

Sharp, Ryan

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**From:** Wilson, Mike  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 16, 2018 9:02 AM  
**To:** Sharp, Ryan  
**Subject:** Fwd: Humboldt County Fair Association lease

Please print this letter and the associated agenda item.

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Mike Wilson P.E.  
Humboldt County Supervisor, District 3  
(707) 476-2393

Sent from cell phone.

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**From:** Caroline Titus <editor@ferndaleenterprise.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 15, 2018 5:14:34 PM  
**To:** Quincey, Sean; Mattson, Tom; Bass, Virginia; Fennell, Estelle; Wilson, Mike; Sundberg, Ryan  
**Subject:** Humboldt County Fair Association lease

Hi, county staff and supervisors,  
For our story on the upcoming HCFA lease and its possible approval, we have a couple of questions.

1. Why would the county of Humboldt enable the HCFA to become less transparent to the public by allowing the HCFA to keep its minutes private and removing the public records portion of the lease?
2. With more than 98 percent of California's network of fairs (including state District Ag Associations and county fairs/non-profits) operating their meetings under the Brown Act, why does Humboldt County not insist that the entity it contracts with to manage and maintain public property conduct its meetings under the state's open meeting laws (as it had for decades prior)?
3. Was there any input taken from anyone besides the HCFA board of directors and its lawyers regarding the terms of the lease? With the 65-acre county fairgrounds situated within the city limits of Ferndale, was the city of Ferndale consulted on the terms of the new lease?
4. With the HCFA operating under the state's open meeting laws and the California Public Records Act for decades prior to this new lease, why is the county of Humboldt changing the terms of the lease to allow a self-appointed board to meet behind closed doors to manage public property and spend public funds?
5. The California Department of Food and Agriculture Division of Fairs and Expositions recommends that non-District Agriculture Associations should be governed by the Brown Act as a best practice. Why would the county of Humboldt not encourage transparency with a group of 18 self-appointed board members that manage a considerable publicly-owned asset?
6. Did the HCFA threaten to disband if its terms were not met during the negotiations of the new lease?

Thanks,

c.

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Caroline Titus  
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