

March 28, 2021

Dear Humboldt County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing today in regard to the Rising Goat cannabis cultivation permit recently approved by the Planning Commission, with conditions attached. I have been a resident of the Overland Subdivision for over 21 years and am an appropriative domestic water rights holder registered with the state for a spring located at the top of the subdivision. I share the spring with five other properties. In the ensuing years, we have all noted a dramatic decrease in the amount of water during the dry summer months. In fact, we have all been forced to decrease our daily water intake during the dry months usually by greater than half, based on the spring's output. This has not been easy and we have ultimately been able to work together to maintain a situation where everyone has an equal amount of water commensurate with availability and need to preserve the water ecosystem.

We were not informed in a timely manner of the Rising Goat application, only being told in December of 2020, when approval was almost a foregone conclusion. The issues are being spelled out in other places, so I will only summarize my profound concerns with the situation. We, in the subdivision, are downstream senior water rights holders and the well in question is very close to all of the springs used by our properties. It is almost inconceivable that the two are not connected and the initial well drillers report would seem to indicate this. We are looking forward to a hydrogeology report but it seems reasonable in any case, that forbearance is the only way to guarantee that all the families here continue to be able to live and thrive with the water resource available. As I have discussed in a prior letter to the Planning Commission, it would be more than untenable if this experiment decimated our water to the point that our properties became unlivable and unsellable. And in this, another drought year, there may be no return, if the water table is negatively altered. No one here is opposed to legal cannabis cultivation in theory, but we are all opposed, in reality, to cultivation that can lead to the depletion of the water resource to the point that no one wins.

This is the time when the general business theory in Humboldt County for legal cultivation has to bow to the basic needs of the people for adequate water to maintain themselves, their families, and properties. We are the people who live here and we are your constituents and as such, we request that you consider our appeal in the only way that ensures, not only our water, but our dignity as property owners and stewards of our lands. Anyone who lived through the fire season last year in southern Humboldt County knows the extreme gravity of this situation. We need you, our elected representatives, to help us continue to live and thrive here in this part of the county, that we love.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shirley M. Hillman

## **Comment by Paul Jacobsen on Rising Goat for Planning Commission meeting 2-18-21**

At the end of the last meeting Mr. Soares said no one ever complained about the well. There is a reason for this. Over the years I've asked about the well a number of times. The first time was soon after the well was drilled with a representative of Water Resources. He assured me there was very little reason for concern because the well was metered and there would be no pumping after May. I talked with Mitch Leffel, Jr. (property owner) at least three times in the past and Ryan Parker, CEO, once very recently. Each time I was assured they barely used the well at all. Instead they used the spring located above Dyerville Loop. I believed what I was told so I didn't step forward to complain. Now that is being used as a justification for even more well use. So when our Spring output went down to a third of its normal flow last summer I assumed it was drought related. Seems I might have been wrong.

With all this taken into account if there is any well water used in the summer I'd like to know how it is going to be monitored. I think we should be able to read the meter on the well. And some way to know if the groundwater is recharging. What course of action will we have if things aren't working out.

It is mystifying to me why they would choose to pump water in the summer when it is not clear what the result will be for the whole neighborhood. If he was allowed to divert water he has a very significant water source above Dyerville Loop that could be stored during the winter months to use in summer. As planners it seems you might have the ability to allow for this diversion so they can practice Forbearance in the summer months. So I appeal to you to consider this.

One thing I can guarantee you is, the tension created by an unnecessary shortage of water is not going to go away. There needs to be a solution that preserves our domestic water.