

## Lake County Clerk of the Board

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**From:** dell104993@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, August 9, 2024 3:39 PM  
**To:** Lake County Clerk of the Board  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Highland Springs Grow Site  
**Attachments:** LCHCmissionstatement.docx

The Lake County Horse Council would appreciate it's comments put on the record regarding the [Appeal \(AB24-02\) for Highland Farms, LP \(UP 20-96\)](#).

The LCHC formed in 2010 by a group of avid equestrians to promote and support the thriving horse community in Lake County. We represent all equestrian sports and interests and recognize the horse community greatly adds to the economy of Lake County. We support veterinarians, farriers, trainers, clinicians, feed stores, hay growers, fence builders, well installers and maintenance, truck and trailer sales and maintenance, tire dealers, gravel,, concrete and footing businesses, not to mention paying taxes on acreage to keep our horses. We have held educational and safety forums, as well as participating in the Lake County Pear Festival as the Lake County Horse Faire, again, promoting the importance of horses in this county.

Many of our members are avid trail riders and have riding at Highland Springs for decades, as well as helping on trail clearing and development. The LCHC received a grant from Tractor Supply which allowed us to repair a degraded section on the Lake Trails. We also, at county request, wrote a Master Management plan for Highland Springs park, and supported the Highland Springs Trails Volunteers who did fund raising for trail signs and installed an informational Kiosk. Other members have been involved with county committees on trail issues, including grading and zoning ordinances, development of Konocti Regional Trails plan, Mt. Konocti County Park, and the current County Parks, recreation and trails plan.

We are concerned that the permit for Highland Farms was approved without following all Federal, State and County Laws and Ordinances. None of the neighbors affected by the project were notified. Highland Springs Road into the park is narrow and has a blind corner. There are also issues with the wetlands at the grow site, as well as failure to do a biological study on the access road to the site- Udding road cuts through a huge serpentine bluff that has noted rare species, and serpentine carries toxic asbestos dust.

Please support the appeal and do not approve the permit until all appropriate EIR and traffic studies can be done.

And a little more about us:

## **Lake County Horse Council**

### **Mission Statement:**

- \* Serve as liaison between the horse industry, the community, and government agencies
- \* Inform the public about horse community goals, projects, and events
- \* Promote educational programs for the horse industry
- \* Support private and public equine facilities and activities
- \* Promote all aspects of the equine industry
- \* Promote and preserve the horse as agriculture, industry, and recreation

### **LCHC members have been involved with:**

- \* Konocti Regional Trails
- \* Bureau of Land Management master plans
- \* Westside Community Park
- \* Cache Creek Cowboy Horse Camp
- \* Lake County Farm Bureau
- \* Lake County Grading Ordinance Committee
- \* Lake County Public Works Adopt-a-Road Program
- \* Members originated an idea which eventually became LEAP (Lake Evacuation & Animal Protection)

### **Accomplishments:**

- \* Received a trail improvement grant through Tractor Supply and the American Quarter Horse Association
- \* Drafted a resource management plan for Highland Springs Recreation Area in 2011 at the request of Lake County Water Resources
- \* Honored by Lake County Board of Supervisors by Proclamation in 2011 ([click here to read the proclamation](#))
- \* Quarterly Journal covering regional events, activities, and timely equine-related information
- \* Created Horse Sense safety brochure
- \* Lake County's Horse Resource Directory – online directory of horse-related resources
- \* Emergency Equestrian Evacuation Directory – online directory of people willing to haul or house evacuated horses
- \* Disaster Assistance Fund

**The Horse Council has active participants on the Kelseyville Pear Festival committee and has sponsored:**

- \* Upper Lake Wild West Day
- \* Californio Days
- \* Clear Lake Junior Horsemen Gymkhana Series
- \* Dancing Horses at Highland Springs Equestrian Center

**Events & Activities:**

- \* Horse Faire at the Kelseyville Pear Festival
- \* Stay Safe: A Public Expo for You and Your Animals - free-to-the-public emergency preparedness seminar
- \* Saddle Fitting Clinics
- \* Annual Equine and Wine
- \* Trail Rides and Events for all breeds and disciplines
- \* Trash Pick-Up & Trail Work at Highland Springs
- \* Endorsed the Berryessa Snow Mountain Conservation Area and attended the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument dedication at the Cache Creek Natural Area - April 2016
- \* Information forums with topics including regional trails updates, Leave No Trace information, animal owners rights, and LEAP