

Johanna DeLong

From: Ted and Becky Horat <tednbeckyhorat@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2024 9:27 AM
To: Johanna DeLong
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Appeal (AB24-02) Highland Farms

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My name is Becky Horat. My husband, Ted Horat, and I support the appeal of Highland Farms (AB24-02).

My husband and I are long time residents & registered voters of Lake County going back multiple generations. We both grew up in the Big Valley area and have been using and enjoying the Highland Springs Park since we were young children. We have used the trails for horse back riding, carriage driving, hiking, swimming and fishing for over 50yrs. Our parents, children, and grandchildren still currently do so as well.

We currently live at 7125 Highland Springs Rd., which is right on the "well known bad corner" (1/4 mile pass Bell Hill Rd.). We have lived here close to 20yrs. I have personally witnessed so many wrecks on this bad, blind corner. I can't count the times we've helped pull out the drivers/passengers in their wrecked vehicles. A few years ago, the wreck was so bad it took hours to extract the young teenage girl with the jaws of life. It was amazing she did not lose her life in that horrid wreck. The width of this road is extremely narrow. When we pull our horse trailers and travel trailers on it, the width of the wheels do NOT fit between the lanes. 2 trucks and trailers can NOT pass each other without driving off the road and in some areas this is not possible due to no "shoulder". This is really a problem on this sharp turn as it's a blind turn. It would be extremely dangerous to add any more traffic, especially large trucks that would be used to construct and operate a commercial cannabis grow. With the current larger cannabis grows we have further up Highland Springs it already creates traffic hazards. We cringe as we watch a string of large trucks and trailers hauling in and out all hours of the day and night transporting, soil, green houses, large containers, water, etc. etc. They drive very fast for these unsafe road conditions and add an extreme amount of unusual wear and tear on these roads. These roads are often used by bike riders who ride out and enjoy Highland Springs park and the bike trails. This is not safe for bike rider or driver.

We are currently members of the Hooves and Wheels Horse Carriage Club and spend many hours driving our horses in carts/carriages on the lovely range land trails. Many of us will also ride/drive our horses on the road around the Highland Spring park and the trails that have been long created and maintained for that purpose. It is such a peaceful park that so many enjoy. Our kids grew up swimming in the lake and playing on the rope swing. It is a very popular place during the summer months for our youth to currently swim and hang out. There a lot of young drivers on this road headed to the park as well.

Being so close to this particular proposed cannabis site and construction, we are extremely worried about the Serpentine rock that will be disturbed, which will create a major health hazard with the exposure to asbestos. Not only will this asbestos be contaminating the nearby lake with the run off and the dust, it will also create a major concern to our water and wells in this close proximity. Several

of our older neighbors have health concerns with asthma and COPD. This asbestos dust in the air is a very huge concern for all of us, but especially those with health concerns.

The water and wells in our neighborhood in this particular area, are not overly productive. It is a known concern for all of us here. During the drought, a few have had their wells go dry for months at a time. Some having to attempt to re-drill wells multiple time on their property trying to find water. The massive plan for the cannabis operation to use such a large amount of under ground water is surely to impact the long time residents in the area. We already have had to be so water conservative for just our basic household needs that this is frightening and seems unfair.

I hope all of these considerations will be looked into when making the decision to appeal this Highland Farms project. This is a lovely area of the county still enjoyed by many and it would be a terrible loss to not be able to use it for the reason it was intended due to contamination and safety concerns. Most of the residents in this area, are home owners that have lived here longer than we have, paying taxes on our property to be able to enjoy this beautiful part of Lake County. Out of towners have often called the Highland Springs area the best place in the County. Let's try to keep it that way and not let it get destroyed.

Thank you for listening to our concerns.

Ted Horat
Becky Horat