

This is in regards to PLN-2020-16188 and the proposed use of a well by Rising Goat Farm, LLC on Ross Road in Southern Humboldt. I have been a resident of the Overland Subdivision, and dependent on the spring area adjacent to the RG Farm, since 2000. The Overland Subdivision was created in the 1970s by Jim Johnson. At that time he deeded water from the springs to 10 parcels, who then registered with the State of California, when it became law to do so, in 1993. All the spring users pay for Small Domestic Use Registrations with the State Water Resources Control Board. We have meters and, as required, report our usage to the State every year.

We are good stewards of our springs. We use only what is needed for our domestic use and in the summertime, when the spring area is less productive, we take turns at using the spring water by way of a valve system. The neighborhood works together. It is a unique and wonderful thing. I share this so that you can get a feeling for who we are and where we live. The commercial cannabis farms in the Overland Subdivision all forbear their water for use in the Summer. They are long-time neighbors, communicate well and understand how domestic spring water is shared and protected.

Rising Goat Farm drilled a well adjacent to, but at an elevation above our spring area, to the depth of 200 feet. They collect water at various depths. If one looks at the landscape where the well is placed, it is obvious why we are concerned.

Thus far, the water pumping from that well has been minimal. The cannabis growing has been sporadic, sloppy and resulting in a many-years-long neighborhood issue with garbage blowing into the waterways and roads. With the licensing of the farm, the same owners plan on a substantial water draw per day for agriculture during the time of year when everyone who depends on that same water for their domestic use is conserving. We *have* to conserve, so everyone can wash dishes and take showers and have water to drink.

Do you see the problem here? I am personally appalled that an independent hydrological study has still not been done. Apparently, it was mentioned and then discarded by the Planners as a requirement. You are not being responsible! You should require an independent hydrological study. If it is found that the well draws from the same water that feeds our springs, the well needs to be forbidden to be used for anything but domestic use. The farm can forbear, as all the neighborhood cannabis farms do.

Please respect those of us who have stewarded the springs and the watershed of Dean Creek for decades and have the State Water Control Board as our witness to the care we have taken. Please protect our springs with us.

Thank you,

Lauris Phillips

Overland Subdivision, since 2000 / Road Association President, 10 years