

Johanna DeLong

From: Huia Clifton-Pope <kiwipope@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 10:15 PM
To: Johanna DeLong
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Appeal Hearing Highland Farms/Udding Rd

Dear Johanna,

Please note that I am in favor of the appeal.

I have grave concerns that California Environmental Protection Agency Air Resource Board, Method 435 which determines the presence and measure of Asbestos present in Serpentine Aggregate had been violated in granting of this permit.

I also fear that California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has been violated on many levels.

The elephant in the room is the recent arrest of a lake county code enforcement officer arrested for bribery and extortion and evidence at this time points towards the marijuana industry being linked to this case.

With the rewards of tax revenue for the county, one cannot help but suggest this being the motivation for so many ordinances and due diligence being overlooked in the premature granting of this permit. Revenue appears to have superceded community safety and the sanctity of our county parks.

Regards,

Huia Clifton-Pope

APPEAL HEARING FOR CANNABIS GROW ON UDDING ROAD

Dear Joanna,

Please make public our concerns at the appeal hearing.

We wish to agree with the appeal to reverse the County of Lake decision to grant a cannabis grow permit to Highland Farms at Udding Road. As land owners adjacent to the landowner, County of Lake, granting the easement access to the site of the grow, my husband and I have many concerns related to this development –

1. It is my understanding in the State of California adjacent landowners must be notified directly (in person) or if this is unsuccessful, by mail of the redevelopment of land. As much of this redevelopment, (access road) is taking place on County of Lake land and that land is adjacent to ours, we were neither notified directly or by mail. This permit needs to be retracted until proper due process has been complied with.
2. For the last 21 years we have been avid users of the established trails in the Highland Springs Park by hiking, horse riding and mountain biking. We have also been active in maintaining those trails and therefore know them very well. These trails go through the County Park property surrounding this proposed Highland Farms cannabis grow site. Having this grow site in this proximity to the trails and the park is a violation of use. Lake county depends on tourism for much of its income and I have met many visitors on the trails at Highland Springs. They will stop coming if confronted with this monstrosity of a commercial grow. I believe County Ordinance 3096 requires that State and County Parks, being public lands, must have a 1,000ft setback from cannabis cultivation...this makes this grow in violation as these trails are well established used trails in the County Park.
3. Many aspects of this development will ruin the ambiance and tranquility of our beautiful park e.g. a building TWO ACRES large and other out buildings sticking up, the noise of the fans, intimidation of the grow to the users of the trails which cross the boundaries.
4. By law, it is illegal to have a hairpin turn into a driveway off a public road, therefore this brings up a most concerning question as to the health and safety of residents of Highland Springs Road and users of the park. Making the access safe and compliant with regulations would require thousands of yards of serpentine to be disturbed. As we all know, much of this area and definitively Udding Road has a very high percentage of Serpentine. What environmental impact studies, Hazmat precautions and public safety measures have been done to make this a safe process for the public, water ways and permanent safety of Highland Springs area?

The Asbestos dust airborne and otherwise is a hazard to our community when disturbed. If the road is not kept wet during this entire process and sealed with a solid covering before any traffic is allowed on it, the County will be in violation of laws protecting our people and beautiful parks. These laws and codes are to protect the people from these environmental hazards. Our water supplies come directly out of Highland Springs which will without a doubt be contaminated by the excavation of the serpentine and the run off from the grow area which drains into the far end of Highland Springs.

5. Since the County has permitted at least five very large cannabis grows out past Highland Springs reservoir in the last five years, my husband and I have seen an impossible increase in traffic, much of which is heavy trucks with trailers transporting heavy equipment on a daily basis . These truck drivers are on a time schedule and DO NOT SLOW DOWN for animals or people. Our dog has been hit by a speeding vehicle. The number of speeding pickup trucks multiplies as workers at these grows are hired. In the last five years, we have had FIVE vehicles crash through our fences onto our property all doing severe damage to our arena and fences. One victim had to be airlifted out. Highland Springs road has become a hazardous road to walk, ride or drive on. The road does not qualify as a two way road according to California road regulations(144 inches) making it difficult to pass unless going at a very slow speed or going off the edge of the road and the number of vehicles using it have already exceeded what it can handle. Highland springs recreation and park area is being used more and more by the community. With added large truck traffic, the hazards multiply extra nomically.

Regards,

Huia and Greg Pope

7220 Highland Springs Road