
From: Holly Hansen <hollyhansen1111@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 1:18 PM
To: Laura Hall <Laura.Hall@lakecountyca.gov>; Eddie Crandell <Eddie.Crandell@lakecountyca.gov>; brad.rassmussen@lakecountyca.gov <brad.rassmussen@lakecountyca.gov>; Helen Owen <Helen.Owen@lakecountyca.gov>; Jessica Pyska <Jessica.Pyska@lakecountyca.gov>; bruno.sabattier@lakecountyca.gov <bruno.sabattier@lakecountyca.gov>; Susan Parker <Susan.Parker@lakecountyca.gov>; desk@record-bee.com <desk@record-bee.com>; senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov <senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Upper Lake

Dear Decision Division,

I address you as this for you have been appointed or voted in to make decisions that is best for your residential citizens and the county we reside. With that in mind, I think you made an improper decision, but not to your fault because you were manipulated and incorrectly informed.

I have recently reviewed Barbara Morris's slide show she shared at our recent town hall meeting regarding the Biochar plant that was approved for installation in Upper Lake. I was shocked to find out how much misinformation was given when the tribe applied for this approval. I am also appalled that the planning department did not research to confirm their submission had validation. Especially how easy it is to confirm if a business is legit through the internet. We are in modern times where information is easily accessible. The planning department is slacking. I emailed the planning department before their final decision because they stated if they received emails before the final meeting, that those emails would be read out loud. My email was never read nor acknowledge with a response.

I do believe this plant is being pushed through the system without a care of the residents nor a care for the land itself. The citizens of Upper Lake should have been informed about this plant before it went in for approval because of the location. The location is just a couple of miles from 3 schools, and on prime agriculture land. This IS NOT the correct location for this type of industry. Especially since the county has had plans to restore this area back to wetlands. Upper Lake is the welcoming gateway to the county from the west and this is how we want to welcome tourists into our beautiful county? Upper Lake is the welcoming to our county, the gateway to our Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument and entrance into Mendocino National Forest and this is how you want to welcome our tourist with the stench of burning logs?! There is currently an argument about Highway 20 being a scenic highway. If you "Google" it, you would find that YES it has been designated as a scenic highway by Caltrans. Of course this section is designed along the lake side in Nice, Lucerne and Nice, along with west of Clearlake Oaks, but it still remains that IT IS a scenic highway. Why do we not build off that and create the entire highway through the county as a scenic highway. This would help the local merchants in those towns the highway runs through. I was told by the CTA class that the county is trying to attract tourists to our county as the

new wine country. If the county does want to attract that type of tourism then you must build it as so. Highway 20 is already difficult as a trucking route so why not build it to support the county and it's dreams of winery tourism instead of having our tourist greeted by an industrial complex.?? You don't see Sonoma County approving industry on their wine country little town roads and they are a huge wine destination.

Building the county up for tourism is more beneficial than an industrial plant that offers employment for 5-7 employees. Changing the infrastructure of the land to support the plant but no plans on how to remove the gravel etc once the ever continuing lease gives up does not help recreate wetlands nor benefit the Hitch. Welcoming tourists with smoke or smells does not build up a wine country county.

There has been no information given on who will maintain our town roads once the trucking increases. Not to mention that the location so close to residential neighborhoods puts us at risk, and if an accidental fire should occur, our local fire department is not fully staffed and closed half the time puts us at HIGH RISK. I have not seen anything that discussed fire prevention. Haven't we learned from our past that proper zoning for industrial complexes are put in place for reasons.

There has been statements that it helps the forest. As a county Master Gardener and, I have had forestry classes in my past, I know from my education that removing dead debris from a forest does not help it, it only helps man. Lying dead plant debris including logs feeds the forest, creates habitats and maintains soil. This plant does not benefit the forest.

You are probably reading my email and ask yourself what smoke what smell?? Well I ask this too! There is no information available on pollution because the only plants of this kind currently are demonstration. Well while they are collecting data I do not wish to be a guinea pig and wait to find out, would you? Not knowing if will pollute our clean air is Not a benefit.

I ask as a homeowner registered voting citizen please reconsider your view on the installation of the Biochar plant in Upper Lake. This is NOT a benefit for the county as it's being pitched. It's a detriment for our town. It's not the right location. The counties profit of \$100 annually is not beneficial and if it was used as AG land could generate more income and benefit tourism. It does not provide work for local citizens. It does NOT help the forest. It does not help the lake. It helps a small group generate an income off of a free product.

I hope you are able to review Barbara Morris's slide show and see the dishonesty yourself. Have the PROPER AND CORRECT INFORMATION in front of you before making a decision.

Are you not the least bit suspicious why they have felt the need to LIE to the county and the planning department regarding the plant and it's installation???

If you need any help finding Barbara Morris's slide show I would be happy to help guide you.

Thank you for your time reading my email and hope you can put a stop to this "old school" application process. Actually have county employees confirm information when applications are submitted for approvals. It's just a click away.

Kindly,

Holly Hansen
707-494-3441

From: [Sherry Harris](#)
To: [Laura Hall](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dear Lake County Planning, I just wanted to voice my opinion against having the biochar power plant located in Upper Lake.
Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025 2:15:19 PM

I live in Upper Lake but never got a notice about this biochar plant being installed in Upper Lake by the County. It wasn't until I found out about a meeting to talk about it through the Western Region Town Hall (WRTH) in Upper Lake.

It was the first time I had attended these once a month meetings. I'm glad I did to find out about this plan to install this biochar plant right near me.

In the past meetings there were some representatives who came to talk about this plan to use five acres that would be leased to this company by the County for \$100 a year to build this plant to be located off of Hwy 20 near our town.

Since then those who attended these meetings found out that there were a lot of discrepancies about the plan and how it could affect the ecology of land area, the safety of highway access and traffic, the health of our residents and the industrial look of our historic rural town that usually attracts visitors and tourists because of it.

I've, also, heard that this project still lacks quite a few approved permits and legal investigations on use of this land being that it was suppose to be used in connection with the ecology connected to the lake.

When I ask other Upper Lake residents if they know about this biochar plant plan, most people have never heard about it. Because this plant could affect all Upper Lake residents I really feel they we should have been notified by mail with information about these plans in order to review as it will undoubtedly affect all of us.

I, also, heard that if there are any problems after this plant is built and becomes active that the County holds themselves irresponsible for damages. Is that true?

There have been a group of people who have been conducting more research in regards to this company that is responsible and have found out quite a few untruths in their reports.

There are many reasons because of this why we are appealing this approval and I hope that all of you seriously review these reasons and take into consideration to change your views on approving this biochar plant to be built in this location.

Sincerely,
Sherry Harris
An Upper Lake resident

Laura Hall

From: Larry Kahn <lardog@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2025 12:18 PM
To: Laura Hall
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Here is another article from the National Library of Medicine warning about the hazards of biochar.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3925498/> Its very technical. If you scroll down to the conclusion you will see that soils in the vicinity of biochar plants get contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons which should be considered a high cancer risk. Workers at the plant can be contaminated by inhalation, by ingesting contaminated food, and through their skin.

This stuff is that fine. The soot and dust will contaminate the surrounding area. My grass hay for horses will be contaminated. Can you say lawsuit? Surrounding this proposed facility are grapes for wine, pears, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, garlic, and onions all nearby for ingesting. The soot will also get into soil and never get out. Any soot landing in the creek right along side their proposed road will be transported right into Clearlake. I will be regularly testing my crops for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and if any are found you can expect a lawsuit. Remember once the damage is done it can't be cleaned up. This is not the right place for this business. Biochar is bad, PERIOD.

The purpose for the County buying the Robinson Vineyard was to help clean up Clearlake. Instead the County will be doing the opposite, adding more contamination to Clearlake.



[PMC.NCBI.NLM.NIH.GOV](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/)

Biochar production increases the polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon content in surrounding soils and potential cancer risk

Laura Hall

From: Larry Kahn <lardog@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2025 12:19 PM
To: Laura Hall
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Who remembers when shaky Jordan handed out small bags of biochar to the Planning Commision and the Board of Supervisors? He warned everyone to be careful opening the bags, as the dust will get on everything. Won't an enclosed factory solve this problem? Perhaps if it was enclosed it would help the problem. Unfortunately the proposed facility was reduced in size to save money on the fire protection requirements. The proposed facility will be two containers with an arched cover over them. They will be open at both ends. It will be open and the trucks picking it up will be outside. Every scoop from the loader will spread the dust everywhere. Every truckload of biochar will release a substantial amount of dust that will soon cover everything around with black soot. Are the trucks themselves going to be sealed?

Doubtful. You will see them going down the road with black dust flying everywhere. People working with this stuff will need good respirators or even better, whole suits for protection. The breathing of this dust will create health hazards similar to black lung disease from coal mining.

What about the proposed process??? Supposedly the wood chips will be put into a cooker that will heat the wood to 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit. Heating the wood releases large amounts of syngas. "SYNGAS" another name for hydrogen gas. Hydrogen gas, think Hindenburg. Boom. It's very explosive. This next part is important. How are they going to collect and use this gas? The simple answer I received was that the hydrogen gas would be the fuel that runs the next batch of biochar. Here's the rub, hydrogen gas for cars or boats starts with compressing the gas to 10,000 P.S.I. That is a tremendous amount of pressure that requires specialized training and equipment. To complicate matters there are different kinds of hydrogen gas. Some hydrogen gas after being burned are less polluting than others. The biochar people have whitewashed this, knowing full well that few people understand the difficulty in making the whole combustion process work. They propose to use a new type of generator called a linear generator. At this time these generators are still in the prototype/experimental stage. I would like to know how the biochar people are going to compress and store the hydrogen gas. I would like to know how clean the gas is to begin with and how much pollution will be released. Hydrogen gas used to run cars, trucks and boats are mostly prototype/experimental and the gas they use is made from liquid natural gas. It is very clean to burn and the exhaust is just water. Thats why they keep trying to utilize it, it's clean burning. Hydrogen gas from biochar is not clean enough for commercial purposes. None of the big car companies that are experimenting with hydrogen are using biochar syngas.

So, the little town of Upper Lake will become the crash test dummies for biochar production. When the proposed system doesn't work, what will the biochar people do? Will they want to bring in a machine that has a roaring open fire similar to a kiln that a crane can just drop big scoops of biomas material into? This whole project is flawed. If they are allowed in, it will be impossible to get them out. They will be unsupervised and can make changes on the fly. If things really go wrong they won't be out anything. They have no responsibility and no skin in the game. All the money comes from grants. They can walk away and it won't cost them a penny.

They are ruining their own land. The native Americans want this land to be virginal and undisturbed. Yet they push these projects to sell carbon credits and get money for the tribe. I'm guessing the County decision makers don't have a clue about the difficulties of hydrogen combustion. The car companies are

finding it very difficult to make the process work. These biochar advocates don't come close to the resources the car companies have. This program will fail. Making a few dollars does not mean the program is successful. It's the long term problems associated with the process that will destroy the land and the people who live here.