

McClenagan, Laura

From: Marcia <mne145@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 4:20 PM
To: Planning Clerk
Subject: Special Permit PLN-2021-11786

Regarding a Special Permit for Parcel # 105071-006 on Chambers Road in Petrolia.

To the Humboldt County Zoning Administrator:

The request for a Special Permit to expand an existing agricultural enterprise in a rural housing area has special drawbacks because we do not have city water in Petrolia. Everyone needs to have well water for their families and livestock. Well water for trees and gardens. Well water for the wildlife, birds, lizards and even the bugs that feed the fish in the streams.

I am very concerned that the permit requested makes no provision for capturing rainwater and storing it for this agricultural project over the summer. No matter how excellent a well is, whether it be adjacent to a creek bed or even in it, all water taken from the ground affects ground water for every resident in the neighborhood. Draw down the water in one area and water for adjacent areas try to fill the void. Water does not respect property boundaries. Lack of well water nearby affects trees that depend upon reaching ground water during the long dry period of our Mediterranean climate. Without water trees are vulnerable to fire and we have very drying winds in Petrolia that further make ground water precious to trees and plants growing above ground. The wildlife forage all summer, now earlier and earlier, in daylight when their hides have no protection from the sun. Rural residents see this drama played out daily.

It is essential that the Humboldt County Planning Department take into consideration the current drought conditions and probable future drought conditions of the county. This is critical to make a fair and equitable decision regarding usage of land and the natural resources shared by all in this residential community.

The project represented by this Special Permit Application should have water that is captured during the rainy season, no matter how fine a well exists on the property. This may sound unreasonable but please consult with a hydrologist to understand just how interconnected all ground water is and how necessary it is to take this into consideration.

Respectfully submitter,
Marcia Ehrlich
Resident on Chambers Road
Petrolia, California

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