
P.O.Box 1439
Ferndale, Ca 95536
Fax 310. 496 0102
Cell 310-995 3332
FERNDALE 707-786 9475
phillipostler@gmail.com

8-20-2020

Humboldt County Planning & Building Department

Attention: Planning Commission Clerk

3015 H Street, Eureka, Ca 95501

Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen of Humboldt County and Ferndale. I strongly support events on the Fairgrounds. I support motorcycle races and motor events. I also support concerts and large public events.

Events at the fairgrounds really boost businesses in Ferndale.

Sincerely,


Phillip Ostler
427 Main St, Ferndale/ P.O. Box 1439

-----Original Message-----

From: DeGraff <ernieorjudy@suddenlink.net>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 4:47 PM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Ferndale Fair Board's Request for a Use Permit

Dear Planning Commission Clerk: Please be sure that each member of the Humboldt County Planning Commission receives a copy of this email. And please publicize in the Times-Standard, the Planning Commission's meeting when this topic will come up for consideration. Thank you for your service. /s/
Ernie DeGraff 725-0451

Dear Commissioners: In regard to the Ferndale Fair Board's request for a Use Permit to include motorized racing and outdoor concerts, it is your duty and responsibility to require a full EIR to meet CEQA's requirements for any activity that is controversial and has impacts to the community and surrounding areas of Ferndale. The EIR must address any impacts, good or bad, that would result from issuing a permit without a supporting EIR. And the EIR must address the acoustical effects of any planned or unplanned activity that would affect Ferndale and the surrounding community. Please give this your most careful attention, and do not issue a permit unless you have a completed EIR that has addressed all the environmental consequences and recommends that a Special Use Permit be granted. Regards, Ernie DeGraff, Fortuna, CA

From: Jennifer Fisk-becker <jenfb57@gmail.com>

Date: August 21, 2020 at 8:15:36 AM PDT

To: slazar@county.humboldt.ca.us

Subject: Humboldt County Fair Permit

Both my husband and I are in favor of granting the HCF the permit to hold events at the HCF. We live within a half mile from the fairgrounds, and have not been bothered by past events such as concerts, horse races, motorized races, other events over the past 40 (60 for my husband) years. We are in favor of HCF seeking revenue to maintain the facility, and to continue the tradition of the Humboldt County Fair every August. We also realize the needed revenue the fair, and added events, bring to the town of Ferndale in food, shopping, and lodging. Thank you for your foresight in realizing that organizations need to be creative and innovative in their revenue ideas in order to survive.

Bill and Jennifer Becker, Ferndale

Sent from my iPhone

Lazar, Steve

From: Planning Clerk
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 2:48 PM
To: Lazar, Steve
Subject: FW: County Fair conditional use permit

From: Kris Smith <jeffcairn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 10:27 PM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: County Fair conditional use permit

To the Humboldt County Planning & Building Department

Regarding: Humboldt County Fair Association / PLN-2019-15519

The Board of Directors of the Lost Coast Kennel Club of California would like to urge you to grant approval for the conditional use permit for the Humboldt County Fair. We need to support the Fair and grounds any way we can so they can survive financially. The LCKC depends on the grounds for our activities and competitions, as do many groups and individuals in the county. We host at least twelve events each year here. There are fewer and fewer places that county residents can participate in animal oriented activities, and it would be a shame to lose this one. In addition, the fairgrounds, are also essential to our county and community, as they serve as disaster/emergency gathering places, and health and social and welfare relief. We must keep fairgrounds viable as an essential resource for our rural community.

Jill Otto, LCKC President

Cathlyn Wright, Vice-President

Kris Smith, Secretary

Bill Clawson, Treasurer

Sara Borok, Board Member

Debra St Myers, Board member

Debra Tull, Board Member

Lazar, Steve

From: Planning Clerk
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 2:42 PM
To: Lazar, Steve
Subject: FW: Project ID, Humboldt County Fair Association, PLN 2019-15519

-----Original Message-----

From: Mel Kreb <floodplain@asis.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 10:16 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Project ID, Humboldt County Fair Association, PLN 2019-15519

Dear Humboldt County Planning Commissioners,

My wife and I support the application for a Conditional Use Permit by the Humboldt County Fair Board Association. The long term viability of the fairgrounds is important to us. Besides the actual fair we have attended hundreds of important events on the fair property, from Cattlemen's Association dinners to memorial services for local civic leaders. We hope you will support this proposal. Thank you for your service.

Melvin and Hollis Kreb
31117 State Highway 254
Scotia, CA 95565

707-722-4330

From: Duane Martin <dmartin@fksinvestments.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2020 10:20 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Project ID: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

Humboldt County Planning Commission - As you go through the public comment phase of the Humboldt County Fair Conditional Use Permit, I would like to express my support for this permit. The Humboldt County Fair provides the largest attended venue for the County, and provides an economic impact of \$8-10 Million year to the local economy(far greater than any other event). Its long history goes back to 1896, and is one of the oldest continuous fairs in California. It is a "Tradition" that generations of Humboldters have cherished, and one that needs to be protected for future generations to experience. In 2012, the State cut almost all funding to fairs in California. What did that mean to our Fair? It meant a reduction from approximate \$400 to 500 thousand a year to just less than \$40,000. The Humboldt community has stepped up with both sponsorship funds and volunteer help to narrow the gap of the this shortfall. Without their generous effort our treasured "Tradition" would have been gone forever. The Fair's responsibility of maintaining 65 acres of aging buildings has been a challenging effort. There is a need to obtain additional revenues by better utilizing the facilities during non-fair times. There has been an increase in interim events and new ideas have been encouraged. The adoption of this Conditional Use Permit in principal is essential in providing much needed financial opportunities for "Our Fair".

I would like to thank you for your time in reading my comments, and I am confident, you will make the right decision for "Our Fair"!

Duane Martin, Lifelong Humboldt County resident

-----Original Message-----

From: Jerry Rocha <rochajerry@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2020 1:57 PM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Cc: Bohn, Rex <RBohn@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Humboldt County Fair Public Notice

To: Planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us

All Planning Commissioners

My wife and I want to comment on the Public Notice we received for the upcoming Planning Commission Meeting on 9/3/2020.

We live directly across the Fairgrounds (420 Arlington) which is one of the closest/nearest residences located from the Fairgrounds (*See photos). We are directly effected more than anyone, and My wife and I have NO problem with the Fairgrounds getting a permit, in fact we think there should and needs to be additional venues at the site. The Fairgrounds has been under utilized and must be put to its full potential for it to survive. Both of us enjoy the festive atmosphere, and everything that goes along with it!! We and many others on our street support the Humboldt County Fair, and support the permit!!!

We do not find the noise to be a problem, most events are done before midnight and mostly on weekends. When we moved here, across from the fairgrounds, we were well aware there would be events that involved the potential for noise, people and increased traffic all of which are temporary.

In addition as a property/real estate appraiser for 20 years and Ferndale having more Real Estate Appraisers living in Ferndale per capita than most towns tells me that the fairgrounds more than likely do not effect values.

Sincerely,

Gerald (Jerry) and Kim Rocha
420 Arlington Avenue
Ferndale, CA 95536

Chief Appraiser/Owner CAL-OR Appraisals
Ferndale Planning Commissioner
President Ferndale Rotary

P.S. Photos taken from our window.



-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Lindsay <rlindsay@frontiernet.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2020 9:19 PM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Permit for Humboldt Fair grounds

We are in support of issuing the permit for Monster and Motorcycle races. Have lived in Ferndale for 44 years any never been bothered by any activity at the Fair Grounds. In these times the Fair needs every opportunity to generate revenue.

Dick & Barbara Lindsay

Sent from my iPhone

August 23, 2020

Humboldt County Planning & Building Department
Attention: Planning Commission Clerk
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: Humboldt County Fair Association / PLN-2019-15519.

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I support the Humboldt County Fair Association's application for a Conditional Use Permit.

As a child, I had the opportunity to attend a few motor sports events in other counties and always wondered why Humboldt County didn't have like events here. These events were attended by families as well as young adults and were very enjoyable.

Now as a 31 year old adult, born and raised in Humboldt County, I look forward to being able to enjoy the additional events the CUP will allow to take place at the fairgrounds.

There are very limited opportunities for entertainment in Humboldt County for people in my age group. I was dismayed upon hearing that a possible small amount of events (14) over the course of a year would even be controversial. I think they would be an asset to the community!

Please approve Humboldt County Fair Associations Conditional Use Permit. I know that I and many of my friends would greatly enjoy attending and supporting the outdoor concerts and motor sports events the permit will allow.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chauncey Willburn

875 Stafford Road
Scotia, CA 95565
707-599-5505



Chris Boynton
715 Berding St/ P.O. Box 924, Ferndale



8-20-2020

Humboldt County Planning & Building Department

Attention: Planning Commission Clerk

3015 H Street, Eureka, Ca 95501

Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen of Humboldt County and Ferndale. I strongly support events on the Fairgrounds. I support motorcycle races and motor events. I also support concerts and large public events.

Events at the fairgrounds really boost businesses in Ferndale.

Sincerely, Chris Boynton
Chris Boynton
715 Berding St / P.O. Box 924, Ferndale, Ca 95536

Planning Division:
County of Humboldt
3015 H Street
Eureka Calif 95501-



Mr Gerald Genzoli
149 Arlington Ave
Ferndale, CA 95536



Regarding - Conditional use permit Humboldt Co. Fairgrounds -

Our property which includes Home Barn
10 Acres parallels County fairgrounds. My field is

Separated from fair property by a mostly unlocked gate -

We have lived here since Jan 1964.

Fair Manager at this time - C. J. Hinckley outstanding F.M.
In fact ~~horses~~ during the fair race horses ~~at~~ ^{at} the
temporarily stocked 50 feet from our house.

I personally have been a committee member

of Junior Livestock Auction since 1964 representing the

County Dairy Industry. ^{and} crowds & noises at the

fair represent people having a good time for 10 days

I ^{whole} ~~whole~~ ^{entire} ~~hardly~~ support a County

Conditional use permit to authorize Legitimate concerts
tractor ~~trucks~~ or polls motorcycle events etc. My Ferndale family
joins my support also.

Gerald Genzoli

August 24, 2020

Humboldt County Planning & Building Department
Attention: Planning Commission Clerk
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501



Re: Humboldt County Fair Association / PLN-2019-15519.

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I urge you to support the Humboldt County Fair Association's application for a Conditional Use Permit.

I have been directly involved with the Humboldt County Fair for many years starting in 1975 when my daughter joined 4H and begin entering various projects at the Fair. Fast forward to the present. I am currently on the Board of Directors of the Humboldt County Fair Association.

The fairgrounds buildings and grounds offer a vast array of uses for the community. Weddings, dog shows, camping, training grounds for various law enforcement and fire departments, celebrations of all sorts, a horse boarding facility, meetings, craft shows, High School rodeos, poultry shows, fundraisers for non-profit groups and multiple other events take place year-round at the fairgrounds. And, of course, the fairgrounds is home to the annual Humboldt County Fair. The Junior Livestock Auction held during the Fair raises 100's of thousands of dollars for our 4H and Future Farmers of America youth. The Humboldt County Fair itself provides an eight million dollar annual boost to Humboldt County's economy. The fairgrounds also serves as a refuge in times of Natural Disasters.

As you know, the fairgrounds is a county owned facility. However, the costs associated with managing and maintaining it lies mostly with the Humboldt County Fair Association – a group of dedicated volunteers committed to the continued success of this important county venue.

The fairgrounds is an aged facility. The Humboldt County Fair is celebrating its 124th year of operation and as a Director my passion is to continue the legacy. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the Fair was cancelled this year further diminishing some of our crucial revenue and a great loss to the county. We do receive occasional funding from the state for some improvements. But as an Association we must always seek additional sources of revenue to improve and maintain the fairgrounds. We are currently in the process of completing several ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) projects as mandated by the State as well as improvements to many of the buildings.

Your approval of the Humboldt County Fair Associations Conditional Use Permit is vital to the future financial success of the fairgrounds and will help us to continue being able to operate this important asset for Humboldt County. Please carefully consider what is at stake for the future of the Humboldt County fairgrounds and the community when deliberating on this matter.

Thank you for your service to Humboldt County as Planning Commissioners.

Sincerely,

Johanna M. Rodoni

Johanna M. Rodoni

P.O. Box 43, Scotia, CA 95565

707-498-8109

8/20/2020

Dear Mr. Lazar,

We have lived by the Humboldt Co. Fair Grounds for 60 years. Our properties border. Please ok the Fairgrounds having concerts and races. This is something our Town needs for the economy and for families to enjoy.

Any noise has never been a bother. I'm just glad the Fairgrounds is being put to good use for our young people.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Jayce T. Cappino

Box 504

Ferndale, Ca.

95536

Jayce1024@Suddenlink.net
707 786 9629





TELEPHONE (707) 443-4573
FACSIMILE (707) 443-7182

LAW OFFICE OF
ROBERT D. PRIOR
ATTORNEY AT LAW
POST OFFICE BOX 23
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95502

710 "I" STREET
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501
E-MAIL rprior@rpriorlaw.com



August 18, 2020

**Humboldt County Planning
and Building Department**
Attention: Planning Commission Clerk
3015 H Street
Eureka, California 95501

**Re: Humboldt County Fair Association
PLN-2019-15519**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I support the Application of the Humboldt County Fair Association for a permit to hold certain interim events on the Fairgrounds as way of raising badly needed revenue. For the last several years, Fair income has been declining for reasons beyond its control. Income from horse racing, once fairly steady and a reliable contributor to the Fair well-being, has become more and more problematic due to, among other things, a decline in the number of horses at least Statewide, and a rather bitter and intense competition among racing venues for the numbers that are available and for the most favorable dates to race. In the past it seemed to me that all racing interests more or less cooperated among themselves and our traditional racing dates were honored so they were almost assured every year. No more. The bigger tracks are increasingly asking for a bigger piece of the pie at the expense of the little operation, like Ferndale.

Humboldt County Planning
and Building Department

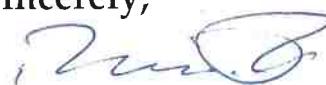
August 20, 2020

Page Two

Sensing this trend, the Board of Directors of the Fair decided to seek other sources of revenue and would like to hold interim events for this purpose. Its Application is its request that it be allowed to do this. The Fair is committed to do whatever its engineering studies indicate to lessen the environmental impact of these interim events.

For these reasons, I request that you give favorable consideration to the Fair's request and grant its Application. Without this additional means of making money it is doubtful, in my opinion, that the Fair would be able to continue to operate. The people of this County have enjoyed this end-of-Summer event for over one hundred (100) years, and its loss would be a sad event for them. Its occurrence each year is also a major contributor to the economic well-being of Ferndale and related areas and enables the Fair to repair and maintain and bring up to ADA Standards the many County buildings on the Fairgrounds.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Prior
Member, Board of Directors of the
Humboldt County Fair Association

RDPs

Humboldt County Planning Commission
825 5th Street, Room 111
Eureka, California 95501



August 20, 2020

Re: HCFA Use Permit 9/6/2020

My husband and I live in Ferndale, California. We are writing in regard to the Humboldt County Fair Association's proposal to expand events at the County Fairgrounds to include motorized events and concerts. We strongly object to this proposal for these reasons:

First is Noise. The Noise Impact Study prepared for this proposal appears inadequate, especially since probable impacts were measured at only two locations, both close to the fairgrounds. As such, they do not reflect the *actual impact noise produced by these events will have on the whole town*. In 2017, we were inside our house, located across town from the fairgrounds more than a mile away, when we heard a highly irritating loud, penetrating, endless shrieking whine. Puzzled, we went outside and tracked the noise to its source—a motorcycle race at the fairgrounds. Unless people live in Ferndale, most are unaware that sounds echo off buildings and the bluffs behind the town. Sounds are often amplified, seeming louder further away than they do at their source.

Second is Noise Mitigation: Whitchurch Engineering has described a number of ways that noise produced by these events can be reduced, but admits that *noise levels will probably remain “unacceptable” even if the mitigations are adopted*. It appears, however, that adopting even these mitigations is voluntary, since there is no statement about *who is responsible for enforcing them*.

Third is the Schedule: 14 events are proposed for the period between March and October. This may seem reasonable until one considers that 6 weeks (August 1 to September 15) must be subtracted from the schedule to accommodate the county fair. This leaves 169 days for 14 events. *If all 14 are scheduled, there will be an event every 12 days.* Not only that, there is *no mention of whether these will be one, two, or even 3-day events*. Adding to the potential disruption of the town, *March to October is also Ferndale's prime tourist season*. Providing adequate housing, parking, and dining places for tourists is already a challenge: adding several thousand more people to the mix every 12 days will be too much for this small residential town. It is also likely that tourists, who come to Ferndale for its charm and peace and quiet, will not return if the town is overwhelmed by monster trucks and motorcycles.

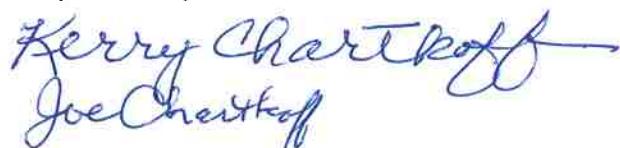
Fourth is Traffic: In a best-case scenario (for the HCFA), more than 5,000 people might attend one of these events. *We do not see any discussion of how traffic generated by such an event will be accommodated* without great disruption to Ferndale residents. Fernbridge is a very narrow bridge, and Highway 211—Ferndale's only real link to the outside world--has only two lanes. How will monster trucks cross the bridge without completely blocking traffic? How will Ferndale residents be accommodated so their lives don't come to a literal halt, possibly every 12 days for a good part of the year?

What Do We Want? Obviously, we would rather not have motorized racing events or large concerts at a venue located completely within our very small, rural town. If permission is granted by the County Planning Commission, however, we hope that the *number and frequency of the events are reduced, that their size is limited, that the mitigations suggested by Whitchurch are required, and that the body responsible for enforcing them is specified.*

We also want to see--before a permit of any kind is granted to the Humboldt County Fair Association--that an *Environmental Impact Report (EIR), as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)* is prepared. Simply approving a mitigated negative declaration--when the impacts on the residents of Ferndale are potentially so dire--is inadequate. Without an EIR, there can be no real assessment of the impact of these events on our town.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The top signature is "Kerry Chartkoff" and the bottom signature is "Joe Chartkoff". The signatures are cursive and fluid.

Kerry and Joe Chartkoff
188 Francis Street
PO Box 372
Ferndale, CA 95536

From: IRON MACHINE <ironmachine.com@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 2:39 PM

To: Bohn, Rex <RBohn@co.humboldt.ca.us>; COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>; Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>; Fennell, Estelle <EFennell@co.humboldt.ca.us>; Wilson, Mike <Mike.Wilson@co.humboldt.ca.us>; Bass, Virginia <VBass@co.humboldt.ca.us>; Madrone, Steve <smadrone@co.humboldt.ca.us>

Subject: Humboldt County Fairgrounds

Back in 1986, two brothers aged 17 and 22 yrs moved to Ferndale California home of the Humboldt County Fairgrounds having spent most of their youth in the East Bay community of Pleasanton, one continuing to attend High School here, the elder shortly after starting a business here. These young men lived and breathed motorcycles, maintaining and improving their machines performance themselves, enjoying dirt and street riding in the adjacent National Forests and on the Eel River Bar and paved Highways and Byways of the North Coast which they still do in their 50's to this day.

Having interest in the history of Motorcycles and related Motorsports in America the brothers enjoyed a fascination with Flat Track Racing, known as America's original Extreme Sport, raced on Wooden Board Tracks, Dirt Horse Racing Tracks and purpose built Oval Dirt Tracks continuously across America since the 1900's.

Having spent their youth in Pleasanton, home of the Alameda County Fair the brothers always looked upon the horse racing facility there with interest in racing on it unknowing that motorcycle races had been held there in the past, upon moving to Ferndale and walking around the dirt track facility there they looked at one another thinking one day we will race here in our adopted hometown.

Moving forward to 2013 the brothers subsequently started racing Flat Track in the Norcal Short Track Series at the Mendocino County FairGrounds and Lake County FairGrounds, AMA sanctioned events at the Chris Beck Arena at the Sonoma County FairGrounds and California Flat Track Association events at fairgrounds statewide, the elder later joining the CFTA as the Staff Engineer at events for multiple years while also racing two machines in multiple race classes.

For three consecutive years the brothers provided Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Departments Wildwood Days an adult and youth motorcycle and quad exhibition flat track race day enjoyed by the Humboldt communities spectators and contestants.

In the 2017 and 2018 flat track racing seasons the brothers partnered to provide facility and track preparation and maintenance for the Lost Coast Flat Track Series held in Fortuna at the McWhorter Arena in Rohner Park.

2018 being the year motorsports returned to the unique and incredibly suited dirt surface of the Humboldt County Fairgrounds since the 1940's the brothers are proud to have been operating the water trucks, tractors and implements that creating the safe and competition friendly dust free racing surface, racing upon it ourselves with our local racers along with racers hailing from multiple states.

We ask that the Board of Supervisors approve said conditional use permit and that the residents and merchants of Ferndale and Humboldt County as a whole come out and enjoy the spectacle of these cultural events and community revenues going into the future.

--

Thank You & Ride Safe, Cory Rich
WWW.IRONMACHINE.COM
ironmachine.com@gmail.com
707-845-7400 GMT -8

A Lion never loses sleep over the opinions of sheep.

From: Paul Nelson <paulnelson1963@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 12:45 PM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Humboldt county fairgrounds

My name is Paul Nelson, my family has resided at 540 Arlington avenue for nearly 18 years. In that time we have enjoyed the fair and the various events and activities at the fairgrounds. Noise and parking have never been an issue. As a life long Humboldt county resident I have attended the fair every year as long as I can remember, first with my parents, later with my children and now with my grandchildren. I support the fairgrounds getting the permits. There should be more events at the fairgrounds to insure it's viability. Please don't let groups or individuals with a personal grudge against the fairgrounds or fair board ruin it for the rest of us.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: Rick Phllis <phillis@humboldt1.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Public Comment, Case Number PLN-2019-15519

My name is Richard Phllis. As a co-owner of Cream City Investment which is a neighboring property to the Humboldt County Fairgrounds, I am expressing my **support** for the Mitigated Negative Delcaration of Humboldt County Fair Association's case number PLN-2019-15519.

Thank You,

Richard Phllis

707-496-4475

From: Jamie Christensen <dustybottoms.gymkhana@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 6:32 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Humboldt county fair association's PLN-2019-15519

Dear Planning Dept,

My name is Jamie Christensen & I am owner/president of Dusty Bottoms Horse Association. Please do not take away the Humboldt Co. Fair grounds form the residents of humboldt. With the grounds being the ONLY indoor arena for all of the equestrian events this place is VERY important to the equestrian family. We hold our annual winter series there. Not only that but being able to use it to just practice & exercise our horse is a great opportunity as well. Please do anything within your ability to keep this arena & the fairgrounds open. It is a HUGE asset to our community.

Thank you,
Jamie Christensen
Dusty Bottoms Horse Association

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

-----Original Message-----

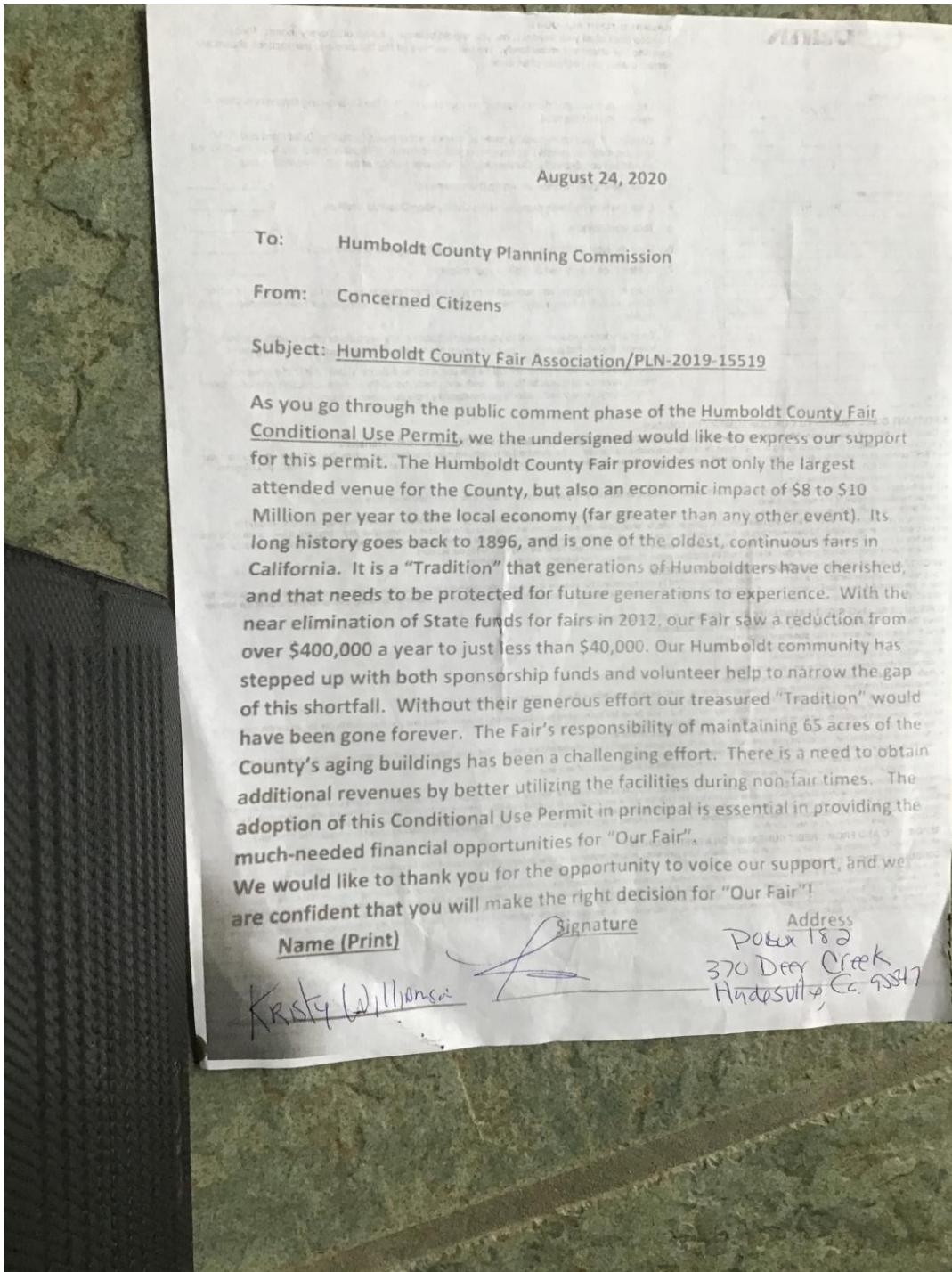
From: Jim Regli <jim.reglijerseys@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 11:39 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: County fairground events

Dear Planning Commission Members,

Hello, my name is Jim Regli and I am a lifelong resident of Humboldt County. I am asking for your support of allowing special events to be held at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds. Realizing some events may be noisy or cause excess traffic, I do believe the benefits to the city of Ferndale and Humboldt County are much greater than some temporary inconvenience that I and others might experience. Furthermore, I ask your support of the annual Humboldt County Fair. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Jim Regli
Sent from my iPhone

From: Kris Williamson <kkwill9388@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:51 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Fairgrounds



From: Sarah Browning <rootedinsilver@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 7:23 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association / PLN-2019-15519

August 24, 2020

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

From: Concerned Citizens

Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

As you go through the public comment phase of the Humboldt County Fair Conditional Use Permit, we the undersigned would like to express our support for this permit. The Humboldt County Fair provides not only the largest attended venue for the County, but also an economic impact of \$8 to \$10 Million per year to the local economy (far greater than any other event). Its long history goes back to 1896, and is one of the oldest, continuous fairs in California. It is a "Tradition" that generations of Humboldters have cherished, and that needs to be protected for future generations to experience. With the near elimination of State funds for fairs in 2012, our Fair saw a reduction from over \$400,000 a year to just less than \$40,000. Our Humboldt community has stepped up with both sponsorship funds and volunteer help to narrow the gap of this shortfall. Without their generous effort our treasured "Tradition" would have been gone forever. The Fair's responsibility of maintaining 65 acres of the County's aging buildings has been a challenging effort. There is a need to obtain additional revenues by better utilizing the facilities during non-fair times. The adoption of this Conditional Use Permit in principal is essential in providing the much-needed financial opportunities for "Our Fair".

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to voice our support, and we are confident that you will make the right decision for "Our Fair"!

Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Save the fair! It's what we look forward to every single year since childhood! Please.
Sarah And Heath Browning
1010 Meadow Ln, Fortuna, CA 95540

From: Shannon Eggel <barreljunki@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 6:56 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Attention Planning commission Clerk Humboldt County Fairgrounds

To whom it may concern

I'm being told the fair grounds is being shut down, I am requesting it stay open. Its the only place to have winter Gymkhana Horse shows , and to Ride in the winter ,Ferndale NEEDS the fairgrounds . So many people use the fairgrounds to host events and family functions. Please ,let it stay open .Thank you

Shannon Eggel 707 496 1766

-----Original Message-----

From: cameron renner <cameron95501@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Cc: Lisa Renner <lisarenner333@gmail.com>
Subject: Humboldt County Fair Grounds

Humboldt County Planning Commission,
I, Cameron M. Renner, a resident of 950 Grant Ave. Ferndale, would like to pledge my support to/for the Humboldt County Fair Grounds and their attempt to gain a "Use Permit" for events.

As an owner of a business (Ferndale Liquors) and resident in the City of Ferndale I believe that the Fairgrounds should have more large events such as concerts, motorcycle races, monster truck rallies, and other events that will attract tourists to our village.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cameron M. Renner
City of Ferndale Resident
Owner, Ferndale Liquors

Sent from my iPad

August 26th, 2020

Humboldt County Planning Commission
3015 H St
Eureka, CA 95501
planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us

Humboldt County Planning Commissioners:

As a resident of Ferndale, I would like to register my support for the Humboldt County Fair Association's Conditional Use Permit, PLN-2019-15519, which authorizes the use of the Humboldt County Fairgrounds for a maximum of ten (10) concerts and four (4) motorized sport events annually that would help generate precious revenue needed to assist in the operation and maintenance of the County Fairgrounds, as well as increase family-friendly events in which our community can participate.

Since the 2009 economic crash, Fair Associations throughout the state have seen significant budgetary cuts, resulting in up to 1000% reductions in revenue. Humboldt County Fair Association was not spared, seeing their annual California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) allocations drop from a high of \$400,000 annually to \$40,000 today. That incredible loss in revenue has necessitated changes to the use of the 65-acre facility to generate its own operating and maintenance budget. While the community has stepped up significantly with sponsorships and donations over the past decade, rising costs mean that type of revenue generation is no longer sustainable. Allowing the Fair Association to host a calendar of larger-scale events to supplement the income generated during the annual 10-day August fair would allow for the stand-alone operation of the Association.

Aside from the financial benefits to the Fair Association, these large-scale events would greatly benefit the Humboldt County community, specifically the businesses of Ferndale. Hotels, restaurants, and small businesses would reap the benefit of additional visitors patronizing their establishments on a regular basis during the event season. This prospect of additional revenue for our local businesses is especially enticing in 2020, where the COVID-19 required cancellation of the 10-day Humboldt County Fair will result in a revenue loss of around \$8 million dollars (CDFA, 2016 data) for our county economy.

Based on the study presented in the Mitigated Negative Declaration, I fully support the passage of this use permit. Your action here today will allow the Humboldt County Fairgrounds to remain a valuable and viable part of our greater community for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Courtney Sousa

Courtney Sousa

August 26, 2020

Humboldt County Planning Commission
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: Humboldt County Fair Association
Case Number: PLN-2019-15519

Dear Planning Commissioners,

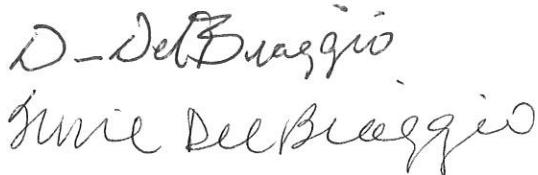
We are writing this letter in support of the Humboldt County Fair Association's application to obtain a conditional use permit for the maximum of 10 concerts and 4 motorsports events per year. We personally feel the fair should be able to host events as needed.

We own property within the city limits. Commercial property at 1400 Main Street, subdivision property which is currently being developed; A.P. Number 030-091-024. This is on the corner of 5th Street and Arlington Street in Ferndale. We also own multiple properties within the Ferndale community. We do not feel that the fair hosting such events would be detrimental to any of our properties' values. If anything, we believe having a lively community is a benefit.

Ferndale has always hosted community events which have affected each of us a little differently. Part of the joy in living in this community is our spirit and acceptance.

Once again, we urge you to support the conditional use permit for the Humboldt County Fair Association.

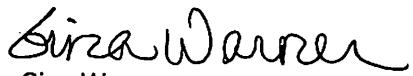
Respectfully submitted,

The image shows two handwritten signatures. The top signature is "D. DelBiaggio" and the bottom signature is "Susie DelBiaggio". Both signatures are in cursive and appear to be written in black ink on a white background.

Dennis and Susie DelBiaggio
438 Oeschger Road
Ferndale, CA 95536

As a citizen of Ferndale, it deeply concerns me that there are those who are willing to sacrifice the vitality of the entire community to satisfy personal agendas. Much of our town's survival depends on this economic engine. I feel strongly that we need to help the Fairgrounds recover from it's past ills and be allowed to remain a mainstay and active part of our town. The Fairgrounds enjoy a rich history. It draws people from all over our county and beyond. It has been in our midst for longer than any of us has been alive. If there are those complaining about it's impact on the street where they live, that is not the Fairground's fault. It would be chalked up to the shortsightedness of buying a home near a Fairgrounds.

Please pass the initiative and allow our entire community to continue enjoying our history and future.



Gina Warner

724 Main Street

Ferndale, CA

From: Julie Kreitzer <julie@goldengaitmercantile.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 11:36 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Cc: Lazar, Steve <SLazar@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Humboldt County Fair Use Permit/PLN-2019-15519

Good Morning,

My name is Julie Kreitzer, as active residents of Ferndale, my husband and I would like to register our support for the Humboldt County Fair Association's Conditional Use Permit, PLN-2019-15519, which authorizes the use of the Humboldt County Fairgrounds for a maximum of ten (10) concerts and four (4) motorized sport events annually that would help generate precious revenue needed to assist in the operation and maintenance of the County Fairgrounds, as well as increase family-friendly events for our community to participate in.

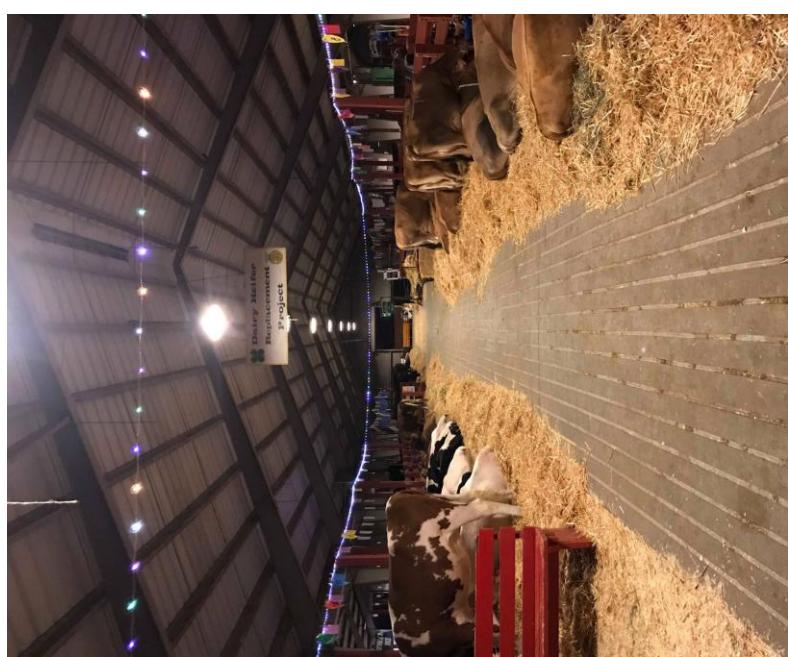
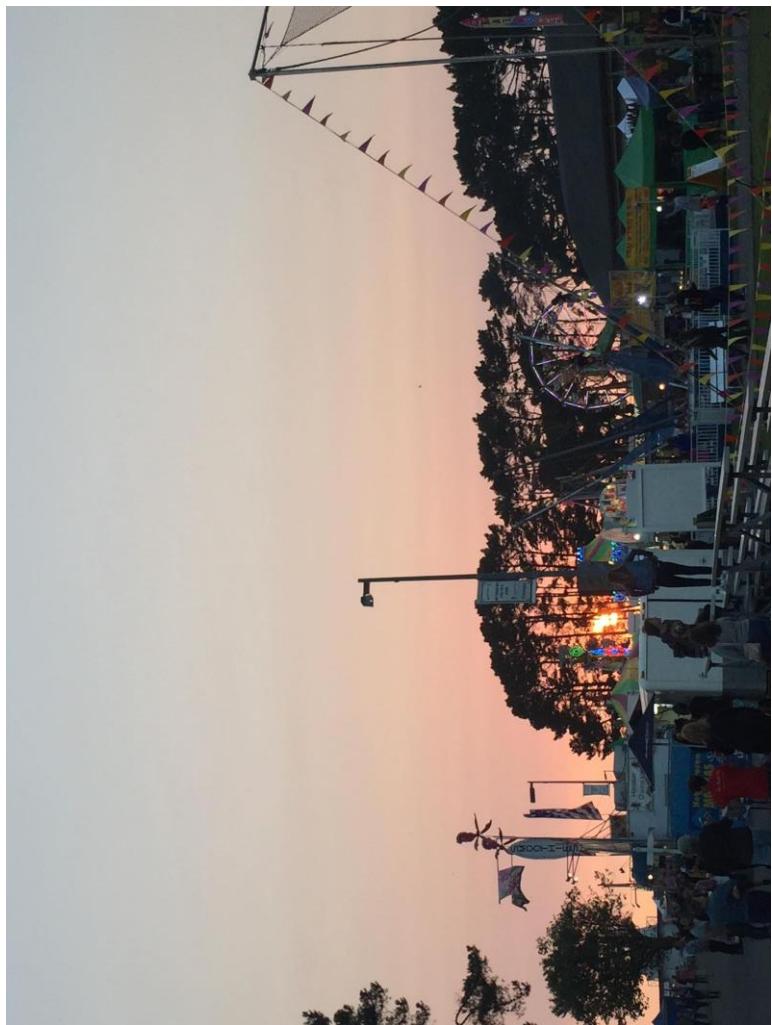
We place great value our youth and traditions. The Humboldt County Fair is a wonderful and valuable platform that creates long term memories for families, and wholesome educational activities for all.

Please see our attached letter of support along with a few images of wholesome fun images that the fair provides to our community.

Thank You for your service and consideration,

John and Julie Kreitzer

Golden Gait Mercantile
421 Main Street
P.O. Box 1017
Ferndale CA 95536
(707)786-4891
www.goldengaitmercantile.com
www.facebook.com/goldengaitmercantile



August 26th, 2020

Humboldt County Planning Commission
3015 H St
Eureka, CA 95501
planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us

Humboldt County Planning Commissioners:

My name is Julie Kreitzer, I reside at 421 Main Street, Ferndale. As a resident of Ferndale, I would like to register my support for the Humboldt County Fair Association's Conditional Use Permit, PLN-2019-15519, which authorizes the use of the Humboldt County Fairgrounds for a maximum of ten (10) concerts and four (4) motorized sport events annually that would help generate precious revenue needed to assist in the operation and maintenance of the County Fairgrounds, as well as increase family-friendly events for our community to participate in.

Since the 2009 economic crash Fair Associations throughout the state have seen significant budgetary cuts, resulting in up to 1000% reductions in revenue. Humboldt County Fair Association was not spared, seeing their annual California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) allocations drop from a high of \$400,000 annually to \$40,000 today. That incredible loss in revenue has necessitated changes to the use of the 65-acre facility to generate its own operating and maintenance budget. While the community has stepped up significantly with sponsorships and donations over the past decade, with rising costs that type of revenue generation is no longer sustainable. Allowing the Fair Association to host a calendar of larger-scale events to supplement the income generated during the annual 10-day August fair would allow for the stand-alone operation of the Association.

Aside from the financial benefits to the Fair Association, these large-scale events would greatly benefit the Humboldt County community, specifically the businesses of Ferndale. Hotels, restaurants, and small businesses would reap the benefit of additional visitors patronizing their establishments on a regular basis during the event season. This prospect of additional revenue for our local businesses is especially enticing in 2020, where the COVID-19 required cancellation of the 10-day Humboldt County Fair will result in a revenue loss of around \$8 million dollars (CDFA, 2016 data) for our county economy.

Based on the study presented in the Mitigated Negative Declaration, I fully support the passage of this use permit. Your action here today will allow the Humboldt County Fairgrounds to remain a valuable and viable part of our greater community for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie & John Kreitzer

-----Original Message-----

From: Leonard <leonard.lund@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 8:34 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Cc: Bohn, Rex <RBohn@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Humboldt County Fairgrounds Permit

Humboldt County Planning Commission

I want to voice my support for the Use Permit to the Humboldt County Fairgrounds. The events that are named in this permit are not new to the Fairgrounds or to this community. My wife and I look forward to the fair and its events and am saddened that the fair may cease to exist because of a few. The fair is a huge boost to the City of Ferndale, business owners in the cities of Ferndale as well as Fortuna and the entire County as a whole.

I urge you to grant this permit, appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Leonard Lund
Brenna Russ
350 Nichols Way
Ferndale, CA 95536

Sent from my iPad

August 26th, 2020

Humboldt County Planning Commission
3015 H St
Eureka, CA 95501
planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us

Humboldt County Planning Commissioners:

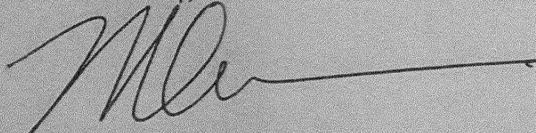
My name is Mark Drown. As a resident of Ferndale, I would like to register my support for the Humboldt County Fair Association's Conditional Use Permit, PLN-2019-15519, which authorizes the use of the Humboldt County Fairgrounds for a maximum of ten (10) concerts and four (4) motorized sport events annually that would help generate precious revenue needed to assist in the operation and maintenance of the County Fairgrounds, as well as increase family-friendly events for our community to participate in.

Since the 2009 economic crash Fair Associations throughout the state have seen significant budgetary cuts, resulting in up to 1000% reductions in revenue. Humboldt County Fair Association was not spared, seeing their annual California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) allocations drop from a high of \$400,000 annually to \$40,000 today. That incredible loss in revenue has necessitated changes to the use of the 65-acre facility to generate its own operating and maintenance budget. While the community has stepped up significantly with sponsorships and donations over the past decade, with rising costs that type of revenue generation is no longer sustainable. Allowing the Fair Association to host a calendar of larger-scale events to supplement the income generated during the annual 10-day August fair would allow for the stand-alone operation of the Association.

Aside from the financial benefits to the Fair Association, these large-scale events would greatly benefit the Humboldt County community, specifically the businesses of Ferndale. Hotels, restaurants, and small businesses would reap the benefit of additional visitors patronizing their establishments on a regular basis during the event season. This prospect of additional revenue for our local businesses is especially enticing in 2020, where the COVID-19 required cancellation of the 10-day Humboldt County Fair will result in a revenue loss of around \$8 million dollars (CDFA, 2016 data) for our county economy.

Based on the study presented in the Mitigated Negative Declaration, I fully support the passage of this use permit. Your action here today will allow the Humboldt County Fairgrounds to remain a valuable and viable part of our greater community for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Drown

Dear Clerk,

Please include the attached letter for the Commissioners Packet on the matter of Case Number PLN - 2019-15519, regarding planned uses for the Fairgrounds in Ferndale. Please alert me if there are technical issues related to this submittal and I will promptly address them.

Thank you,

Michael Warner

President

Email: mwarner@transcon.com

Mobile: (602) 418-0142

Web: transcon.com



25 August 2020

Humboldt County Planning Commission
Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
County of Humboldt
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration – County Fairgrounds

Dear Commission Members,

I am a professional planner, in practice for more than 30 years. I own a business and home on Main Street in Ferndale. This letter is in support of Case Number PLN-2019-15519, which authorizes use of the Humboldt County Fairgrounds for a maximum of ten concerts and four motorsports events planned for the Fairgrounds and the Adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The plea I make is to move forward with approval and ensure the fairgrounds remain a part of celebratory uses vital to the County and to maintain the versatility of this economic engine within our town. I must add that this economic engine is strongly associated with the town's heritage and entirely compatible with the community.

Regarding the existing and surrounding uses of the fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds have existed for nearly 125 years. The use of these grounds is well established. Residences were built around the grounds with full understanding of the setting, and in most cases, welcome the association of the festive atmosphere which occurs periodically. The rest of us in town are also engaged or aware of almost every event. In my case, it was an ingredient for my choice in living in town. For most of us in Ferndale the Fairgrounds are walking distance. We are a community that enjoys the recreation venue if events are wholesome, and especially if they are family centered or family compatible. We attend events with our children and grandchildren. Pictures of these events hang prominently in our home. This site is developed with infrastructure, a thriving and supporting community, adjacent residence supporting its uses, and complimentary economy. Traffic is surprisingly well managed because attendees typically enter on the edge of town without disruption to the normal traffic patterns. Our town is accustomed to regular events and maintains a host of parades and events that engage all residents and County participants. This is a unique attribute of the community.

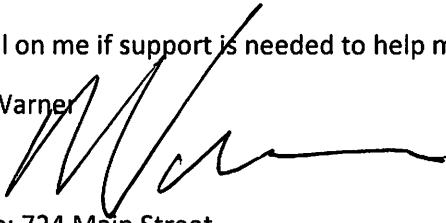
In regard to the economic importance of the Fairgrounds to the community and the planned events to the Fairgrounds and the Community, let me first remark that fairgrounds in this new environment are trying to adapt to a new paradigm of social and economic interaction. Fairgrounds have always been at the forefront of celebrating things in the community and in presenting the best of our endeavors. Direct social engagement has never been more important than it is today. Direct contact is stimulating and fosters trust and understanding. The Fairgrounds are a place for people to come together in celebration and joy for a host of events. Having a venue for large scale social interaction is central to our culture and is inextricably linked to our economic vitality. When the Fairgrounds flourishes, it serves our needs better. Inviting events allows the investment in the fairgrounds to continue sustainably and diversifies the facilities' operating and maintenance costs. Clearly Ferndale also receives benefits from attendees who linger in town and eat and shop. It is disturbing to think what will become of the fairgrounds if the

viability of the facilities falls into disrepair and neglect. The concern I hear most from adjacent residences is not the current or planned uses of the fair, but for the lack of use and the inevitable abrupt change of neglect or adaptation to a more radical set of uses, inconsistent with its current use.

In my lifetime there has never been such a need and appetite for healthy and safe celebration with the broad community. Not a virtual experience, but rather a rich festive, social, personal, physical experience. Fostering events and a venue where these can take place may be one of the most important things the Planning Commission does in the foreseeable future.

Please call on me if support is needed to help move this to approval.

Michael Warner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Warner".

Residence: 724 Main Street

Business: 484 Main Street

August 26th, 2020

Humboldt County Planning Commission
3015 H St
Eureka, CA 95501
planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us

Humboldt County Planning Commissioners:

My name is Sharon Drown. As a resident of Ferndale, I would like to register my support for the Humboldt County Fair Association's Conditional Use Permit, PLN-2019-15519, which authorizes the use of the Humboldt County Fairgrounds for a maximum of ten (10) concerts and four (4) motorized sport events annually that would help generate precious revenue needed to assist in the operation and maintenance of the County Fairgrounds, as well as increase family-friendly events for our community to participate in.

Since the 2009 economic crash Fair Associations throughout the state have seen significant budgetary cuts, resulting in up to 1000% reductions in revenue. Humboldt County Fair Association was not spared, seeing their annual California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) allocations drop from a high of \$400,000 annually to \$40,000 today. That incredible loss in revenue has necessitated changes to the use of the 65-acre facility to generate its own operating and maintenance budget. While the community has stepped up significantly with sponsorships and donations over the past decade, with rising costs that type of revenue generation is no longer sustainable. Allowing the Fair Association to host a calendar of larger-scale events to supplement the income generated during the annual 10-day August fair would allow for the stand-alone operation of the Association.

Aside from the financial benefits to the Fair Association, these large-scale events would greatly benefit the Humboldt County community, specifically the businesses of Ferndale. Hotels, restaurants, and small businesses would reap the benefit of additional visitors patronizing their establishments on a regular basis during the event season. This prospect of additional revenue for our local businesses is especially enticing in 2020, where the COVID-19 required cancellation of the 10-day Humboldt County Fair will result in a revenue loss of around \$8 million dollars (CDFA, 2016 data) for our county economy.

Based on the study presented in the Mitigated Negative Declaration, I fully support the passage of this use permit. Your action here today will allow the Humboldt County Fairgrounds to remain a valuable and viable part of our greater community for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Sharon Drown

1245 Van Ness Ave, Ferndale (3 blocks from fair grounds)

25 August 2020

Humboldt County Planning Commission
Planning and Building Department
Planning Division
County of Humboldt
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration – County Fairgrounds

Dear Commission Members,

Our collective objective is to support and participate in activities of our community and protect and sustain its families, economic vitality, and historic traditions (see the attached Spirit of Ferndale Mission Statement). The use and function of the Fairgrounds is central to these objectives. We urge you to Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration and to approve the Conditional Use Permit for the events described in Case Number PLN-2019-15519. We are individuals acting together to maintain the viability of the Fairgrounds and support activities in harmony with its traditional uses if they are in harmony with the community, families, and wholesome recreation. We also support uses that help commercial and economic conditions of Ferndale and believe the plans proposed will meet this objective. Please support us in this effort. We are residents of Ferndale and the surrounding area with a vested interest in the events and future uses of the Fairgrounds. We see the Fairgrounds as an important, unique recreation amenity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Regli Jim Regli
GERALD L. ROGERT
Barb Duedlinger
Philip Oster 427 MAWST
Chris Boynton
Amy WESTFALL
Tina Warner
Sandy Westfall
Christina Chapman

Cameron Renner Cameron Renner
Rex Rigney (Rex Rigney)
Dennis Del Biaggio Dennis Del Biaggio
LEONARD LUND LEONARD LUND
Michael Warner Michael Warner

Attached: Spirit of Ferndale Mission Statement

Spirit of Ferndale Mission Statement

The Spirit of Ferndale is an organization dedicated to the restoration and maintenance of the rich traditions and family centered values of the greater Ferndale Community.

Values and Objectives

We value our community spirit – neighbors helping neighbors – the camaraderie of life in a small town.

We value our historic architecture, sense of place, and the green, open spaces and productive farms and ranches that surround us.

We serve and support the institutions that strengthen and bind our town and valley together. Among them: Our schools, churches, service organizations, local businesses, local government, and volunteer fire and police departments that keep us safe.

We seek to promote an economic base that is sustainable and family friendly.

We participate in and support leadership that share these values and objectives.

We are guided by our love for friends, family and community – in the Spirit of Ferndale.

-----Original Message-----

From: Travis R. Low <travislow@suddenlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 5:51 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Hum.Co Fair Use Permit

Good morning, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Fair I would like to get your support for our Use Permit. Much needed revenue is generated for our old fair grounds. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Travis R. Low Board Member

Sent from my iPad

Humboldt County Planning and Building Department
Attention: Planning Commission Clerk
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 955501

Dear Commissioners

I am writing in support of the Humboldt County Fair's permit application #PLN-2019-15519, to allow the Fair to host more concerts and motor sport events.

I have lived in and around Ferndale for 45 years. My connection to the Fair goes back a ways: as a 4-H'er in the 1960's; my children's and grandson's 4-H experiences; and my father Les's 33 years of service on the Fair Board as well as my "feeding" a few "ponies" at the track.

It has been Ferndale's special honor and responsibility to host this iconic County Fair for well over 100 years. As our society has become more urbanized, the Fair has had to expand its profit opportunities beyond the August Fair itself to survive. Yet this particular proposed expansion has brought forth concerns about noise.

Ferndale is an "event town": The Kinetic Sculpture Race; Foggy Bottoms Run; Bargain Lovers Weekend, bicycle races, various festivals and parades, school activities, the Fair, and on and on. And yes, a few concerts and motor sport events have been among these. With these events come crowds and clamor, traffic and street closures. Throw in farm equipment, cattle trucks, log

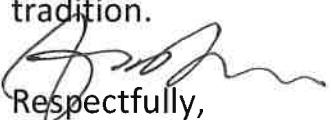


trucks, and the noon siren and you have a lot of activity – most of which generates revenue...and inconvenience! For some this includes unpleasant noise. Personally, I hear SOUNDS – not “noise”. The SOUNDS of celebration, of commerce, of people at work and play – living and enjoying life in Ferndale! Not everyone likes every event, but we accept the inconveniences as part of living in this town.

Yes, fair management has had its struggles. The board has been embroiled in controversy in recent years as evidenced by their poor financial condition and the resignation of a number of directors. But new board chairman Andy Titus is charting a new course in an effort to save the Fair. Approval of this permit will not solve all problems facing the Fair but would be a good first step.

With due respect to the objectors, Andy and the Humboldt County Fair deserve our backing for this much needed financial boost for the Fair, for the community, and for the continuation of a wonderful Humboldt County

tradition.


Respectfully,
Andy Westfall
1234 Rose Ave.
Ferndale, CA
95536



Ryan Walters
440 S. Fortuna Blvd.
Fortuna, CA 95540
707-725-3916
fortunawheel@sbcglobal.net

August 26, 2020

Humboldt County Planning Commission
3015 H St
Eureka, CA 95501
planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us

Humboldt County Planning Commissioners:

My name is Ryan Walters, as a resident of Fortuna, I would like to register my support for the Humboldt County Fair Association's Conditional Use Permit, PLN-2019-15519, which authorizes the use of the Humboldt County Fairgrounds for a maximum of ten (10) concerts and four (4) motorized sport events annually that would help generate precious revenue needed to assist in the operation and maintenance of the County Fairgrounds, as well as increase family-friendly events for our community to participate in.

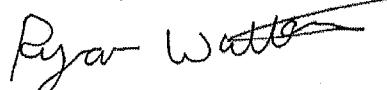
Since the 2009 economic crash Fair Associations throughout the state have seen significant budgetary cuts, resulting in up to 1000% reductions in revenue. Humboldt County Fair Association was not spared, seeing their annual California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) allocations drop from a high of \$400,000 annually to \$40,000 today. That incredible loss in revenue has necessitated changes to the use of the 65-acre facility to generate its own operating and maintenance budget. While the community has stepped up significantly with sponsorships and donations over the past decaderising costs that type of revenue generation is no longer sustainable. Allowing the Fair Association to host a calendar of larger-scale events to supplement the income generated during the annual 10-day August fair would allow for the stand-alone operation of the Association.

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prospect of additional revenue for our local businesses is especially enticing in 2020, where the Covid-19 required cancellation of the 10-day Humboldt County Fair will result in a revenue loss of around \$8 million dollars (CDFA, 2016 data) for our county economy.

Based on the study presented in the Mitigated Negative Declaration, I fully support the passage of this use permit. Your action here today will allow the Humboldt County Fairgrounds to remain a valuable and viable part of our greater community for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Ryan Walters
President of the Humboldt Outlaw Carts
Owner of Fortuna Wheel & Brake Service

August 24, 2020



To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

From: Concerned Citizens

Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

As you go through the public comment phase of the Humboldt County Fair Conditional Use Permit, we the undersigned would like to express our support for this permit. The Humboldt County Fair provides not only the largest attended venue for the County, but also an economic impact of \$8 to \$10 Million per year to the local economy (far greater than any other event). Its long history goes back to 1896, and is one of the oldest, continuous fairs in California. It is a "Tradition" that generations of Humboldters have cherished, and that needs to be protected for future generations to experience. With the near elimination of State funds for fairs in 2012, our Fair saw a reduction from over \$400,000 a year to just less than \$40,000. Our Humboldt community has stepped up with both sponsorship funds and volunteer help to narrow the gap of this shortfall. Without their generous effort our treasured "Tradition" would have been gone forever. The Fair's responsibility of maintaining 65 acres of the County's aging buildings has been a challenging effort. There is a need to obtain additional revenues by better utilizing the facilities during non-fair times. The adoption of this Conditional Use Permit in principal is essential in providing the much-needed financial opportunities for "Our Fair".

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to voice our support, and we are confident that you will make the right decision for "Our Fair"!

Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Mel Bert

Mel Bert

1001 Valley View Fortuna 95540

Dennis Hudson

Debbie Hudson

234 Ogallala Apt B Rio Dell 95562

Name (Print)	Signature	Address
Dolly Pach	Dolly Pach	P.O. Box 453 Fondale
Lisa Lopez	Lisa Lopez	3465 Diana Dr. Hydesville
Aaron Lee	Aaron Lee	1339 Ronald Ave
Rachel Stine	Rachel Stine	659 Spring St. Fortuna
Amanda Holzinger	Amanda Holzinger	1597 Weber St. Fortuna
Russell Rose	Russell Rose	1539 Crest Dr.
Melanie Wren	Melanie Wren	P.O. Box 443 Fondale
SANDIE MARLOW	SANDIE MARLOW	1591 Impasse
BRUCE PONTES	BRUCE PONTES	1511 Impasse
Krista Viggars	Krista Viggars	3396 D87 Hydesville
Kendra Loya	Kendra Loya	199 Saottin Lane, Fondale
Amber Chanty	Amber Chanty	1601 Suite 101 Nickersonville
Sara Lopez	Sara Lopez	P.O. Box 53 Scotia Ct.
TODD WESSEL	TODD WESSEL	809 7th St. Sodale
Robert Bagley	Robert Bagley	3065 Diana Dr. Hydesville
SAYNA LOPEZ	SAYNA LOPEZ	1110 Newbury Pt. Fortuna
Jessica Dudo	Jessica Dudo	319 Robewell Fortuna

August 24, 2020

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

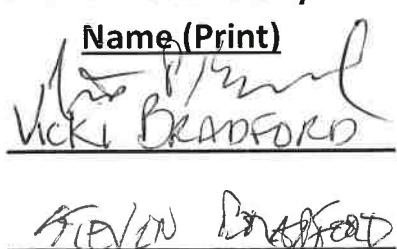
From: Concerned Citizens

Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

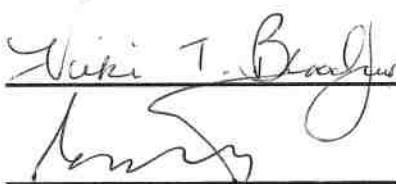
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We would like to thank you for the opportunity to voice our support, and we are confident that you will make the right decision for "Our Fair"!

Name (Print)

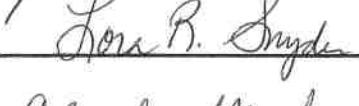
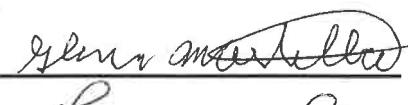
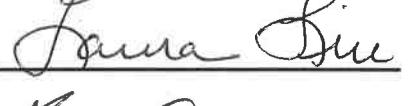
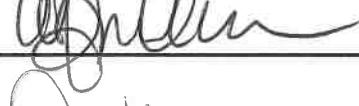
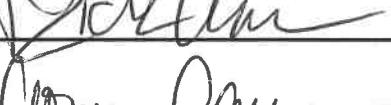
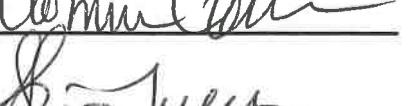
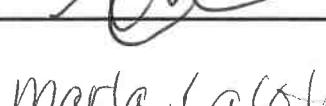

Vicki Bradford

Signature


Vicki Bradford

Address

1101 Main St. Ferndale
1101 Main St
Ferndale

<u>Name (Print)</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Address</u>
Julie Kreitzer		421 Main St Ferndale
Lee Astorino		517-15 St Eureka
Lora R. Snyder		390 Center St, Rio Dell
Alondra Martinez		1550 Wood St, Fortuna
MARIA RESENT		896 HOWARD ST, RENO, NV
Glenn Martella		860 - Eureka
LAURA LIU		914 Main St. Ferndale
Todd Anderson		827 Baer Ct Fortuna
Afton Anderson		827 Baer Ct Fortuna
John Kreitzer		421 MAIN ST Ferndale
Dick Clark		3571 Ahism Ct Fortuna
Connie Clark		3571 Ahism Ct Fortuna
James (Skip) Tuer		6533 Hwy 36 CARBON CA
Michael Coppini		2845 Waddington Rd
Marcela Lodi		670 5TH ST 657 Shaw Ave Ferndale
Troy Land		657 Shaw Ave, Ferndale
James Cross		1384 Lincoln Street Ferndale

August 24, 2020

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

From: Concerned Citizens

Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

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We would like to thank you for the opportunity to voice our support, and we are confident that you will make the right decision for "Our Fair"!

Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Thomas REINER

Thomas REINER

100 St Joseph FORTUNA

Susan Klatt

Susan Klatt

665 McKinley
Co. 95536

<u>Name (Print)</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Address</u>
Gina Miller	Gina Miller	680 4 th St. Ferndale.
Floy Martin	Floy Martin	411 Schleg 95536
Richard Perlenfein	Richard Perlenfein	1148 Main St Ferndale, CA
Jacklyn Perlenfein	Jacklyn Perlenfein	1148 Main St Ferndale, CA
Em. L. Ferndale	Em. L. Ferndale	590 Russ Lane Ferndale
Gordon Stephen	Gordon Stephen	304 Lincoln Ave
Louis Cook	Louis Cook	2020 Prescott Dr. 1148 Main St.
Bette Goulet	Bette Goulet	Ferndale
Phil Dwight	Phil Dwight	1151 Main Ferndale
Virginia Dwight	Virginia Dwight	1151 Main St. Ferndale
JJ Bardin	JJ Bardin	530 Wilder Road (in 10th)
Kelli Townsend	Kelli Townsend	410 Centerville Rd Ferndale CA 95536
Meghan Beckerlumawizi	Meghan Beckerlumawizi	1088 Port Kenyon Rd Ferndale, CA 95536 PO Box 604
Vivian Oliveira	Vivian Oliveira	Ferndale CA 95536
Marie-France P. Richards	Marie-France Richards	1210 Crowley Ave. Ferndale 95536
Christina Chapman	Christina Chapman	462 Eugen St. Ferndale 95536
Patricia Galbraith	Patricia Galbraith	1292 Madison St Ferndale, CA 95536

August 24, 2020

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

From: Concerned Citizens

Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

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Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Tracy L. Dittes

Tracy L. Dittes

581 Birding.

Patrick Spaeth

Kathleen

846 Centerville

see reverse side

Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Janis L. Belho	<u>Janis L. Belho</u>	102 Fairview Dr Ferndale
Gail A Yarbrough	<u>Gail A. Yarbrough</u>	#A 508 Shamsi Ct Ferndale
John Gorman	<u>John Gorman</u>	18600 Hwy 1 Manchester
William Whitmer	<u>William Whitmer</u>	
Jennifer L. Roots	<u>Jennifer Roots</u>	850 Howard St., Ferndale, CA
Annellise Vollmer	<u>Annellise Vollmer</u>	977 Grant St.
Holly Farbott	<u>Holly Farbott</u>	560 Eugene St Ferndale
Kellie Mann	<u>Kellie Mann</u>	1117 Tyme Ct P.O. Box 95562 CA

August 24, 2020

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

From: Concerned Citizens

Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

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We would like to thank you for the opportunity to voice our support, and we are confident that you will make the right decision for "Our Fair"!

Signed

Dave Mogn 315 Main St, Fr 845-4894

D. Allens Jr 555 Watson Ave 599-5694
Deane Readings 450 Nichols Way 786-4773
John H. Enoz 450 Nichols Way 786-4773

Donna Regg	525 Witman Lane	786 9066
Donna Regg	525 Witman Ln.	599 0344
Jin Regg	525 Witman Lane	499-9066

August 24, 2020

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

From: Concerned Citizens

Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

As you go through the public comment phase of the Humboldt County Fair Conditional Use Permit, we the undersigned would like to express our support for this permit. The Humboldt County Fair provides not only the largest attended venue for the County, but also an economic impact of \$8 to \$10 Million per year to the local economy (far greater than any other event). Its long history goes back to 1896, and is one of the oldest, continuous fairs in California. It is a "Tradition" that generations of Humboldters have cherished, and that needs to be protected for future generations to experience. With the near elimination of State funds for fairs in 2012, our Fair saw a reduction from over \$400,000 a year to just less than \$40,000. Our Humboldt community has stepped up with both sponsorship funds and volunteer help to narrow the gap of this shortfall. Without their generous effort our treasured "Tradition" would have been gone forever. The Fair's responsibility of maintaining 65 acres of the County's aging buildings has been a challenging effort. There is a need to obtain additional revenues by better utilizing the facilities during non-fair times. The adoption of this Conditional Use Permit in principal is essential in providing the much needed financial opportunities for "Our Fair".

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to voice our support, and we are confident that you will make the right decision for "Our Fair"!

Signed

Homer M. Keyes) 176 Finch Creek, (970)433-5993

Darrel Polanske P.O. Box 625 Ferndale 202-286-9637
Patti Mogni 45 Meridian Rd, Ferndale, Ct.

Carole Polaski

PO Box 625 Ferndale

707-786-9637

Jerry Banga

876 Arlington Ave. Ferndale

707-786-4605

~~St. Beans~~

667 Herbert St. Ferndale

530-227-6238

August 24, 2020

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Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

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Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Ken Farley

Ken Farley

855 Crosby Rd, Ferndale

Ana Farley

Ana Farley

855 Crosby Rd, Ferndale Ct
95536

Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Haley Farley

Haley Farley

452 Main Street

Brett Boynton

Brett Boynton

Ferndale, CA
715 Berding St. Ferndale
CA 95236

August 24, 2020

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

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Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Kaileigh Klammes  108 Fairview Dr., Ferndale

Richard Klammes Jr.



108 FAIRVIEW DR, FERNDALE

Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Joshua A. Hinsley

Signature

106 CAPTAIN COOK CR
FERNDALE

JAMIE Cox



105 CAPTAIN COOK
FERNDALE

Jeff Hindley

JPM/SD

1203 Fairview BC

Rylene Hindley

Meet

120 Fairview Dr

August 24, 2020

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Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Kim Palin

Kim Palin

101 Fairview

Mike Palin

Mike Palin

101 Fairview

<u>Name (Print)</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Address</u>
Leah Berti	Leah Berti	1141 Main St. Ferndale
Michael Sandford	Michael Sandford	113 Fairview
MIKE Anderson	Mike Anderson	113 Fairview
Jackie Miranda	Jackie Miranda	212 Sea horse Circle
Yul Rose	Yul Rose	1744 California St
Tamara Penner	Tamara Penner	219 Trident Lane
Kit Chambers	Kit Chambers	410 Arlington Ferndale
Quincy Russ	Quincy Russ	550 Arlington
PAUL NELSON	PAUL NELSON	540 Arlington
Graham Westfall	Graham Westfall	320 Arlington
GERALD ROCHA	GERALD ROCHA	420 Arlington Ave
Kim Rocha	Kim Rocha	420 Arlington Ave
Rachel Williams	Rachel Williams	591 Arlington Ave., Ferndale
MARK WILLIAMS	MARK WILLIAMS	591 ARLINGTON AVE, FERNDALE
ROD WAGNER	ROD WAGNER	877 HOWARD ST. FERNDALE

August 24, 2020

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Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Boyle Ray

Boyle Ray

2028 Market St

Sadie Ray

Sadie Ray

1995 Market St

Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Robert Cook

Pat Clark

2013 make st

Peter Barry

Charles Denney

2013 market st

Kim Cate

Kim Clark

2013 market st

Ashli Howard

Cashier H

8141 Main St.

August 24, 2020

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Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Pamela Rollins

Pamela Rollins

298 Center St

Rio Dell

Elizabeth Hobbs

Ellie M

298 center st

Rio Dell

Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Tom Rollins

John Mu

Address
298 center st
Rio Dell

Wyon Cisangco

Alphonse Bourassa

669 4th St
Scotia, CA

Kevin Michael

Review Michael

66A 41st
Srotkin, CA

Shari Cosgrove

Janayn

SBII Hollis St
Los Molinos, CA

August 24, 2020

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Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Haley Vaughn

Haley Vaughn

3903 Grizzly Bluff, Ferndale

95536

Aaron Colby

Aaron Colby

3903 Grizzly Bluff

Ferndale CA

95536

Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Steve Pitcher Step

87 Berkeley St ¹⁴ Rippon
CA 05562

Joseph Ritsch sept. 18

87 Berkeley St. #4 Dell
1095502

KC Stillwell

3175 Streamview -

Douglas M. Smith

Dave M. Hayes

Hydesville Ca 99559

Brenden Cardare

Becky

1211 8th St 95531

Terry Cardeza

John Gordon

1245TH ST 95546

August 24, 2020

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Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Brandi Zanone Brandi Zanone 80 730 5th Street
Ferndale
Low Budget Fair Dzine 200 Cotterville Rd
Ferndale

<u>Name (Print)</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Address</u>
Gina Mobley	G. Mobley	1939 Market St Ferndale CA 95536
William Mobley	W. Mobley	1939 Market St Ferndale CA 95536
Heather Rigney	H. Rigney	910 Van Ness Ave Ferndale, CA 95536
Rex Rigney	R. Rigney	"
Beth Anderson	Beth Anderson	98 Mendocino Ave Ferndale, CA 95536
Tina Tost	Tina Tost	890 Dillon Rd Ferndale, CA 95536
George Dinty	George Tost	890 Dillon Rd Ferndale, CA
Debra J Busick	Debra J Busick	P.O. Box 134 Ferndale 790 Herbert Ave
Meagan Busher	Meagan Busher	Ferndale CA 95536
Allison Griffith	Allison Griffith	1210 VAN NESS AVE FERNDALE
Jeff Griffith	Jeff Griffith	" " "
Carrie Brazil	Carrie Brazil	4011 Grizzly Bluff Rd Ferndale CA 95536
Jennie Titus	Jennie Titus	59 Deschager Rd Ferndale, CA 95536
Lucas Titus	Sugar Titus	59 Deschager Rd Ferndale, CA 95536
Meaghan Langer	Meaghan Langer	115 Shaw Ave Ferndale CA 95536
Justin Langer	Justin Langer	115 Shaw Ave Ferndale CA 95536
Marlyn Branstetter	Marlyn Branstetter	Capetown Ranch Ferndale

August 24, 2020

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Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Trini Martin

Trini Martin

1625 Rohrnerville Rd

Sherrin Erickson

Sherrin Erickson

733 8th St Fortuna CA

<u>Name (Print)</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Address</u>
Jackie Chittenden	Jackie Chittenden	1714 Howe Creek Rd Ferndale
Shelia Martin	Shelia Martin	1800 Alder Dr. Fortuna
Philip Gundlach	Philip Gundlach	108 Sunny Slopes Rd Carlotta
Amber Gundlach	Amber Gundlach	188 Sunny Slopes Rd Carlotta
Julie Baumgart	Julie Baumgart	811 13th St.
Brooke Ranner	Brooke Ranner	537 9th St. Fortuna
Staci Hoag	Staci Hoag	3401 A St. Hydesville CA 95541
Rebecca Sitz	Rebecca Sitz	1361 Ross Hill Rd Fortuna
Krista Trone	Krista Trone	906 Penny Ln Fortuna CA 95540
Robert Johnson	Robert Johnson	1641 Vancil St Fortuna CA 95540
Virginia French	Virginia French	1005 West CA 95571
Lou Bailey	Lou Bailey	393 Harrison Rd. Knecht CA 95571
Robert Glenn	Robert Glenn	221 Mountain Rd FORTUNA CA 95540
CHARLES CONRAD	CHARLES CONRAD	250 DICK SMITH Rd FORTUNA CA 95540
Sandra Woodhurst	Sandra Woodhurst	229 Sunnybrook Dr FORTUNA CA 95540
ETTA Delt	ETTA Delt	64 Blue Spruce Eureka CA 95501
Sylvia M. Bundell	Sylvia M. Bundell	2222 Kenmor Rd. Fortuna

August 24, 2020

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Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Deb Chasin

Deb Chasin

313 10th ST Fortuna

Marley Baumgart

Marley Baumgart

811 15th ST Fortuna

<u>Name (Print)</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Address</u>
Barbara A. Baumgart	Barbara Baumgart	811 13 th St. Fortuna
<u>Neal Kesterson</u>	<u>Neal Kesterson</u>	<u>911 13th St.</u>
Whitney Ratto	Whitney Katri	811 13 th St
Sandra m. wells	Sandra m. wells	157 Aldrich Dr. Fortuna
George Howard John	George John	120 Carroll Rd. Lodi
THA Kirshan	26196	152 Hansen Dr. Fortuna
Dee Dee		
Jeanette Irone	Jeanette Irone	55 Triple K Place, Fortuna
Steve Yonkey	Steve Yonkey	2248 Lee Ct.
Carol Yonkey	Carol Yonkey	2249 Lee Ct., 284 Summit View Ln Fortuna, CA 95540
Patrice Keating	Patrice Keating	
Beth Soderberg	Beth Soderberg	2625 Eel River Dr.
Robin Rice	Robin Rice	PO Box 612 Hydesville
Edwin Smith	Edwin Smith	2566 Boonest, Fortuna
Rick Ross	Rick Ross	200 Fox Hill Lane, Fortuna
Tami Brown	Tami Brown	100 Elm Ct. Fortuna
Karen Jacobsen	Karen Jacobsen	2766 Campion Hts Dr Fortuna
Donald Jacobsen	Donald Jacobsen	2766 Campion Hts Dr. Fortuna

August 24, 2020

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<u>Name (Print)</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Address</u>
Mike Cook	Mike Cook	369 16 th Street Fortuna
Kim Wilson	Kim Wilson	2324 Bayview Ln Eureka

Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Tony F. Michalek

Tom F. Macrae

2845 Hillside Dr. Fortuna

Peanna Machado

to Hanna Machado

2845 Hillside Dr. Portman

Jesse Chittenden

Jesse Chittenden

1714 Hawe Creek Ed Ferndale

August 24, 2020

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Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Carol Kinsier Carol Kinsier 2165 Rohmer Rd -
Connie Berthold Connie Berthold 330 Golden Gate
Carlotta

Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Stefanie McGrath, DVM

Emily Machado Emily Machado

101 Ahnapee Drive
For Lease

2845 Hillside Dr. Edina, MN 55431

August 24, 2020

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Signed



360 CRAIG ST

707 786 9978
FERNDALE

August 24, 2020

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

From: Concerned Citizens

Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

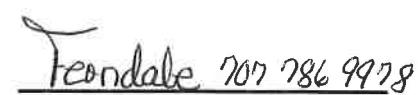
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Signed



P.O. Box 876 360 Craig St.



Teondale 707 786 9978

August 24, 2020

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Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

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We would like to thank you for the opportunity to voice our support, and we are confident that you will make the right decision for "Our Fair"!

Signed


Tom Mellen

356 CRAIG ST
P.O. 595 95536

(707)599-0524
498-5087

August 24, 2020

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

From: Concerned Citizens

Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

As you go through the public comment phase of the Humboldt County Fair Conditional Use Permit, we the undersigned would like to express our support for this permit. The Humboldt County Fair provides not only the largest attended venue for the County, but also an economic impact of \$8 to \$10 Million per year to the local economy (far greater than any other event). Its long history goes back to 1896, and is one of the oldest, continuous fairs in California. It is a "Tradition" that generations of Humboldters have cherished, and that needs to be protected for future generations to experience. With the near elimination of State funds for fairs in 2012, our Fair saw a reduction from over \$400,000 a year to just less than \$40,000. Our Humboldt community has stepped up with both sponsorship funds and volunteer help to narrow the gap of this shortfall. Without their generous effort our treasured "Tradition" would have been gone forever. The Fair's responsibility of maintaining 65 acres of the County's aging buildings has been a challenging effort. There is a need to obtain additional revenues by better utilizing the facilities during non-fair times. The adoption of this Conditional Use Permit in principal is essential in providing the much needed financial opportunities for "Our Fair".

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Signed

Bob Lemke 2360 Shamrock Dr Fortuna (707)499-1243
Mark Johnson 690 Herbert St Ferndale CA 95436 707-845-4362

August 24, 2020

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

From: Concerned Citizens

Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

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Signed

Dawn Wish

4255 Upper Bear River

707 498-5042

August 24, 2020

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

From: Concerned Citizens

Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

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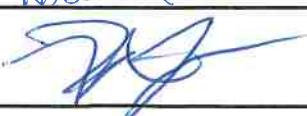
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Signed



207 SEAHORSE

928-208-3777



August 24, 2020

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

From: Concerned Citizens

Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

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Name (Print)

Signature

Address

Shannon Eggen

Sh. Eggn

75 East Fernvale Ferndale

Stephen Scalvini ~~Stephen Scalvini~~ PLN-2019-15519 Box 1214

Ferndale

August 24, 2020

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

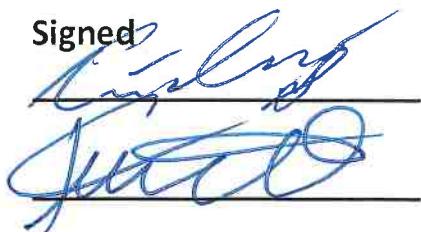
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Signed



Linda E. Mobley

567 Arlington Ave

Kenneth Chalk

1250 5th Street

August 24, 2020

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

From: Concerned Citizens

Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

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Signed

Andy Doerher Andy Doerner 1250 5th St

August 24, 2020

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

From: Concerned Citizens

Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

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Signed

Randy Horning 1471 Ambrosini Ln 617-0505

John M 178 Fish Creek Rd 707-672-6790

Barb & Mark 207 6BAHORSE Cir (510) -701-8191

J. Z. L. 420 Orin St. 707- 845-8117

August 24, 2020

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission

From: Concerned Citizens

Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019-15519

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Name (Print)

Signature

Address

<u>Joyce F. Coppini</u>	<u>Joyce F. Coppini</u>	<u>960 Van Ness Terrace Ea.</u>
<u>DAN RILL MARTIN</u>	<u>bluertentmdu</u>	<u>411 Ashby Ave. Berkeley Ca</u>

-----Original Message-----

From: Alaina Fryrear <alaina.fryrear@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 11:41 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Humboldt County Fair Events

Hello,

I would like to express my support for the Humboldt County Fair to host events such as concerts & races. Events bring business to our small town & to our county.

Best regards,

Alaina Fryrear & Cameron Olson
3839 Grizzly Bluff Road
Ferndale, Ca 95536

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Amanda Church <achurch10@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 11:24 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: PLN-2019-15519

I would like to express my support for the Humboldt County Fair to host events such as concerts and races. Events bring business to our small town and to our county.

Amanda Brodt
312 Damon Ln.
Ferndale

Sent from my iPhone

From: fernvalleefarms@aol.com <fernvalleefarms@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 11:09 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Humboldt County fair associations use permit

Hello this is Andy Titus I am a resident of Ferndale a business owner and the president of the board of the association and I would appreciate your careful consideration and allowing us the privilege of the use permit can have internal events to generate revenue to keep the grounds going the events would be good clean family fun it would generate revenue For the association along with revenue for the businesses these people would sleep in our hotels eat in our restaurants shop in our shops and get fuel at our gas stations it seems like those are all positive things that we would want to bring extra money into our community along with fun events for the family thank you for your consideration

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail
Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Colton <brodt48@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 11:32 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: HCF support

I would like to express my support for the Humboldt county fair to continue and provide more opportunities for events. As a business owner and young person involved with the community I feel that we need more events to showcase our town and support our local business especially after this pandemic. The people putting this forward to limit events hurts young small business owners and drives up real estate so that only out of town retirees can afford to live in town. Don't make the situation worse.

Colton Brodt
Brodt Dairy

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Klopper <Elizabeth@BestGrassFedBeef.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 10:32 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Cc: humcofair@frontiernet.net
Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association PLN 2019-15519

Dear Humboldt County Planning and Building Department

Writing In Support of the Fairgrounds.

I am writing regarding the issue of noise and/or aesthetics for the proposed events of Motor sports and concerts. I want to voice my support for the Fairgrounds to host concerts and motor sports that can be enjoyed by our community and bring visitors to our local towns. A handful of concerts and motorsports are not detrimental to our beautiful town and will in fact bring much needed revenue to the Fairgrounds, Ferndale, as well as Eureka and Fortuna.

When folks come to attend concerts they often come for dinner first and if coming longer distances will enjoy a night's stay at our local hotels.

The Fairgrounds should also be permitted to rent their facilities to events that generate additional income. Additional incomes help boost the bottom line of these wonderful Fairgrounds venue and will help to ensure that they stay in operations. By hampering their ability to host events we risk jeopardizing their existence. The Fairgrounds are being proactive in seeking additional business to keep them in business, apart from the traditional Humboldt County Fair, horse racing and other scheduled events.

Our county needs to focus on being pro-business.

In these unprecedented times, we do not need to turn away business, either from the Fairgrounds, or from the extra income revenues that will come in with those visitors to our town. There is enough loss of business to our community at this time.

Residents who live near the Fairgrounds need to understand when they purchase property close to this venue that there will be times of heavy traffic, some noise disturbance, etc to their daily lives.

The additional benefit of our community being able to enjoy fun filled events that lift spirits and allow us to share with our neighbors is a positive outcome for everyone.

Sincerely

Hugo and Liz Klopper

Elizabeth Klopper
707-786-9460

Bear River Valley Beef
4415 Upper Bear River Rd
Ferndale, CA 95536

From: Julie Houtby <JHoutby@agloan.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 9:58 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019015519
Importance: High

Good Morning, Please find a letter in support of Humboldt County Fair's application for a Conditional Use Permit. I would appreciate you including my letter in the Planning Commissioners packets for their upcoming meeting.

Thank you, Julie Houtby

Julie Houtby
Vice President – Lending



5560 S. Broadway
Eureka, CA 95503
P.O. Box 398
Fields Landing, CA 95537
jhoutby@agloan.com
(707) 267-9762 Desk
(707) 322-5306 Mobile
(707) 445-8871 Eureka Office
AgLoan.com

IMPORTANT: This message may contain confidential information and/or trade secrets of American AgCredit. Unauthorized use or disclosure is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, please notify me at American AgCredit immediately by responsive e-mail or by telephone at the number shown above.

Julie Houtby
55925 Highway 101
Fortuna, CA 95540

August 25, 2020

Humboldt County Planning & Building Department
Attention: Planning Commission Clerk
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Project ID: Humboldt County Fair Association/PLN-2019015519

Dear Planning Commissioners:

This letter is to communicate my support of the Humboldt County Fair Association's application for a Conditional Use Permit. Approval of this Permit is vital to the long-term viability of our County Fair. Interim events that could be covered by this permit are a crucial component to the Fair's annual budget. Our Fair facility needs to be utilized all year round to produce substantial revenue in order to successfully continue operations and our community needs to come together to support their efforts.

We are so fortunate to have a grandstands and race track at the Fairgrounds that offer a wonderful setting to offer occasional concerts and motor sports events to those in our community. Along with helping to support our Fair's continued viability, such events can also result in increased economic stimulus to the surrounding community in general.

I urge you to support and approve this application by the Humboldt County Fair for a Conditional Use Permit. Our Humboldt County Fair is a cherished tradition where our community is able to come together once a year and meet with old friends and new, watch our children and grandchildren show their 4-H and FFA projects, enjoy the tradition of the horse races, and just pause and celebrate our life here in Humboldt County! We need to ensure that our Fair is there for our children, grandchildren and community in the years to come. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter during these unprecedented economic times.

Sincerely,


Julie Houtby

From: Lisa Renner <lisa.renner333@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 11:32 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Use of Humboldt County Fair Grounds

Dear Humboldt County Planning Commission,

I, Lisa Renner, a resident of 950 Grant Ave. Ferndale, would like to pledge my support to/for the Humboldt County Fair Grounds and their attempt to gain a "Use Permit" for events.

As an owner of a business and resident in the City of Ferndale I believe that the Fairgrounds should have more large events such as concerts, motorcycle races, monster truck rallies, and other events that will attract tourists and locals. I feel that this would be a win/win for residents, businesses and the surrounding community.

Sincerely,

Lisa Renner

Ferndale Clothing Company
361 Main Street
P.O. Box 1430
Ferndale, CA 95536
ferndaleclothing@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/ferndaleclothing/>
<https://www.instagram.com/ferndaleclothingcompany/>

-----Original Message-----

From: Merritt Brodt <gbbrodt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: In support of Humboldt County Fair Plan 2019-15519

We are in support of the Humboldt County Fair. Our best memories growing up we're at that fair. Four generations of our family have shown animals and participated at the fair along with use of the fairgrounds for horse riding and dog agility classes. Not to mention all of our school functions. My grandmother was awarded the highest honor of the Ferndale Garden Clubs display at the fairgrounds and was a member of the Kitchenaires for years!! If these people do have problems with the noise etc. they should of known when they moved here this the fairgrounds is part of our life, our children's life and our grandchildren's life. Just like city folks moving here near a dairy and then complain about the smell, somethings come with the privilege of living in our beautiful town!! Putting up with the smell of manure and a bit of noise throughout the year at our fairgrounds is a small price to pay for the privilege for living here! Thank you Merritt Brodt 7074077550

Sent from my iPhone

HUMBOLDT GRASSFED
BEEF
P.O. Box 313
Fortuna, CA 95540

August 26, 2020

Humboldt County Planning & Building Department
Attention: Planning Commission Clerk
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

SENT VIA EMAIL: planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing in support of the Humboldt County Fair's application for a Conditional Use Permit.

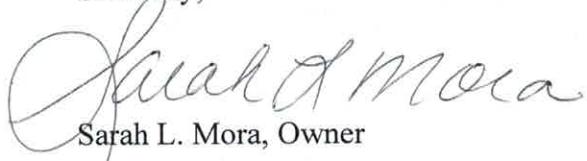
The Humboldt County Fair is a pillar for both agricultural youth and the citizens of Humboldt. It's a tradition that many look forward to each year, and helps stimulate the economy with increased tourism, which in turn helps our local merchants.

As we all know the fair has suffered significant economic losses in the past few years, and if it is to continue needs to find additional revenue streams. This use permit will allow the fair association to utilize the grounds more frequently and provide various entertainment options for the people of Humboldt.

This is a win-win for everyone. We keep a long standing tradition of the fair viable into the future, create revenue for surrounding small businesses, and utilize our fair grounds to the best of its ability.

Your support of the fair's Conditional Use Permit is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Sarah L. Mora, Owner

(707) 845-7878

humboldtgrassfedbeef.com

Stephen Avis
P.O. Box 777 • Ferndale, California 95536

August 26, 2020

Steven Lazar, Senior Planner
Humboldt County
3015 H Street
Eureka CA 95501

Re: Proposed Motorsports and Concert events at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds

Dear Mr. Lazar:

As a resident of Ferndale with a background in land use planning and some training in CEQA, this letter is in response to a draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) currently circulating for comments. I would like to make the following comments with a recommendation that the County consider the need for an environmental impact report to fully address impacts for the project.

The Project Description includes a total of fourteen (14) discrete events including amplified concerts and related musical activities, flat-track motorcycle races, tractor pulls, four-by-four events, monster truck events and go cart races. The fact that these items are spelled out in the project description presumes that the possible impacts of each event have been analyzed in the mitigated negative declaration, are deemed not to cause significant impacts and that this conclusion is backed up with rigorous studies.

1. Noise studies for flat-track racing and concerts are included with the MND but there are no studies that discuss impacts or proposed mitigation for the other listed events. This is especially troubling in the case of monster truck rallies since this is the event with the greatest noise impact, by far.

As stated on page 31 of the Initial Study, under the description of noise impacts from monster truck events, "*Given the limited number of motorsports events and particular venue characteristics that are needed to host events of this sort, the project is a good candidate for considering an exception to the general plan short term noise standards*".

The implication is that there is no need to study or consider noise generated by monster trucks because of a technical exception. The general plan exception referred to is not discussed in the noise study or the Initial Study. However, included as part of the noise study for Flat-track motorcycle races, Appendix C: *Humboldt County General Plan Pertinent Code*. Unfortunately, Appendix C on the State Clearinghouse website contains no information at all. The page is blank. This would seem to be a serious omission because the rationale for not studying the impacts or adding mitigation measures is missing.

From a conversation with you I understand the exception is found in Section N-S7 on page 13-9 of the General Plan Noise Element. This section addresses exceptions to

short term noise standards. Exception 2 includes: *Temporary events in conformance with an approved Conditional Use Permit.*

The applicant's interpretation of this exception is incorrect for the following reasons.

- a) With any project that may include noise which is controlled by a use permit, it is assumed that proper mitigation measures for the activity have been addressed and reviewed through a CEQA process. Just because the General Plan provides an exception for breaching established noise levels does not eliminate it from CEQA review. The fact that a noise study for monster trucks was not even done is a major flaw in the analysis. The impacts cannot be properly evaluated by either staff, the public or the decision makers.
- b) If monster truck events are considered temporary in nature, why aren't concerts or flat-track races? Under the logic applied by the applicant, any or all activity covered by a use permit could be considered temporary as in short duration and thus qualify for an exemption. Yet the Initial Study does not categorize any of the other activities as temporary. Just the noisiest one. This is an illogical approach.
- c) The use permit being sought is not a series of temporary events. These are annual events assumed to be conducted indefinitely into the future, and that may increase in number or frequency over time with minimal environmental review.
- d) Per the applicant, loud noise from monster trucks "is an essential part of the spectator experience". In this case, an approved use permit would specifically allow a noisy event. The same can be said for motorcycle races. The intent of the exception is hardly to ignore the effects and impacts of events. Instead, it is to make allowances for necessary noise that may temporarily exceed the County's noise limits that result from an approved activity – but not for an activity that is designed by its very nature to have a significant noise impact.

Comment: A noise study on the effects and impacts of monster truck and the other listed events is required for analysis and review.

2. Under a discussion of noise impacts, the initial Study includes a number of proposed mitigation measures related to motorcycle noise. None include any type of noise barrier to reduce sound leaving the arena. I find it curious that a straw bale wall is proposed for outdoor concerts but not for motorsport events. Of the two, sound attenuation for engine noise would seem more important.

According to the Initial Study on page 30, even with the use of the proposed mitigation measures in combination, the noise will only be reduced to a level of "normally unacceptable". This statement alone indicates that the proposed mitigation measures are not effective enough to meet the standards for a mitigated negative declaration. According to the CEQA Guidelines, a negative declaration is not the correct evaluation tool if there may be significant impacts. That is the role of an environmental impact report.

- NOI-1: It is not entirely clear how stopping events at 10:00 PM reduces the degree of impact as opposed to how long an impact will affect people.
- NOI-2 is the only proposed mitigation measure to attenuate sound levels with a requirement that motorcycles be equipped with mufflers. In a dirt race track setting that is farther away from town and sensitive noise receptors, especially during evening hours, this might prove sufficient to address the issue.

In *Lewis v. 17th District Agricultural Ass'n* (1985) 165 Cal. App. 3d 823, the court found that the existence of residential areas near the county's racetrack constituted "unusual circumstances".¹ According to court records, the Nevada County Fairgrounds, "are contiguous with and less than a mile from several residential areas in Grass Valley and unincorporated Nevada County". The similarity is striking. In that case, the County prepared an EIR to expand existing automobile race events.

- NOI-8. An annual reporting program is not mitigation.
- NOI-3, 6 and 7 are standards but not mitigation measures.

Comment: An environmental impact report is needed to better evaluate additional mitigation options that could be effective. To assume that cost prohibitive measures such as a sound wall should not be considered out of hand circumvents the purpose of environmental review and a discussion of options.

3. Also, on page 30 of the Initial Study the use of hay bales to dampen sound as a mitigation measure for concerts is proposed. However, even with this mitigation measure in use, the study concludes that, "This very nearly brings the events into the "normally acceptable" range and into the lower end of the "normally unacceptable" range". The phrase 'very nearly' is not an engineering term and places the mitigated concert sounds into the range of normally unacceptable.

Again, according to the CEQA Guidelines, a negative declaration is not the correct evaluation tool if there may be significant impacts.

Comment: An environmental impact report is needed to better evaluate mitigation options that could be effective.

4. The noise study for flat-track motorcycle races does not consider or evaluate the effects of the grandstand and nearby hills on the direction, distance, and levels of noise that can be expected during the proposed events.

As noted on page 31 of the Initial Study, a two-day monster truck event generated complaint calls from the public. Anecdotal reports from several parts of town indicate that the reflected sound traveled unevenly across town and caused disturbance farther away from the racetrack where the noise study measurements were taken. These

¹ CEQA Guidelines Section 15323. Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings

complaints and observations could represent a significant impact, but without a proper noise study, the real-life experience of residents is not being accounted for.

To compare volume levels, public service announcements during the county fair for horse racing activities are low enough that they are not reflected off the hills in the same way the motorized vehicle engine noise is.

Comment: A set of more robust noise studies should be required in order to obtain a better picture of how loud events interact with the physical terrain.

5. Page 29 references the following section of the County Noise Element.

“The perception of nuisance will vary based upon sound level, frequency, and fluctuation. It also depends upon the character of the sound, number of noise events, familiarity and predictability, and the attitude of the listener. CNEL and Lmax are typically the basis for making nuisance determinations but other factors may be considered. For example, an annual high school parade may exceed residential noise levels but might not be deemed a nuisance.”

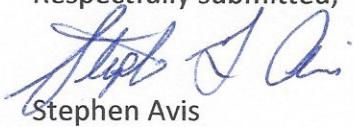
Comment: There is a lack of analysis for sound generated by motorcycle engines that are two-stroke compared to four-stroke, or to the interpretation of sound by the listener from a cacophony of multiple engines accelerating and decelerating while at a constant high rate of speed. The sound of dueling monster trucks is not discussed in terms of nuisance consideration.

There is no discussion or analysis on the characteristics of diesel engines or unmuffled monster truck engines in order to address local perceptions of those activities' engine sounds.

The sound of motorsports may be perceived very differently than that coming from concerts. A review of the literature on this will help the public and decision makers determine how likely proposed events may be a nuisance generating public complaints, as opposed to amplified sound that can be more easily accepted.

Conclusion: While the noise studies included with the initial study may have been done properly (I am not an expert on this), they are inadequate to demonstrate that a mitigated negative declaration can be approved by the County. A lack of information makes it impossible to fully grasp the degree of change to the environment that will result from approval of this Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration. Additional study is required, and an environmental impact report is the best way to gather a comprehensive understanding of what to expect. With the use of an EIR, the County can choose to issue a statement of overriding considerations, an option not available under a mitigated negative declaration.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Avis

From: Aiello, Andrew <Andrew-Aiello@Redwoods.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 11:07 PM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Cc: Lazar, Steve <SLazar@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Humboldt County Fair Use Permit/PLN-2019-15519

I would like to file my attachment (letter) in support for the fairgrounds to host concerts and events. Attached is my letter for support. Thank you for your time and consideration.

GO WOODS,
Andrew Aiello
Special Teams Coordinator
Defensive Line Coach

August 26th, 2020

Humboldt County Planning Commission
3015 H St
Eureka, CA 95501
planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us

Humboldt County Planning Commissioners:

My name is Andrew Aiello. As a resident of Ferndale, I would like to register my support for the Humboldt County Fair Association's Conditional Use Permit, PLN-2019-15519, which authorizes the use of the Humboldt County Fairgrounds for a maximum of ten (10) concerts and four (4) motorized sport events annually that would help generate precious revenue needed to assist in the operation and maintenance of the County Fairgrounds, generate economic activity for businesses in our county, and as increase family-friendly events for our community to participate in.

Since the 2009 economic crash Fair Associations throughout the state have seen significant budgetary cuts, resulting in up to 1000% reductions in revenue. Humboldt County Fair Association was not spared, seeing their annual California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) allocations drop from a high of \$400,000 annually to \$40,000 today. That incredible loss in revenue has necessitated changes to the use of the 65-acre facility to generate its own operating and maintenance budget. While the community has stepped up significantly with sponsorships and donations over the past decade, with rising costs that type of revenue generation is no longer sustainable. Allowing the Fair Association to host a calendar of larger-scale events to supplement the income generated during the annual 10-day August fair would allow for the stand-alone operation of the Association.

Aside from the financial benefits to the Fair Association, these large-scale events would greatly benefit the Humboldt County community, specifically the businesses of Ferndale. Hotels, restaurants, and small businesses would reap the benefit of additional visitors patronizing their establishments on a regular basis during the event season. This prospect of additional revenue for our local businesses is especially enticing in 2020, where the COVID-19 required cancellation of the 10-day Humboldt County Fair will result in a revenue loss of around \$8 million dollars (CDFA, 2016 data) for our county economy.

I moved here in 2016, I currently reside in Ferndale and teach and coach the College of the Redwoods. Allowing the fairgrounds to host these events would have such a positive impact on so many people, businesses, and community as a whole. Creating different opportunities for family entertainment that is at a great location and does not cause too much of an issue for anyone that lives in town. I personally live on main street in Ferndale and am in great support and favor for these events, knowing that there may be some noise, however, I am informed that these events would be over by 10pm (concerts) and the motor sport events would take place during daytime (mostly). These are great events that can create such an important fiscal and

community impact, which, without would truly hurt the community in many different ways. I love the city of Ferndale and having these events allows many others to see what a special place this is, at the same time supporting and helping so many in the community financially. There is a limited amount of events or things for families to enjoy, and this instantly creates opportunities for families to do so. I personally would attend many of these events myself, and would encourage others to do the same. Also, the noise level that would travel from the grounds to the houses would drastically drop when compared from the decibel levels at the grounds to inside someone's household.

Based on the study presented in the Mitigated Negative Declaration, I fully support the passage of this use permit. Your action here today will allow the Humboldt County Fairgrounds to remain a valuable and viable part of our greater community for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Aiello

Ferndale Resident

College coach and professor

August 24,2020

Humboldt County Planning Dept.
Eureka,California

Attn:Planning Clerk

Re: CEQA permit- Humboldt County Fair Assn. Project ID PLN-2019-15519

Gentlemen-

I am writing this letter in support of the CEQA permit applied for by the Humboldt County Fair. The Fair has been in the process of meeting all the requirements necessary over the past two years and have spent in excess of \$25,000 to complete the study.

We wish to bring entertainment and concerts to our area. This brings in much needed revenue to our local stores in Ferndale and the surrounding area and a small amount of money to the Humboldt County Fair after the Covid pandemic has wreaked havoc on our local economy. It also brings enjoyment to both our young and older population alike. Unfortunately, Humboldt County has few entertainment options. Concerts usually last between 1-1/2 hrs. to two hours. Other events could last up to three hours. These events could be done in the day or at night. Event or events would not last past 10pm at night. Every measure will be taken to alleviate excess noise to our neighbors. The Humboldt County Fair respects our small community .

We have only had one flat track motorcycle event in the 22 years I have been on the Humboldt County Fair Board. We have only had 2-3 concerts over the past 22 years under General Manager, Stuart Titus. During his tenure as GM, I remember very few complaints from citizens, if any, about the concerts. The Humboldt County Fair is NOT planning to have excessive events at the Fairgrounds but would like to have the opportunity to present an entertainment venue when the opportunity presents itself. It benefits our merchants, the public and puts a little money in the Humboldt County Fair's pockets.

Sincerely,

Cindy Olsen, 1st VP Humboldt County Fair

Humboldt County Planning Commissioners,

Thank you for your service to the community.

I would like to urge you to support the Humboldt County Fair Association/ PLN-2019-15519.

I have included a letter that I wrote and was published in the Ferndale Enterprise August of 2018:

Open Letter to the Community of Ferndale,

Thank you!

I want to thank the community of Ferndale for tolerating the noise that came from the Humboldt County Fairground's race track on Saturday afternoon, August 5th. It was the sound of 70 + riders gathering for the Humboldt Half Mile; we were having a blast, competing on the 5-furlong track. What a successful day!!!

Speaking for myself, it was truly a dream come true. Since the 1970s, sitting in the box seats watching the horse races with my grandmother, Annette Russ, I have dreamed of riding my motorcycle around that race track. I first learned to ride a motorcycle at the Ocean House Ranch in 1978 when my grandfather bought a Suzuki 100 to ride through the sheep. What had previously taken most of the day on horseback took only a few hours on the Suzuki. Amazed, I have been hooked on motorcycles ever since. Saturday my dream came true in spades, not only did I get to ride the race track, I got to compete in front of my friends, family, and community.

The first actual race, a main event, held Saturday on the track was the 230 class, and I was entered. The 8-lap race is classified by the CC's, or the size of the engine, the 230 is only 19 horsepower and I'm over 200 pounds. Being underpowered, momentum is your friend so, once you get rolling, you don't want to lose any speed because it's difficult to regain. After initially getting a poor start, I worked hard to catch up; I held my throttle wide open, using all 19 horses and was able to execute 2 challenging passes to win the first race of the day. Wow!!!

We as a community are truly honored to have this race track here in Ferndale – while the rest of the state is cooking in the heat of summer we are enjoying the cool blanket of fog. I was proud to be a hometown competitor hosting many talented professionals on the circuit and hobbyists from across the state.

Thank you again for allowing this event to happen and thank you to everyone that came out to watch, I hope we can have it again next year. I understand that not everyone gets goosebumps from the sound of a racing engine, like I do. Thank you for your support and tolerance.

Sincerely,

Jack "Jay" Russ 86g

Approval of this conditional use permit would be a huge benefit to the Humboldt County Fair Association and the community of Humboldt County. Please approve Humboldt County Fair Association/ PLN-2019-15519.

Thank you,

Jay Russ

8/25/2020

From: Carla Fuller



400 Arlington Avenue, P.O. Box 56
Ferndale, CA 95536

TO: Steve Lazar, Planner

3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Humboldt County Fairgrounds Use Permit / SCH #202007048

Dear Mr. Lazar,

I have lived across the street from the Humboldt County Fairgrounds race track for 25 years. During this 25 years I have experienced the effects of the many events that are held at the fairgrounds.

Most of the events have not had significant impact on me or my family. I am happy to see the fairgrounds being used. The 10 day duration that the fair runs has an impact that is to be expected. The noise level that comes from it can be quite loud at times, but it is acceptable. The two events that have happened in the past, the monster truck and motorcycle racing, were extremely obnoxious. The noise was horrific. From speaking with other Ferndale residents, that live in other parts of town, the noise was horrific there as well. It seemed to fill this narrow valley with noise pollution that we are not accustomed to hearing. The county fair has sustained itself for many years with events that do not create the noise level that the monster trucks and motorcycle races create. Even concerts are not as bad.

Ferndale is a popular tourist destination. People traveling here to enjoy our beautiful town do not want their experience ruined by the horrific noise of monster trucks and motorcycle races. Being an athletic competitor myself, I am not against motorcycle racing, but the races and monster truck event do not belong here in Ferndale.

It is possible that if these events were to occur in Ferndale we could possibly have a drop in tourist occupancy and possibly even lower property values and a lower desirability to purchase a residence here. Many people visit and live in Ferndale for its peaceful atmosphere and beauty.

Please do not allow these events to take place here in Ferndale.

Sincerely, Carla Fuller



Project ID Humboldt County Fair & Assn /
PLN 2014-15519

To Humboldt County Planning Commission

I am writing to offer my support for the Humboldt County Fair conditional use permit.

With the hard monetary times that have hit the Humboldt County fair & assn. These past few years it is more important than ever they are granted this use permit, opening up the opportunity to increase the much needed revenue to ensure the continued success of the 124 year old Humboldt County Fair.

Thank you for your time in considering this very important issue.

Respectfully,

Harry Martin, Ferndale Native

Sandra Mesman

451 Main Street
P.O. Box 1233
Ferndale, California 95536



August 24, 2020

Humboldt County Planning & Building Dept.,

Atten: Planning commission clerk
3015 H Street
Eureka, California 95501

RE: Humboldt County Fair Association:
PLN 2019 15519

Please be advised (as a store owner in Ferndale) I wish to support the above said permit. I still own and currently operate a retail store, I realize that any and all events sponsored or held at the Fairground brings revenue to the City of Ferndale and to the County of Humboldt.

I have 45 years of ownership which puts me in a position to understand the economics of a successful venue. As participation declines in many events (which I am aware of because I do judge exhibits at the fair) there is a need to add more events, from dog shows, horse shows, bike racing and concerts we must expand. Maintaining the old county fair, has to survive but it will need some assistance. Multiple use would appear to be the answer,

I would appreciate your acceptance of the above plan so that the Fair Tradition can stay alive. Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra J. Mesman".

Sandra J. Mesman

From: Vanessa Blodgett <vanessab@planwestpartners.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 2:16 PM
To: Lazar, Steve <SLazar@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Cc: citymanager@ci.ferndale.ca.us; cityclerk@ci.ferndale.ca.us
Subject: Comments on IS/MND for Proposed Motorsports and Concerts at Fairgrounds

Hi Steven,

Please see attached City of Ferndale comments on the IS/Draft MND for Proposed Motorsports and Concert Events at Humboldt County Fairgrounds. Please confirm receipt; a hard copy will also be mailed to you.

Thank you.

Vanessa
City of Ferndale Contract Planner

Vanessa Blodgett | Senior Planner
Planwest Partners Inc.
1125 16th Street, Suite 200
Arcata, CA 95521
Office: (707) 825-8260
Cell: (707) 498-3645

Humboldt County Planning and Building Department
Attn: Steven Lazar
Submitted electronically: slazar@co.humboldt.ca.us
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

August 26, 2020

**RE: Comments on Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for
Proposed Motorsports and Concert Events at Humboldt County Fairgrounds**

The City of Ferndale has enjoyed a long mutually beneficial relationship with the Humboldt County Fair Association. Whenever there is a Fair event, the City benefits from patrons visiting local restaurants retail venues, and lodging options bringing economic benefits to the community. We strive in the future to do what we can to support the Fair Association in being a sustainable and successful organization.

As the Humboldt County Fairgrounds is located within the City of Ferndale, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for Proposed Motorsports and Concert Events at the Fairgrounds. The City of Ferndale has reviewed the document and solicited comments from council member as well as public input at the August 19, City Council Meeting. We are not commenting on the pros and cons of the proposed motor sport and concert venues but, rather, the adequacy of the CEQA environmental review process, specifically related to noise. We have summarized the comments below:

The project description indicates that up to four (4) motorsport events are requested as part of the project. However, it is unclear what defines an event. To fully understand the anticipated impacts regarding noise levels, the length of an event should be clearly defined. Is an event a one-day occurrence or if lasting 3 days is that one event or three? Obviously, potential impacts can significantly increase if a single event lasts multiple days or more.

The noise resource setting does not include a discussion of anticipated noise levels for all proposed special permit uses. The setting primarily focuses on flat track motorcycle racing and concerts with only anecdotal evidence provided for monster trucks. Other potential proposed uses which are not discussed in detail include tractor pulls, 4x4 truck events, and Go Karts. What are the noise levels associated with each proposed use both individually (i.e., one monster truck or motorcycle) and cumulatively (six monster trucks or motorcycles)? As these are proposed uses, the setting and analysis should include information and anticipated noise levels for all proposed activities to adequately evaluate potential impacts.

The noise setting also does not clearly state where the refenced sensitive receptors are or how these locations were chosen. To better understand the analysis this information should be

provided. Ferndale High School should also be clearly stated as a sensitive receptor that is located adjacent to the proposed project area.

The environmental setting for the noise section does not address the topographic characteristics of the community setting itself. The Wildcat mountains range forms the southern edge of the City of Ferndale and quickly rises in elevation. Noise from motorsports and concerts will reverberate from this high elevation backdrop and spread across the entire community of Ferndale during the entirety of proposed events. The Noise Study and IS/MND should better describe this topographic setting and describe how noise levels further impacts the entire community not just residences immediately adjacent to the fairground location of the proposed events. The IS/MND should address the impacts of this reverberating noise and the disruptive nature of noise for an extended period on all residences within the community.

Page 29 of the IS/MND environmental checklist states that a project would be significant if “Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project is in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?” Ensuing discussion reveals that “For flat track racing, unmitigated CNEL values fall into the “clearly unacceptable” range.” Local experience from a monster truck event held at the fairgrounds during the summer of 2017 were much louder and disruptive than the motorcycle racing. Noise levels of monster truck events should be discussed in more detail.

Page 30 of the IS/MND discusses the several potential mitigation measures reviewed in the referenced noise study concluding that “By adhering to one or more of these mitigation measures, the CNEL values associated with these events can be reduced to “normally unacceptable”. The terms “clearly unacceptable” and “normally unacceptable” suggest that significant environmental impacts associated with noise will remain despite the proposed mitigation measures. This conclusion applies to both motorsports and concert events.

One of the mitigation measures for concert events includes the construction of a temporary sound wall using strawbales (NOI-4). However, there are no references provided for construction standards or the effectiveness of such a wall. To better substantiate the mitigation, references should be provided and discussion on effectiveness of straw bales to reduce noise should be included in the CEQA MND.

The second paragraph on IS/MND page 31 states mitigation measure “NOI-5 limits Monster Truck events to one (1) event per year”. However, NOI-5 on page 32 is related to using a sound engineer during concert events. Mitigation measure NOI-6 limits the number of monster truck events to one per year. The IS/MND states “Since noise from monster trucks is essential to the spectator experience, limiting the number of events was the best feasible mitigation available to help control impact. Given the limited number of motorsports events and particular venue characteristics that are needed to host events of this sort, the project is a good candidate for considering an exception to the general plan short term noise standards.” Please provide additional explanation as to how limiting the number of events reduces noise impacts to less than significant.

Lastly, leaving the monitoring and reporting of event(s) compliance with proposed mitigation measures and operational conditions until the end of the year has the potential to expose the community to excessive noise and disruption for an entire season before amendments or further restrictions might be applied to subsequent seasonal events through an adaptive management process. This appears as an untenable situation for many members of the community who are being asked to “cope” with the “clearly unacceptable” and “normally unacceptable” disruption to their lives in the hope that further reduction of noise impacts in the future will be forthcoming.

Even with the proposed mitigation, events are likely to create noise above normally accepted levels (exceeding 60dB) which is likely to be disruptive. Several council members believed that the MND is not the appropriate level of CEQA environmental review for the proposed events spelled out in the Use Permit and MND and that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should be prepared. CEQA does not allow approval of projects with significant environmental impacts and the majority of council members felt significant impacts from noise will largely remain unmitigable, and that an EIR should be prepared to provide more detail on noise levels and possible mitigation measures. Additionally, alternatives to the proposed project must also be discussed as part of the EIR process especially alternatives that may result in less significant noise impacts to the community of Ferndale while still providing the Fair Association with more revenue generating events. The City believes additional review and analysis is needed for a project that is controversial within the community with citizens expressing both support and opposition.

The City of Ferndale appreciates the continued relationship between Humboldt County, and the Humboldt County Fair Association. To adequately represent the concerns of residents, we would appreciate your full consideration of the comments provided above.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact me or Jay Parrish - City Manager (citymanager@ci.ferndale.ca.us).

Thank you,



Vanessa Blodgett,
Ferndale Contract City Planner
vanessablodgett@planwestpartners.com



Nicholas R. Ghirelli

T 213.626.8484
F 213.626.0078
E nghirelli@rwglaw.com

350 South Grand Avenue
37th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071
rwglaw.com

August 25, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL & U. S. MAIL

Steven Lazar
Senior Planner
County of Humboldt
3015 H Street
Eureka, California 95501
SLazar@co.humboldt.ca.us

Re: Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for Motorsports and Concert Events at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds

Dear Mr. Lazar:

This letter is submitted on behalf of Friends of Ferndale for a Livable Community (“Friends of Ferndale”), a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the quality of life for Ferndale residents. We have reviewed the Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for Proposed Motorsports and Concert Events at Humboldt County Fairgrounds (the “Fairgrounds”), dated July 24, 2020 . Based on our review, we believe that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required for this project because a fair argument exists that the project will have significant impact on the environment in several impact areas. Moreover, the analysis of several impact areas is not supported by substantial evidence and violates the public disclosure requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The following comments on the IS/MND documentation support our conclusion that an EIR is required for this project and identify defects in the IS/MND’s analysis and conclusions.

Project Description

“Only through an accurate view of the project may affected outsiders and public decision-makers balance the proposal’s benefit against its environmental cost, consider mitigation measures, assess the advantages of terminating the proposal . . . and weigh other alternatives in the balance. An accurate, stable and finite project description is the sine qua non of an

informative and legally sufficient EIR.”¹ The same accuracy must be provided in the project description for a mitigated negative declaration.² In this case, Section 2.3 of the IS/MND does not provide sufficient information to allow the public to fully evaluate the project’s environmental impacts.

The fourteen total events identified in the project description—four motorsports and ten concerts—are apparently inclusive of all such events to be held at the Fairgrounds in a given year. The project description notes that events would be “pre-scheduled between March and October, excepting the six-week period (August 1st through September 15th)” when events associated with the Humboldt County Fair are occurring. However, the IS/MND does not indicate whether additional concerts or similar events would be held during the County Fair. The table identifying prior concerts held at the Fairgrounds on page 7 of the IS/MND identifies several concerts that have been held during the period of time when the County Fair occurs (August-September). Most of these events occurred after CEQA was adopted in 1973. Therefore, unless similar events occurring at the Fairground during the County Fair were studied as part of a prior environmental document under CEQA, then they must also be identified in the project description and analyzed as part of this project. This analysis must be undertaken to avoid a situation where “piecemeal approval of several projects with related impacts could lead to severe environmental harm.”³ They must also be considered as part of an adequate cumulative impacts analysis.

Furthermore, the length of each of the proposed motorsport and music “events” is not fully defined. While the project description identifies an event’s maximum hours of operation on any given day, it does not address the days of the week when events will be held or whether an event may occur over multiple days. If weekday events are anticipated, then the impacts would be especially borne by students of Ferndale High School given the school’s proximity to the Fairgrounds. Could events occur on weekdays when school is in session or while extra-curricular events are taking place after the school day has ended? Furthermore, it is not clear whether a single music event might encompass a multi-day festival or whether a motorsport event includes practices or qualification races. Could use of the track for casual daytime or nighttime motorcycle practices be permitted when leading up to a scheduled race? The protracted use of the Fairgrounds for these uses must be explained in the project description because they will exacerbate the potential impacts described below.

¹ *County of Inyo v City of Los Angeles* (1977) 71 Cal.App.3d 185, 192.

² *City of Redlands v. Cty. of San Bernardino*, 96 Cal.App.4th 398, 406 (2002) (“The negative declaration is inappropriate where the agency has failed . . . to provide an accurate project description . . . and undertake an adequate environmental analysis.”)

³ *San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Ctr. v. County of Stanislaus*, 27 Cal.App.4th 713, 720 (1994).

The IS/MND identifies the following types of motorsports to be permitted as part of the project: “Tractor Pulls, 4x4 Truck events, Go Carts, Monster Trucks, and Motorcycle Racing.”⁴ Yet, only motorcycle racing is discussed in any detail. The other motorsports events must contain a description of the operational aspects in order for the project description to be complete. This information is critical to fully inform the public about the expected impacts of the project under CEQA.

Finally, missing from the description of the proposed music events is the stage configuration. The only information about the stage location is that it will be “set up in the interior of the race track on an installed temporary stage placed directly in front of the Grand Stands.”⁵ The IS/MND goes on to say that the stage and event configuration will depend on the type of event. The description does not inform the public where the stage and speakers will be directed, and if they will be directed toward sensitive receptors. Unfortunately, as discussed below, the project’s Noise Impact Study Addendum provides no clarification on this issue.

As a result, the project description is not “accurate, stable, and finite,” as required by CEQA.

Aesthetics

The aesthetic impact analysis, and particularly the discussion of light and glare, suffers from fatal flaws and therefore underestimates the impact of light and glare on the residential community surrounding the Fairgrounds. The IS/MND acknowledges that “temporary lighting is commonly incorporated into music events for the purpose of aesthetics and/or stage illumination.”⁶ But no such acknowledgment is made for motorsports events, which, when held at night, necessarily require sufficient lighting in order to operate safely. The IS/MND does not attempt to describe the new light sources from motorsports events, including temporary lighting for staging areas and the lights affixed to the vehicles and motorcycles themselves. The IS/MND must fully account for these new, expected light sources.

Mitigation Measure AES-1 does not effectively mitigate the impact caused by temporary lighting. Mitigation Measure AES-1 states: “Temporary stage lighting used during events will be directed towards the ground and north of the stage at intensities low enough to prevent light spillage (illumination of adjacent parcels). To insure that all lighting conforms to this standard,

⁴ IS/MND, Section 2.3.1, pg. 8.

⁵ IS/MND, Section 2.3.2, pg. 8.

⁶ IS/MND, Section 3.2.1, pg. 13.

Humboldt County Fair Association staff shall review the temporary lighting design for each music event.” This mitigation measure suffers from three fatal flaws.

First, as discussed above, motorsports events may contribute to light spillage onto adjacent properties. Yet, Mitigation Measure AES-1 only applies to music events.

Second, the IS/MND’s description of the mitigation measure states that lighting must be at “intensities low enough to prevent the illumination of adjacent parcels.”⁷ Does this mean no light spillage onto adjacent parcels will occur? The IS/MND fails to quantify if, and how much, illumination will be tolerated at adjacent parcels and the reduction achieved by Mitigation Measure AES-1.

Finally, Mitigation Measure AES-1 provides no enforcement mechanism to ensure that lighting is directed toward the ground at intensities low enough to prevent the illumination of adjacent parcels. It merely requires the Humboldt County Fair Association to “review the temporary lighting design for each music event.” Neither the Fair Association nor the County will actually approve the lighting plan or verify that it effectively prevents light spillage. The Fair Association need only report to the County that it has “reviewed” temporary lighting. Therefore, Mitigation Measure AES-1 is not tied to a concrete plan of action, and the mitigation is not effective in mitigating the threat of light spillage caused by the project.

Air Quality

The IS/MND’s conclusion that the project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations is fatally flawed because it is unsupported by substantial evidence. The IS/MND acknowledges that the Fairgrounds are bordered by sensitive receptors, such as Ferndale High School and several residential dwellings. Ferndale is an older community with over 37 percent of its population aged 60 and over,⁸ meaning that many residents are especially vulnerable to air quality impacts.

Yet, the IS/MND’s only support for its finding that the project will not impact sensitive receptors is a conclusory statement that emissions “are minor, infrequent, and limited in duration” and will “dissipate into the atmosphere before they could expose people working or residing in the

⁷ IS/MND, Section 3.2.1, pg. 13.

⁸ U.S. Census 2018 American Community Survey, Available at <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ferndale%20california&tid=ACSST5Y2018.S0101&hidePreview=false>

area to substantial pollutants.”⁹ This emissions analysis fails to provide any quantification of the project’s impacts. Events could be occurring as much as twelve hours per day within roughly 100 feet of a school and roughly 500 feet of adjacent residences. Therefore, it is probable that adjacent sensitive receptors will be exposed to significant levels of vehicle related air quality pollutants, especially vehicle exhaust from motorsports events.

For similar reasons, the IS/MND’s analysis of project-related odors is woefully inadequate. It fails to account for odors emitted by generators, gasoline, and motorsports in close proximity to several sensitive receptors.

Furthermore, the IS/MND identifies only two potential sources of air quality impacts: automobile exhaust from event attendees and flat track motorcycles. The IS/MND does not account for emissions caused by concert events and, more significantly, emissions from monster trucks and other types of motorsports. Therefore, the IS/MND underestimates the amount of project-related emissions.

The North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (the “Air District”) is in non-attainment for the 24-hour standard for particulate matter of 10 microns or less (PM₁₀). The IS/MND states that fugitive emissions as a result of vehicular traffic on unpaved roadways “are the largest source of particulate matter” within the Air District.¹⁰ In its analysis of Air Quality impacts, the IS/MND acknowledges that the Air District “has not formally adopted significance thresholds” for the purpose of analyzing a project’s impact on PM₁₀.¹¹ Instead, according to the IS/MND, it utilizes the Best Available Control Technology emission rates listed in the Air District’s Rule 110. Rule 110 only applies to stationary sources. As a result, the IS/MND implicitly acknowledges that the project’s air quality impacts are not measured against any applicable threshold of significance. It simply concludes that the project is consistent with the Air District’s PM₁₀ attainment plan because the project does not involve the operation of stationary sources. This analysis is incomplete.

Air District Rule 104.C includes a standard applicable to general combustion sources that should be applied to the project. It prohibits “any person from discharging particulate matter into the atmosphere from any combustion source in excess of 0.46 grams per standard cubic meter . . . calculated to 12 percent carbon dioxide” and certain other limitations set forth in the Rule.¹² Absent further analysis to quantify project-related air quality emissions, the IS/MND’s

⁹ IS/MND, Section 3.2.3, pg. 17.

¹⁰ IS/MND, Section 3.2.3, pg. 16.

¹¹ IS/MND, Section 3.2.3, pg. 16.

¹² Air District Rule 104, Subsection C.1.

conclusion that the project will not have a significant impact on air quality is not supported by substantial evidence. In sum, the IS/MND's air quality analysis is insufficient, and the project has the potential to result in unmitigable cumulative air quality impacts.

Energy

The IS/MND's conclusory analysis of energy resources, particularly the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, is deficient. It fails to acknowledge the substantial amount of fuel expected to be consumed during motorsports events and music events, let alone quantify the amount. That the Fairground currently has facilities capable of powering events is not a sufficient substitute for the critical evaluation of a project's energy consumption required by CEQA.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The IS/MND's analysis of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions underestimates the range of sources of potential GHG emissions created by the project. In addition to passenger vehicles travelling to events, the IS/MND also states that flat track racing motorcycles would produce GHG emissions. But there are other sources of GHG emissions generated from trucks and other vehicles participating in the project's other motorsports events. In addition, we assume that gas-powered generators will be used as part of the temporary staging for music events. As a result, the IS/MND's analysis of GHG impacts is incomplete and not supported by substantial evidence.

Hazards and Hazardous Substances

The IS/MND summarily concludes that the project does not involve the emission or handling of hazardous materials and substances within one-quarter mile of an existing school, even though the Fairgrounds are located adjacent to Ferndale High School. The proposed motorsports events at the Fairgrounds, especially the monster truck events, will require the storage and handling of large quantities of gasoline. In some cases, high octane racing fuel may be used. Under provisions of California law, petroleum and oil products are considered hazardous substances.¹³ Therefore, the project has the potential to cause a significant and unavoidable impact involving the emission or handling of hazardous substances within one-quarter mile of an existing school. This constitutes a significant and unavoidable impact that must be fully evaluated in an EIR.

¹³ See, e.g., Code of Civil Procedure Section 726.5.

Land Use and Planning

As a preliminary matter, the MND asserts that “activities at the site are exempt from the city [of Ferndale]’s zoning and land use regulations.”¹⁴ To support this conclusion, the MND cites to the Third District Court of Appeal’s opinion in *Lawler v. City of Redding*, but with no explanation as to how and why that case applies to the Project.¹⁵ The *Lawler* case recognizes the principle that, pursuant to Government Code Sections 53090 and 53091, cities and counties enjoy an intergovernmental immunity with respect to building and zoning regulations, including their respective general plans.¹⁶ In the typical case, for example, a city zoning regulation would not apply to county-owned land within the city’s limits, and vice versa. But intergovernmental immunity is not unlimited and should not constrain the analysis of a project’s environmental impacts under CEQA.

Humboldt County may only confer its immunity from City zoning regulations via a lease to a private party, such as the Humboldt County Fair Association or an event promoter, for the purpose of conducting a county fair and related activities. The California Attorney General has concluded that a county’s immunity does not extend to purely private uses.¹⁷ This is especially true if the purpose of the proposed project is merely to generate revenue for the Association or a concert promoter. In this case, the specific purpose of this project is to permit motorsport and concert events outside of the six-week period in August and September when the Humboldt County Fair occurs.

As a result, the Humboldt County Fair Association bears the burden of proving that its use of the Fairgrounds for motorsport and concert events—outside of the County Fair dates—qualifies for the County’s immunity from City building and zoning regulations. The IS/MND provides no evidence to support its conclusion that the City of Ferndale’s zoning regulations do not apply to the proposed project.

Nevertheless, the IS/MND endeavors to analyze the project’s consistency with the Ferndale General Plan Land Use Element and Zoning Ordinance, as it should. These planning documents constitute plans and regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The project site is zoned as Public Facility (PF) in the Ferndale Zoning Ordinance, which permits “public fairgrounds and related uses.”¹⁸ However, the PF zone provides no indication that such “related uses” would include “concert venues” or “automobile

¹⁴ IS/MND, Section 2.2.2, pg. 6.

¹⁵ 7 Cal.App.4th 778 (1992).

¹⁶ *Id.* at 784.

¹⁷ 68 Cal.Ops.Atty.Gen. 114 (1985).

¹⁸ City of Ferndale Zoning Ordinance, Section 5.17.1.

racetracks.” Indeed, Section 7.05 of the Ferndale Zoning Ordinance specifically states that “no open-air . . . theater, automobile racetrack, . . . or similar assemblage of people and automobiles shall be permitted in any zone unless a use permit is first secured in each case.” Thus, even if these uses were related to the Fairgrounds, they are not permitted by right. The City recognizes that such assembly uses must be conditioned to mitigate their impacts through the issuance of a use permit. As a result, the IS/MND’s conclusion that the project is “consistent with the uses allowed in the public facility zoning designation as a public Fairgrounds related use” is incorrect. The project would cause a significant and unavoidable conflict with a land use plan intended to avoid or mitigate environmental effects.

Even assuming that the project is immune from the City’s building and zoning regulations, the IS/MND makes no attempt to determine whether the project is consistent with any applicable County land use plan policy or regulation, including its general plan and zoning ordinance adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating environmental effects. Friends of Ferndale believes that the proposed project is inconsistent with the following goals and policies of the County general plan:

- Noise Element Goal N-G1. Excessive Noise. A quiet and healthful environment with limited disagreeable noise. N-G2. Incompatible Land Uses. Land uses arranged to reduce annoyance and complaints and minimize the exposure of community residents to excessive noise.
- Noise Element Policy N-P1. Minimize Noise from Stationary and Mobile Sources. Minimize stationary noise sources and noise emanating from temporary activities by applying appropriate standards for average and short-term noise levels during permit review and subsequent monitoring.
- Noise Policy N-P2. Guide to Land Use Planning. Evaluate current noise levels and mitigate projected noise levels when making community planning and zoning decisions to minimize the exposure of community residents to nuisance noise levels. Minimize vehicular and aircraft noise exposure by planning land uses compatible with transportation corridors and airports, and applying noise attenuation designs and construction standards. Avoid zoning patterns that permit people to “move to the nuisance” unless mitigated through project conditions or recorded notice.
- Noise Policy N-P4. Protection from Excessive Noise. Protect persons from existing or future excessive levels of noise which interfere with sleep, communication, relaxation, health or legally permitted use of property.

- Noise Standard N-S3. Environmental Review Process. For noise sensitive locations where noise contours do not exist, the environmental review process required by the California Environmental Quality Act shall be utilized to generate the required analysis and determine the appropriate mitigation per Plan and state standards. Future noise levels shall be predicted for a period of at least 10 years from the time of building permit application.
- Economic Development Goal ED-G4. Cooperation and Collaboration. Productive partnerships with cities, neighboring counties, and the private sector that build and enhance common assets and resolve common obstacles.
- Conservation and Open Space Goal CO-G6 Community Separation. Open space areas between urban development areas that separate and preserve unique identities of the county's cities and communities.
- Conservation and Open Space Policy CO-P6. Community Separation. Maintain separation of urbanized communities through appropriate land use designations and zoning density. Avoid merging urban development boundaries of adjacent communities.
- Conservation and Open Space Policy CO-P8. Planning for Recreational Needs within Communities. Policies addressing community recreational needs shall be prepared as part of planning efforts within each community. Implement park in-lieu fee programs in major communities.

This list of conflicting goals and policies of the County general plan is not intended to be exhaustive, but is illustrative of the careful consideration of the project's consistency with land use plans required under CEQA. A similar consistency analysis should be conducted for the City's general plan. In sum, the IS/MND's conclusion that the project is consistent with the City's and County's zoning and general plans is not supported by substantial evidence because all relevant policies and regulations have not been considered.

Noise

Friends of Ferndale is especially concerned about the noise impact caused by the fourteen proposed concert and motorsport events at the Fairgrounds, given the Fairgrounds' proximity to the adjacent high school and nearby residential uses. It is clear from the IS/MND's noise impact studies that the noise generated by both motorsport and concert events will be

normally unacceptable, even with the proposed mitigation.¹⁹ Due to the surrounding terrain in and around the Fairgrounds, we expect that noise will reflect off of the grandstands and nearby hills in a way that has not been fully addressed in the IS/MND. This finding alone calls for greater scrutiny and consideration of the project's noise impacts through the preparation of an EIR. Furthermore, there are serious questions about the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures. For example, are hay bales an effective form of sound mitigation and can they be erected at a sufficient scale to shield all sensitive receptors from loud nighttime music? If so, why is a similar physical barrier not proposed as mitigation for the motorsport events? At minimum, sound walls that achieve a high-level of noise attenuation should be considered as feasible mitigation measures. Late night event noise will have an especially significant impact on Ferndale's older population that calls for implementing all feasible mitigation.

As demonstrated by the attached "Review of Noise Impact Study for Humboldt County Fairgrounds" (the "Noise Review") prepared by Noise Monitoring Services, the IS/MND's noise studies do not fully account for the full range of noise generated by the events and, furthermore, the mitigation measures are inadequate to reduce noise levels below the thresholds of significance. The Noise Review finds that the IS/MND contains no analysis of the potential noise impacts caused by motorsport events, other than motorcycles. This is especially concerning with respect to monster trucks, given that the IS/MND's only attempt to quantify truck noise derives from a local newspaper story that found the sounds levels were between 80-95 decibels and well above the threshold of significance.²⁰ The Noise Review's expert opinion provided by the Noise Review provides substantial evidence that the proposed project will have a significant and potentially unmitigable noise impact.

Public Services

The IS/MND states that "[t]here is no reason to expect that authorizing use of the Fairgrounds for additional events would result in a significant increase in demand for public services."²¹ This conclusion is not supported by any evidence, and Friends of Ferndale believes that the project will very likely result in an increased demand for fire and police services. The mere fact that the Fairgrounds regularly hosts public gatherings during the annual County Fair does not excuse an evaluation of public resources required to host fourteen additional events with up to 10,000 attendees each. Security and police services are necessary to safely control crowds of that size. And, fire and paramedic resources must be on site in order to conduct safe motorsport events. As a result, the project has the potential to cause a significant effect on public services.

¹⁹ IS/MND, Section 3.2.13, pg. 30.

²⁰ IS/MND, Section 3.2.13, pg. 31.

²¹ IS/MND Section 3.2.15, pg. 36.

Transportation/Traffic

Under the recently revised CEQA Guidelines, a project's traffic impacts are now evaluated based on "vehicle miles travelled" or VMT attributable to a project.²² Lead agencies were required to begin implementing VMT methodologies as of July 1, 2020. However, as acknowledged in the IS/MND, Humboldt County has not yet adopted local guidance for evaluating VMT impacts. As a result, the IS/MND utilizes a qualitative analysis to measure project-related VMT.

Although the CEQA Guidelines authorize a qualitative analysis where an existing model or method is unavailable,²³ we do not believe this exception was intended to address situations where the only limitation is a lead agency's failure to adopt VMT thresholds by the July 1st deadline. Lead agencies across the state have adopted ad hoc quantitative methodologies in order to analyze traffic impacts pending final approval of their own VMT guidance. In this case, we see no reason why the project's VMT could not be fairly estimated through a quantitative model based on anticipated event attendance and estimated trips from population centers throughout the County.

Moreover, the qualitative analysis provided in the IS/MND is flawed. The analysis provides no baseline of existing conditions against which to measure the project's VMT increase. It merely provides one example of an equivalent facility within the County, the Redwood Acres facility in Eureka. The IS/MND does not compare the project against baseline conditions. Unless a qualitative analysis of VMT is conducted, the public and decision-makers will have no feasible way to estimate the increase in traffic caused by the additional fourteen events at the Fairgrounds.

Mandatory Findings of Significance

The project may have impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable, meaning that incremental effects of the project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probable future projects. Fourteen additional music and motorsports events will be held at the Fairgrounds, in addition to other events held historically held at the Fairgrounds throughout the year and the annual County Fair in August and September. The IS/MND does not indicate whether those other events at the Fairgrounds have been evaluated under CEQA. An adequate analysis of cumulative impacts

²² 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15064.3.

²³ 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15064.3(c).

would consider the added impacts of this project in conjunction with the other Fairground events. The IS/MND fails to provide this required analysis. As such, the cumulative impacts analysis is flawed and an EIR should be prepared to analyze such impacts.

Conclusion

“CEQA requires the preparation of an EIR whenever substantial evidence supports a fair argument that a [project] will cause potentially significant adverse environmental impacts.”²⁴ California courts view the “fair argument” as a very low threshold for requiring the preparation of an EIR.²⁵

Based on the foregoing, a fair argument exists that the project will have significant effects on the environment in the areas of Aesthetics, Air Quality, GHG, Hazards and Hazardous Substances, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Public Services, and Transportation/Traffic. Friends of Ferndale has provided substantial evidence that the proposed project will have potentially significant impacts. We have also identified areas where the mitigations set forth in the IS/MND are insufficient to insure that all impacts will be mitigated to less than significant levels. Finally, we have identified areas where adequate analysis has not been completed, and must be completed in order to comply with CEQA’s policies regarding full disclosure of potential impacts. In sum, the expanded use of the Fairgrounds for music and motorsport events will most likely have a significant effect on the adjacent high school and residents living several hundred feet away.²⁶

Friends of Ferndale appreciates the opportunity to comment on the IS/MND because it views the fourteen events proposed by this project as a potential “gateway” to even more intensive uses of the Fairgrounds over time. Once a new baseline of fourteen events is established, the County may view each new additional event thereafter as a minor incremental change. From a CEQA perspective, this could mean that future additions are not subject to environmental review. Thus, it is important that this initial proposal be fully evaluated under CEQA so that the public has a complete picture of the impacts proposed by music and motorsport events at the Fairgrounds.

²⁴ *Cty. Sanitation Dist. No. 2 v. Cty. of Kern*, 127 Cal.App.4th 1544, 1558 (2005).

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ See, e.g., *Lewis v. Seventeenth Dist. Agric. Assn.*, 165 Cal.App.3d 823 (1985) (finding a probable environmental effect from a racetrack located approximately one mile from residences).

Given the significance of this project, Friends of Ferndale respectfully requests a continuance of the Planning Commission's consideration of the conditional use permit and IS/MND so that it has sufficient time to carefully consider these comments and those submitted by others. To be sure, a mere reduction in the number of events should not be considered as a means to expeditiously mitigate impacts. Each proposed event will cause impacts that must be fully analyzed under CEQA.

Should the County wish to pursue this challenging project further, an EIR must be prepared in accordance with the public participation and public disclosure purposes underlying CEQA. If the County approves the conditional use permit and lease amendment with the Humboldt County Fair Association without preparing an EIR or significantly reducing the project's scope, then Friends of Ferndale will have no choice but to explore potential legal options to protect the neighboring community from this project's significant environmental impacts.

Friends of Ferndale reserves its right to submit additional comments as deemed appropriate.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Nicholas R. Ghirelli

Attachment: Noise Monitoring Services Review of Noise Impact Study for Humboldt County Fairgrounds

cc: Laurence S. Wiener, Richards, Watson & Gershon

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August 21, 2020

Friends of Ferndale for a Livable Community
C/O Nicholas Ghirelli, Richards, Watson & Gershon

Subject: Review of Noise Impact Study for Humboldt County Fairgrounds

Dear Mr. Ghirelli,

As requested, we have reviewed the *Noise Impact Study: Flat Track Racing at Humboldt County Fairgrounds* (August 2018) and the *Noise Study Addendum: Open Air Concerts Rev 2* (February 11, 2020), prepared by Whitchurch Engineering.

The noise impact study and its addendum concern the increased use of the venue for motorsports events and concerts, which are proposed to be held between March and October outside of the 6-week period in August and September associated with the Humboldt County Fair setup, operation, and cleanup. It is proposed that up to four motorsports events and ten concerts will be held at the venue each year excepting the six-week period August 1st through September 15th. The motorsports events will generally involve motorcycle racing. However, one of the motorsport events each year may include monster trucks and the mitigated negative declaration's project description identifies tractor pulls, 4x4 truck events, and go carts as other possible events.

The nearest sensitive receptors are residences within the City of Ferndale on Arlington Avenue, Main Street and Van Ness Avenue; a school on Main Street; and residences in unincorporated Humboldt County on Van Ness Avenue.

On reviewing the Whitchurch noise study, we conclude it contains several omissions and unrealistic assumptions that lead to misleading conclusions. Ambient noise levels have not been adequately documented. The declaration document contradicts the conclusions of the noise study, which indicates that noise levels will exceed the County's noise standards even when mitigation is incorporated. The study also contains estimates of interior noise levels that are based on unrealistic assumptions. These issues are explained in more detail below.

Noise Standards

Although the project site is located within the City of Ferndale, according to the noise study the noise standards that apply to the project are those contained in the Humboldt General Plan.

The Humboldt County General Plan contains noise standards that apply at interior and exterior areas of sensitive uses. For residential properties, an exterior Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) of up to 60 dBA is considered 'normally acceptable'. CNEL's are calculated by averaging the sound level over a period of 24 hours after applying a correction to the evening and nighttime noise levels to account for the increased sensitivity to noise during these periods. The required interior CNEL in habitable rooms is 45 dBA.

The General Plan also contains short-term performance standards for various land uses. These performance standards are provided as maximum noise levels (Lmax). For residential uses, the Lmax may not exceed 65 dBA during the daytime hours (6 am to 10 pm) or 60 dBA during the nighttime hours (10 pm to 6 am). These short-term standards do not apply to temporary events in conformance with an approved Conditional Use Permit

When a discretionary project has the potential to generate noise levels in excess of the General Plan standards, a noise study is required to assure compliance with the standards. The noise study must include measured or modeled CNEL's and Lmax levels at property lines and receptor locations.

Ambient Sound Levels

As part of the noise study, Whitchurch obtained ambient measurements at one location during two 2-hour daytime periods. The measurements were obtained between 8 am and 10 am, and between 2 pm and 4 pm on Thursday, June 21 and Friday, June 22, 2018 at a location south of the site on Arlington Avenue. These measurements were used to estimate the ambient 24-hour CNEL at this location. The report states that the primary sources of ambient noise were traffic on Arlington Avenue and residential noise sources, including mowers and power tools.

In our opinion, these measurements are inadequate to document existing ambient noise conditions in the project vicinity. A single measurement location cannot represent the range of noise levels that will be present in the area. This noise measurement was obtained at the residential property line closest to the road. It would be expected that properties on other roads in the area will be exposed to different ambient noise levels. Furthermore, the method used to estimate the CNEL from the short-term measurement is unlikely to lead to a reliable estimate. Whitchurch has estimated the ambient CNEL by assuming that the noise levels measured during the brief measurements would be constant throughout a 24-hour period. In reality, traffic noise is invariably much quieter during the nighttime hours. It is safe to assume that there would also be minimal noise from residential sources at night. These factors have not been accounted for in the study's CNEL estimates. The estimated ambient CNEL's have therefore almost certainly been significantly overestimated. It should also be noted that the measurements were obtained on weekdays, when traffic patterns may be different to weekend days when ambient noise may be lower.

In any environmental noise study, it is important to document the existing ambient noise levels. To properly document ambient sound levels, 24-hour sound measurements should be obtained at a selection of sensitive receptors in the area that are potentially impacted by the project. The measurement program

should include sensitive receptors in quieter areas located away from roads to ensure that worst-case (lowest) ambient noise levels are documented. The CNEL levels should be directly measured and should not be estimated from brief measurements. If the proposed events at the facility are to be held at weekends then the ambient measurements should be obtained on weekend days. Until these measurements are performed, it is not possible to comprehensively assess the project's noise impact by comparing motorsports and concert noise levels against the existing ambient noise levels.

Due to the frequency and ongoing nature of the proposed events, the project should be treated as one that will result in a permanent increase in ambient noise. In our experience, a common approach to minimizing the impact of this type of project is to limit the noise to below the existing ambient sound level. This approach ensures the project noise never increases the overall noise level by more than 3 dBA, which is considered a 'barely perceptible' increase.

Motorsport Event Assessment

The Whitchurch report includes estimates of interior and exterior noise levels at the nearby sensitive receptors during motorcycle racing events. The estimated noise levels are derived from actual motorcycle racing event noise at the track. No analysis is presented for monster truck events or other possible motorsports events. In our opinion the estimated unmitigated noise levels of 93.4 dBA Lmax and 77.4 dBA CNEL at the receptors on Arlington Avenue, and 93.7 dBA Lmax and 75.7 dBA CNEL at the receptors on Highway 211 have been calculated appropriately and are valid. The report includes estimated mitigated noise levels based on reduced hours of racing, reduced number of racers and mitigated motorcycle exhaust systems. It is noted that even with all possible mitigation measures (ie. the shortest racing duration, fewest number of racers and maximum exhaust mitigation) the estimated noise levels still exceed the County's general plan standard of 60 dBA CNEL at sensitive receptors. This undermines the 'Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated' declaration in the Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. Mitigated Lmax levels have not been fully addressed in the report (presumably to avoid having to declare a significant impact). However, based on the information contained in the report, it may be concluded that fully mitigated motorcycle racing events will produce noise levels up to 80 dBA at the nearest residences. They will therefore exceed County's exterior daytime Lmax limit of 65 dBA by as much as 15 dBA. As previously stated, a comparison of the motorsport event noise levels against the existing ambient sound levels is absent from the noise study. The absence of any analysis for monster truck events and other motorsport events means that noise due to motorsport events has not been fully assessed.

Section 4.4.2 of the Whitchurch study states that interior noise levels at nearby residences will be between 14.4 dB and 53.4 dB during peak, intermittent events. This estimate is based on applying a 40 dB correction to the estimated exterior Lmax noise levels to account for the noise reduction of the building walls. The study references Gypsum Association's *"Fire Resistance Design Manual and Sound Control: GA-600-2006"* as a source of this information. Our review of this document indicates it contains no such guidance. Furthermore, multiple sources indicate this assumption is unrealistic for wood-framed

residential structures. Commonly quoted noise reductions for residential wood-frame buildings are 20 to 25 dB of reduction. Sources that quote this exterior-to-interior reduction include the Caltrans *Technical Noise Supplement to the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol* (2013) and the FHWA *Highway Traffic Noise: Analysis and Abatement Guidance* (2011).

These documents indicate that exterior-to-interior noise reductions above 30 dB may be achieved with masonry walls, or buildings with curtain walls. Since many of the buildings close to the site are older wood-frame structures, a suitable assumption for their exterior-to-interior noise reduction is 20 dB. The actual interior noise levels are likely to be 20 dBA higher than stated in the Whitchurch report. Based on an assumed exterior-to-interior sound reduction of 20 dB, the interior noise levels will exceed the County's interior noise limit of 45 dBA CNEL for any scenario where the exterior level exceeds 65 dBA CNEL. Most of the mitigated scenarios presented in Table 8 of the Whitchurch report will therefore result in an exceedance of the interior noise limits.

Concert Assessment

The Whitchurch noise study addendum assesses the noise impact of concerts using reference concert sound level data as a basis. Concerts may begin between 6 pm and 7 pm, and end between 10 pm and 10:30 pm. The report indicates that unmitigated noise levels will significantly exceed the County's CNEL and Lmax noise standards for residential properties. The study proposes a combination of reduced concert durations, sound walls and concert sound monitoring to reduce noise levels at sensitive receptors. The study provides anticipated noise reductions due to the sound wall of between 18.2 and 21.6 dB. In our experience in designing acoustical barriers, reductions this high are rare. The actual reduction will be dependent on the frequency spectrum of the source, the source and barrier heights, and the distances from the source to the barrier and the barrier to the receptor. It is not clear how Whitchurch have calculated the expected barrier performance. However, we would recommend a full 3D sound modeling study to determine the actual barrier performance. This will enable noise maps to be produced showing how the sound will spread into the community and aid in the decision-making process.

The issues with the assessment of concerts are broadly the same as those discussed above for motorsports events. The study indicates that even with a fully mitigated concert event, the noise levels will still exceed the County's CNEL noise standard of 60 dBA CNEL. The study does not address compliance with the County's Lmax noise standards (and in fact provides some evidence that this standard will be significantly exceeded). The study does not address concert noise levels relative to ambient sound levels (as noted above, ambient sound levels have not been adequately documented and a comprehensive assessment is not currently possible). The concert analysis again assumes an unrealistic exterior-to-interior noise reduction of 40 dBA, and is likely underestimating interior noise levels by about 20 dBA.

Summary

In summary, the Whitchurch noise study is deficient in multiple areas. These are:

- Ambient sound levels in the community have not been adequately documented. The ambient sound levels stated in the report are highly likely to have been overestimated due to unrealistic assumptions concerning noise made by traffic throughout the day. The report does not propose a threshold of significance, or assess motorsports noise or concert noise against existing ambient sound levels.
- The 'Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated' declaration in the Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration contradicts the analysis in the noise study, which shows that motorsports event and concert noise levels will exceed the County's General Plan CNEL noise standards. The noise study fails to properly analyze the motorsports event and concert Lmax noise levels. However, it provides enough evidence to indicate that the County's exterior Lmax noise standard will be significantly exceeded.
- The study fails to address the noise levels or the impacts produced by monster truck events or other possible motorsport events.
- The study makes unrealistic and unjustified assumptions concerning the exterior-to-interior noise reduction that will be achieved by the nearby residential structures. When this is corrected for, the data in the study indicates exceedances of the County's interior noise standards during both motorsports events and concerts.

Sincerely,



Thomas Corbishley, MEng (Hons)
Member, Institute of Noise Control Engineering
Principal Consultant

Curriculum Vitae

Thomas T. Corbishley

Position: Principal Consultant, Noise Monitoring Services (2013-)

Prior Positions: Environmental Noise Control (2009-2016)
Engineering Manager

Wieland Acoustics, Inc. (2006-2009)
Associate Acoustical Consultant

University of Southampton, UK (2006)
Engineer

Fluid & Acoustic, Ltd (2003-2004)
Research Engineer

Education: Institute of Sound and Vibration Research (ISVR), University of Southampton, UK

Master of Engineering (MEng) in Acoustical Engineering
Graduated with First Class Honors

Memberships: Member, Institute of Noise Control Engineering (INCE)

Courses: Advanced Analysis Course, Brüel & Kjaer
SoundPLAN Computer Noise Modeling Course

Mr. Corbishley is an experienced engineer and project manager with 15 years of experience in the field of acoustical consulting. He has managed a wide variety of projects and led teams of acoustical engineers in producing numerous noise studies. As an engineer with a strong educational and theoretical background in acoustical principles, as well as extensive experience as a consultant, he brings effective project management and strong analytical and problem-solving skills to the projects.

Types of projects managed include long and short-term sound and vibration monitoring programs, EIR noise studies, new-build residential, commercial and office building noise studies, carwash noise studies, studies for hotels, restaurants and bars, interior noise criterion (NC) and reverberation assessments, OSHA noise assessments, water well drilling studies, oil & gas drilling, fracking and production facility studies, mechanical equipment noise certification, traffic and railroad noise studies, shooting range noise analyses, municipal code compliance assessments, blasting and mining noise studies and factory noise studies.

Recent Project Information

The following list provides examples of recent projects completed:

Edinger Bridge Construction, Huntington Beach, CA

Our services on this project include underwater (hydroacoustic) monitoring of noise levels during the installation of bridge piles during three construction phases. Noise levels were measured in accordance with FHWG guidelines. Our onsite personnel provided real-time noise level data to the County, as well as advice on mitigation measures (use of bubble curtains and the effect of water levels on noise).

Lemon Well Drilling, Bradbury, CA

Work included water well drilling noise modeling before construction to determine mitigation measures required to achieve compliance with the City's noise limits. Compliance measurements were performed during drilling.

Well 110 Replacement Project, Temecula, CA

Noise modeling was performed to determine mitigation measures required to achieve compliance with the Rancho California Water District noise limits.

Porsche Experience Center, Carson, CA

This long-term ongoing project requires noise monitoring of a new Porsche race track near Los Angeles. Currently, Phase 1 noise monitoring requires weekly site visits and monthly reporting of sound levels relative the project's Conditions of Use. Future phases will include intensive, continuous monitoring as the surrounding areas are built up.

Don Pedro Reservoir Transmission Line Construction, Jamestown, CA

The project involved vibration monitoring adjacent to a reservoir during drilling for the construction of transmission lines crossing the water. Due to an existing underground pipe, the specifications required construction to be halted if vibration levels exceeded a pre-determined threshold. NMS wrote the monitoring plan and provided monitoring equipment that provided instantaneous vibration warnings.

Marine Pump Sound and Vibration Certification, Tustin, CA

Sound and tri-axial vibration testing of marine pumps and water separators to the requirements of the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) Guide for Crew Habitability on Offshore Installations. The pumps were tested for the purpose of certification before their installation on shipping vessels. Full testing reports with documentation of test methodology and data were generated for various pieces of equipment.

Pile Driving Vibration Monitoring, Los Angeles International Airport, CA

This project involved the monitoring of vibration produced by ABI machines during the installation of shoring associated with the construction of the new Tom Bradley International Terminal at LAX. Both unattended and attended vibration monitoring services were provided for multiple contractors for the project.

Condo Vibration Assessment, Alhambra, CA

Project involved interior floor vibration measurements caused by a restaurant's kitchen extraction system fans. The vibration was assessed against the Federal Transit Administration's groundbourne vibration criteria before and after the installation of resilient mounts on the equipment.

Noise Analysis for Mixed-Use Development, Glendale, CA

An exterior-to-interior noise analysis was performed for a proposed mixed-use project in Glendale that included residential and commercial uses. Future estimated traffic noise was modeled at the site using three-dimensional noise modeling software. Construction recommendations were provided for the buildings, including the required Sound Transmission Class (STC) ratings for the windows and doors.

Cafe Reverberation Testing, Los Angeles, CA

Noise level and reverberation time testing inside a café to determine solutions to reduce the sound level of an extraction unit and specify the quantity of placement of acoustically absorptive material to install. Solutions to reduce noise levels were provided for the extractor and HVAC fans generating the noise and product and installation recommendations for sound absorptive panels.

Construction Noise Analysis for Riverbank Replacement, Los Angeles, CA

Work involved the prediction of noise levels during various phases of construction and design of noise mitigation measures to achieve the specified noise limits using three-dimensional noise modeling software. The work was performed for several individual project sites along the river.

Bolt Factory Noise Assessment, Carson, CA

Workplace noise assessment in a bolt factory. The project involved establishing worker locations where compliance with OSHA noise limits was not being achieved and designing mitigation measures to reduce noise exposure levels. Solutions were provided to reduce the noise generation at the sources and mitigate sound transmission paths with the use of acoustical enclosures, barriers and absorptive panels.

Pipeline Replacement Sound and Vibration Monitoring, Ventura County, CA

The work involved the production of a Noise and Vibration Control Plan with construction noise analysis and mitigation requirements for a horizontal directional drilling operation. Sound and vibration was monitored throughout the project and daily monitoring reports produced.

Pile Driving Vibration Monitoring, Hollywood, CA

Continuous vibration monitoring during soldier pile installation by a vibratory method using ABI machines. Vibration was monitored and assessed against the project specifications. Compliance was monitored in real time by a technician at the site and daily monitoring reports were provided to the client.

Sheet Pile Installation and Removal Vibration Monitoring, San Jose, CA

Vibration monitoring during the installation and removal of sheet piling for a grade separation project in San Jose. Monitoring was performed adjacent to residences by an on-site technician and data reports were provided daily to the client.

Construction Noise Monitoring during Water Tank Replacement, Beverly Hills, CA

Continuous noise monitoring during construction activities associated with the rebuilding of water tanks. Weekly monitoring reports were provided, which included an assessment of impact relative to the County of Los Angeles construction noise limits.

Oil Production Site Environmental Impact Report Noise Study, Hermosa Beach, CA

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) noise study for an urban oil production site in Hermosa Beach. The project involved computer modeling and analysis of noise for all construction, drilling and production phases and an assessment of traffic noise and vibration. Mitigation measures were designed to eliminate significant noise impacts and achieve local City ordinances and General Plan noise standards.

Noise Modeling of Gas Production Facilities, Queensland, Australia

Noise levels were modeled for three natural gas processing and compression facilities along a proposed pipeline route. The noise levels were predicted using SoundPLAN three-dimensional noise modeling software with noise levels based on manufacturer equipment data. Mitigation systems were designed to meet compliance with stringent noise limits at nearby residences under a variety of climate conditions.

Freeway Traffic Noise Assessment and Study Review, Santa Barbara, CA

Work involved reviewing a Caltrans freeway study to review sound wall recommendations on a section of freeway adjacent to residences. Noise measurements were obtained to determine the traffic noise levels at the residences and assess the adequacy of modeling assumptions.

Code Compliance Assessment for Industrial Facility, Lynwood, CA

Noise measurements were obtained for an industrial facility adjacent to a residential area where complaints about the facility's truck noise had been received. The measurements were made in order to verify whether noise citations had been correctly issued.