

April 28, 2022

Humboldt County Planning Commission
Via email: planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us

Regarding: Nava Ranch, LLC: Honeydew Area, Record Number PLN-2021-17162 (filed 4/15/2021) Special Permit for expansion of approved project PLN12657-SP

Commissioners:

The mission of the County of Humboldt is to "protect and serve our community and to earn the public's trust through compassion and accountability". The Bureau of Land Management's mission is to "sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations". Over 99 percent of BLM-managed lands are open to hunting, fishing and recreational shooting opportunities. The BLM provides important access to hunting and fishing opportunities on public lands and waters, working with local communities and our valued partners to actively expand access to these opportunities.

Unfortunately these two missions collide when the County allows property owners to erect a locked gate preventing use of an easement and thus, access to *our* public lands.

Specifically: the Nava Ranch in Honeydew, Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 107-106-006, has an easement to provide public access to the King Range National Conservation Area. And yet, the County of Humboldt and the Planning Department apparently have no problem allowing the landowner to construct and maintain a locked gate rendering this public easement impassable. How is this possible?

As an outdoorsman, I take every opportunity to enjoy these public lands. I appreciate that some public land is constrained by private land and requires special permissions. I am also a taxpayer and when an easement is granted I expect it to be available.

If this is the first the County is hearing of this, please accept this complaint as a call to action. If instead the County allows this type of infraction to go unanswered, I am concerned particularly with respect to the County's mission of "accountability". In either case, I would appreciate a response.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.



Allen Swank
Resident: Fortuna CA



