

From: [Rees Hughes](#)
To: [Planning Clerk](#)
Subject: Comment - Friends of the Dunes Trail and Habitat Restoration; Amendment to Permit
Date: Thursday, August 18, 2022 10:17:25 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Comment - Friends of the Dunes Trail and Habitat Restoration; Amendment to Permit
Record # PLN-9175-CDP
Now continued to the September 1, 2022 Meeting

To the Members of the Planning Commission,

First, I want to acknowledge the often thankless job you have. After sitting through the three and a half hours of the August 18, 2022 meeting waiting for consideration of the item of special interest to me, I came to appreciate your efforts to make reasonable and fair decisions on each item as you moved through the agenda. While most agenda items are not directly relevant to me, I will be grateful that you give the same care to my issue as you gave to this evening's agenda.

Unfortunately, by continuing the Friends of the Dunes Trail and Habitat Restoration to September 1st, I will be out-of-town for the meeting. I will admit to being frustrated by not being able to support this agenda item in person. Here is what I wanted to say this evening:

I have been a regular user of the dunes for more than 36 years. I have watched the thoughtful and consistent efforts of the Friends of the Dunes to restore and manage their holdings since 2007. The efforts to remove invasives, provide public access, and educate the community have been exemplary. In addition, they have strived to be good neighbors. The restoration work on the Friends of the Dunes nearly 120-acre property has attracted countless community members to come for a walk, to volunteer, to show guests, to botanize

For the last four years, the Friends of the Dunes organization has worked hard to update its Restoration Plan which has included a CEQA assessment.

I urge the Commission to approve the request to modify the Coastal Development Permit to integrate the 3.6 acre Barr Parcel into the larger holdings. I particularly applaud the effort to establish a single public trailhead with two maintained trails that connect with the rest of the trail system and the commitment to rehab the social trails in the area.

The updated Restoration and Management Plan has been carefully considered. Based upon the Friends of the Dunes' long and successful history of restoration activities without using herbicides and with considerable volunteer involvement, I feel confident the organization will continue to be committed stewards of the dunes. I hope that you will support the staff recommendations.

May your consent calendar be uncontested and your agenda items be brief.

Sincerely,

Rees Hughes

1660 Brigid Lane
Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 826.0163 (h)
(707) 499-4106 (c)