

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION #1

For Planning Commission of:
February 4, 2021

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consent Agenda Item	No. E-2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Continued Hearing Item	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing Item	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Department Report	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Old Business	

Re: Sage Koenig, Conditional Use Permits

Record Number: PLN-11295-CUP & PLN-11277-CUP
Assessor Parcel Number: 108-011-026; 221-171-029; & 221-171-034
140 Country Lane, Ettersburg area

Attached for the Planning Commission's record and review is the following supplementary information items:

1. Five Letters of Support from neighbors
2. Letter of Support from Sanctuary Forest

Staff Response: The letters of support do not change or recommend any changes to the project.

Alberts, Chris

From: Sage Koenig <sagekoenig@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 7:16 AM
To: Alberts, Chris
Subject: Fwd: Permit application #'s 11295 and 11277

Hi Chris ,

I wanted to pass along a couple letters from my closest neighbors. Melva has lived next door to me for over forty years .

Thanks

Sage

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Melva Wilson <doublerainbowranch@icloud.com>
Date: January 28, 2021 at 9:08:57 AM PST
To: sagekoenig@yahoo.com
Subject: Permit application #'s 11295 and 11277

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in response to the notice of intention of the county to permit the Cannabis farm in Ettersburg, application #11295 and #11277. I live in the vicinity of this farm and have seen first hand the hard work and dedication put into their efforts to build a workable, environmentally safe business. Sage Koenig has always been and continues to be a good neighbor, an important factor in a rural community.

It is therefore my opinion and hope that the planning commission grants their permit for operation as soon as is possible.

Thank you.

Melva Wilson
P.O. Box 1396
Redway, Ca 95560
707 223-2216

Alberts, Chris

From: Sage Koenig <sagekoenig@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 7:17 AM
To: Alberts, Chris
Subject: Fwd: Sage Koenig, Application # 11295 and #11277, 400 Country Lane, Ettersburg, CA Inbox

Here's is another letter from my other closest neighbors. Her family has owned there land for over 100 years .

Thanks

Sage

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Magdalena Cabrera <magdalenac@gmail.com>
Date: January 25, 2021 at 4:53:18 PM PST
To: planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us
Cc: Sage Koenig <sagekoenig@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: Sage Koenig, Application # 11295 and #11277, 400 Country Lane, Ettersburg, CA Inbox

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been neighbors with Sage Koenig for nearly thirty years up on the Mattole watershed. My family's property adjoins Sage's. My great, great uncle purchased our land in 1915.

I can attest to what my experience has been with Sage Koenig over the years. He has been a kind, generous neighbor helping me out often over the years. He has always been respectful of me as he was with my mother when she was alive. I have observed Sage to be a responsible landowner and continues in his attempts to be a good steward of the land and the watershed. He has worked very hard over the years to improve his parcels by doing fuels reduction, installing water storage tanks and maintaining and improving the road.

I would like to close by saying that Sage exhibits high personal and professional integrity striving to make his land sustainable and to provide a quality product to help people heal. I support his application.

Thank you,

Magdalena Cabrera
Trustee for 600 Country Lane
Ettersburg, CA

Alberts, Chris

From: Planning Clerk
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 10:00 AM
To: Lippre, Suzanne; McClenagan, Laura
Cc: Alberts, Chris
Subject: FW: permit application #11295 and #11277

John Moredo-Burich

Planning & Building Department

3015 H Street Eureka, CA 95501
jmoredo2@co.humboldt.ca.us

-----Original Message-----

From: melva wilson <doublerainbowranch@asis.com>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 9:38 AM
To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: permit application #11295 and #11277

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in response to the notice of intention of the county to permit the Cannabis farm in Ettersburg, application #11295 and # 11277. I live in the vicinity of this farm and have seen first hand the hard work and dedications put into their efforts to build a workable environmentally safe business.

Sage Koenig has always been and continues to be a good neighbor, an important factor in a rural community.

It is therefore my opinion and hope that the planning commission grants their permit for operation as soon as is possible.

Melva Wilson

P.O.Box 1396

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission
Re: Cannabis Cultivation applications 11295/11277

Hello –

I am writing to you in strong support of Sage Koenig's cannabis cultivation applications, numbered 11295 and 11277.

When legalization came around, Sage was among the first wave to come forward (despite several neighbors' vocal opposition to anyone who went legal), to clean up legacy issues from previous users of his land, and to come into compliance in order to move sustainably and legally into the future. He has been working diligently (and at great expense) ever since, with the State and County, CDFW, State and Regional Water Boards, and many consultants and engineers to meet all the myriad conditions and requirements necessary to make this happen.

The property in question is perfect farmland as well – prime ag soil on natural flats with good access and water availability. Historically this land had been a hay farm, watered by overhead sprinklers and using up to 14 Acre Feet per year. With the change to cannabis, he uses approximately 85% less water than the previous operation. He also grows organically, using no toxic pesticides and only organic amendments, which is also a huge improvement over the conventional practices used before. Combined with the proposed pond (awaiting permitting), which will alleviate the need for irrigating from the wells during the summer, Sage's current proposal is a big win for the river compared to the previous conventional hay farm.

Sage is truly a steward of his land; he is taking the long-term approach to making this a sustainable project, and has orchards, fruit and vegetables also planted on his farm. He insists on organic practices, and welcomes the opportunity to upgrade his infrastructure and methods to lessen his impact on the watershed. Sage also provides local, legal and much-needed employment for 4 to 8 community members, increased business for many other local consultants, engineers, nurseries, in addition to the significant tax and fee revenue that goes to the County and State.

For all these reasons I strongly recommend approval of his applications.
Thank you for your time in reading this.

Sincerely,

John Taloff
Whitethorn, CA
jtaloff@gmail.com

Mary Balletta
PO Box 1201
Redway, CA 95560
707-223-0043

January 25, 2021

Planning Clerk
County of Humboldt

To Whom It May Concern;

This letter is to voice my support for my neighbor, Sage Koenig, and in support of his project at 400 Country Lane, for App# 11295 and #11277.

My name is Mary Balletta. I am the neighbor directly across from Sage on Council Madrone. I also have served for the past 17 years as the Executive Director of WISH (Women and Children's Crisis Shelter in Southern Humboldt).

What is most relevant here is that Sage is an exemplary neighbor, project manager and steward of the land and resources.

I would ask the planning commission to consider, 1) Sage Koenig has always been invested in complying with all the progressions of the commission's permitting process. He has encouraged and assisted many neighbors to do the right thing and to be upstanding with all the requirements. 2.) Sage has been in the forefront of organic, sungrown vegetables, fruits and flowers. As an overall farmer he has never put any undo burden on any resource or neighbor. He has always kept in the spirit of positive improvements and created a neighborhood of sharing techniques and innovations for neighborhood.

Sage has always been in step with the permitting process, his efforts have resulted in improvements in the neighborhood and an increase in neighbor's communication and property safety.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter and please feel free to contact me at the above address, email, or phone number.

Sincerely,

Mary Balletta



Sanctuary Forest

P.O. Box 166
Whitethorn
California 95589

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Phone: 707-986-1087

Fax: 707-986-1607

sanctuary@sanctuaryforest.org

www.sanctuaryforest.org

February 2, 2021

To: Sage Koenig at Mattole Farms

Dear Sage,

We would like to acknowledge your active participation in Sanctuary Forest's efforts to better prepare local landowners and protect anadromous species and habitat for future droughts by promoting water conservation on a watershed scale, as part of the Mattole River Water Conservation Technical Assistance Program, a grant we received from the CA Department of Fish & Wildlife. We sincerely appreciate your participation in the Mattole Canyon Creek tributary meetings held with neighboring landowners in an effort to educate and encourage better stewardship among neighbors and within communities.

Furthermore, the permaculture consultation that took place on your property with Kyle Keegan, permaculture practitioner, exemplifies your desire to leave a small footprint on the land. Taken from the consultation "Sage and Rob's vision for their land, business and future is innovative and bold. It was an inspiration to see diversity being the central part of their business plan and design. It is clear that their father/son partnership has fostered this vision. The site itself was stunning and must be an honor to steward. The almost 20 year connection to their land undoubtedly gives them an edge on understanding how and where water flows on the land. I believe that there is potential to store tens of thousands (if not hundreds of thousands of gallons) of water on your land in the soil via land contouring and ponds to help mitigate and balance water use for existing agricultural practices."

We also want to acknowledge and thank you for your support of the Van Aken Community Forest Project. Your \$19,000 in contributions towards this project has led to the permanent protection of over 1,300 acres of land in the Mattole River headwaters, and will lead to the development of innovative groundwater recharge and streamflow enhancement projects that will benefit the fish, wildlife and downstream human communities in the Mattole.

Your interest in taking part in active land stewardship and water conservation speaks volumes in this collective effort to protect the watershed and all inhabitants.

Sincerely,

April Newlander
Executive Director
Sanctuary Forest Inc.