

Comments Relating to a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

Regarding

Liu Farm Cannabis Cultivation Project; Major Use permit (UP20-33); Initial Study (UIS 20-39)

Project Location 8531 High Valley Road, Clearlake Oaks, CA 95423

From

The Daly Joint Trust by Carole Daly, Trustee, Owner of property located at 8732 High Valley Road, Clearlake Oaks, CA 95423

My husband and I own the property located across High Valley Road and adjacent to the location of the proposed Cannabis Cultivation Project. To better understand the Hydrogeological Study prepared by Luhdorff & Scalmanini, I hired Lombardini Geological Services to review the Luhdorff & Scalmanini study and advise me of the potential impact of the Cannabis project on our property.

Based on the recommendations of Lombardini Geological Services I have the following comments.

1. The proposed use of water for the project should be clarified so that the water usage is limited to that indicated in the permit sought by Liu Farm. The Notice of Intent indicates usage of approximately 7.67 Acre feet or 2.5 Million gallons per year. However, the Technical Hydrogeological report indicates that the well could support a volume of 9.4-14.5 Acre feet or essentially 5 Million gallons per year which is a much greater demand on the aquifer and would have a much greater impact our property.
2. Water quality testing of the Cannabis proposed well should be required and provided to us to assure that no pesticides, herbicides or constituents of concern are reaching the local aquifer.
3. Well use data should be provided to us on a monthly or quarterly basis of total gallons used and depth to static groundwater elevations by turning off the pump and allowing approximately 1 hour of recharge.

My initial concern for the Cannabis Project was the impact on the overall aquifer and more specifically on our property. While we do not currently have a well established on our property we do have several active springs that could be impacted. After reviewing both the Luhdorff & Scalmanini Memorandum and the Review from Lombardini Geological Services I am relying on their expertise that the water usage by the Cannabis Project would have a low impact on our property. However, while it is projected that the existing aquifer has sufficient water to support the Project, I am reminded that these are only projections and we are entering climate conditions that have not been experienced before; water is a precious and limited entity that requires safeguards and protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Liu Farm Cannabis Cultivation Project. Please notify me of any future opportunities to provide input regarding this project.

Carole Daly, Trustee
The Daly Joint Trust
2355 Bailey Hill Road
Eugene, Oregon 97405
541 543-4402

August 25, 2023

Re: The proposed Liu Cannabis Cultivation Project at 8531 High Valley Rd. Clearlake Oaks, CA 95423

The following letter includes comments from Denise and Chad Love, owners of nearby property at 8422 High Valley Ridge Road.

We strongly oppose the proposed cannabis cultivation for the following main reason:

- 1) The project poses at least a low to moderate risk to depletion and contamination of the surrounding local groundwater and aquifer. Water is our greatest and most important resource.
- 2) High Valley Road is a dirt road; not paved. Heavy equipment use for the project poses a risk to the condition of the road, impacting the ability to safely accessing property, as well as surrounding properties.
- 3) The level of monitoring for compliance with the project proposed poses another risk. Specifically, there is a risk of a lack of continuous monitoring of water usage, contamination, expansion of the project without permits, and compliance, now and in the future.

Thank you for your detailed and careful consideration of this proposed project. For further questions, please call:

Denise Orpustan-Love

(707) 349-0695

Chad Love

(707) 349-2582

High Valley Ridge Ranch



March 5, 2023

RE: UP 20-33 IS 20-39 Lui Farms, 8531 High Valley Road, Clearlake Oaks CA

Thank you for considering our comments. Redbud Audubon recommends another more in-depth biological study be done.

The call for a more precise biological survey is warranted. It is noted there are no actual bird counts and the report was done in 2020 – so much has changed since then. On a recent bird watching trip up on High Valley we recorded Western Bluebirds, California Thrashers, Wrentits, California Quail, American Kestrel, Western Meadowlarks and more species but nothing was mentioned about the abundant birds that call this area home. The noise, lights and increased traffic will greatly affect them.

And please note Lake County supports the Night Sky Initiative. This will permanently change the future night sky views which will affect migratory species.

US Department of Interior, Fish & Wildlife letter dated March 14, 2020 mentions the three critically protected species that have been spotted but are not on the project parcels. What mitigation measures are in place? Spotted Owls have been sighted near the project area.

Have you considered visiting the area today after the rains and seen the rich emergent wetland? Wetlands provide habitat for thousands of species of aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals. Wetlands are valuable for flood protection, water quality improvement, shoreline erosion control, natural products, recreation, and aesthetics. This area of study was overlooked due to the date and climate of the earlier studies performed by biologist Tim Nosel in 2020. Today not only would you find the size of the original 3 wetlands seen in 2020, greatly expanded but the expansion of the Class III watercourse and the emergent wetlands, most likely, as of today 3/4/2024, will have merged. A drone flyover could document this and highlight the importance of the 3 riverine water courses.

The project area is rich in history. Professionals, like Dr. John Parker of Wolf Archaeology, could easily uncover native artifacts in this heavily used roadway of long ago. Where is an in-depth reporting on the study area that companies like Natural Investigations or Wolf is known for producing? If a tribal comment is not received, please don't dismiss the fact we should still do the research. High Valley Road was very important.

Please take into consideration the great impacts this proposal will have on the future of Lake County.

Thank you, Donna Mackiewicz, Redbud Audubon Society

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www.redbudaudubon.org