

Dana H. Adams

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To: The Lake County Board of Supervisors and CAO Susan Parker

Dear Members of the Board,

I grew up in Lake County and my family uses the Highland Springs recreation area to its fullest almost every weekend all year to swim, hike, maintain trails, picnic, horseback ride, and frisbee golf. I am writing in support of the Appeal (AB24-02) for Highland Farms, LP (UP20-96). My family believes the Planning Commission's approval of the Major Use Permit on March 23rd, 2024, was premature, as critical components of the application, including a full California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) assessment, were not completed.

A full CEQA review is necessary to address concerns related to access, traffic, road conditions, and environmental impacts, especially given the hazardous conditions of Highland Springs Road. The road is in poor condition, not regularly patrolled, and poses significant safety risks, particularly on the narrow, blind curves south of Bell Hill Road. The area is heavily trafficked on weekends, further exacerbating these dangers.

Additionally, the applicant's claims regarding the absence of public trails and serpentine geology are incorrect. There are trails within the 1,000-foot exclusion zone, and serpentine rock formations, which may contain asbestos, are present, particularly along the proposed 7,500-foot access road.

We are also concerned about the potential environmental impact of the project, including uncontrolled runoff into Highland Springs Reservoir, a drinking water source for the Big Valley, and the proposed installation of power poles in a high fire danger area. If the permit is granted, we strongly recommend that electrical service be installed underground and that water usage impacts be thoroughly evaluated.

In summary, we support the Appeal of the Major Use Permit for Highland Farms, LP, and oppose the granting of the MUP.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
S/ Dana Adams
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