

Highland Farms Appeal AB24-02

SUPPORT THE APPEAL

My name is Huia Pope and as an adjacent land owner to the **Highland Springs County Park**, I was NEVER notified of this project.

In one week I have discovered multiple county, state and federal violations with regards to this permit:

- The County has failed to notify the public accurately, not once but twice of the location of the project. I have found 9 APN # Parcels associated with this project. In the notice of public hearing dated 5/23/24 only 6 were posted and in the notice of this appeal hearing only 2.
- Twice the TWO County land APN#'S on which the Serpentine excavation will take place for the access road have been denied revealment to the public and the applicant to my knowledge has not revealed this in their application.
- The County by their actions, denies that serpentine containing asbestos exists there but if one goes to the county's website parcel viewer and click on serpentine, the entire road access excavation site lights up like a Christmas tree and there is evidence of endangered plants such as leather oak growing there which ONLY GROWS ON SERPENTINE
- The applicants state the map of the wetlands on the site was done during the dry season, I ride on all the trails above this site and I have seen this site during the spring season and it is ALL marshy, this means the two grow sites will be ON the wetlands and it is almost certain that the wetland s will dry up as the water run off in this basin is drained by the applicant for watering the grow.
- The applicant hired two biologists to survey the site but I do not believe they even came to the site. One of them did advise Highland Farms on their report NOT to grow here but this was ignored by the applicant AND the County.
- The applicant and the county have ignored the 1,000 foot setback from public lands/park and trails. The trails that I have worked on for years, ridden my horses, hiked and mountain biked on run along the boundary line of this property with zero clearance.
- After the Y, highland springs road is a single lane in many places. In the last few years, with the permitting of several other grows beyond highland springs, the traffic has become extremely dangerous. The many heavy trucks with trailers and hired help are on tight schedules and DO NOT SLOW DOWN. We have had 5 vehicles go through our arena and fences in the last five years doing thousands of dollars of damage. I have seen no evidence of a traffic impact study.
- I have seen NO EVIDENCE of a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which it would seem is a state requirement for this type of project along with a California Environmental Protection Agency – Air Resources Board review done by reputable agencies independent of the applicant.

