

Jim Feenan

From: Marie Bjornson <marie.bjornson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2022 3:57 PM
To: Jim Feenan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: UP 21-14 Monte Cristo Vineyards, LLC re: SCH 2022030675

Marie Bjornson
12471 Cerrito Drive
Clearlake Oaks, CA 95423

June 20th, 2022

Planning commission of Lake County, CA

255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453
Re: UP 21-14 Monte Cristo Vineyards, LLC re: SCH 2022030675

Dear Commissioners:

Cerrito Drive intersects with High Valley Road at the bottom of our hill where East Lake School is located. I am amazed a large grow operation was permitted less than 1 mile away from the East Lake school with the increase of heavy traffic and convoys. More than likely children will ultimately be injured by the narrow and blind intersection onto High Valley Road entrance.. For the residents of our community, there is also only one way in and one way out to Hwy 20.

There have been many instances over the years of trucks that are well beyond the recommended length jackknifing on the turn at Cerrito/High Valley closing the road for hours. Last year, power lines on the lower part of High Valley Road closed the road for an entire day. When these events happen, it essentially traps the senior and disabled residents of Cerrito Drive and High Valley Road as there is no other egress to Hwy 20.

We live at the top of Cerrito Drive, very near the gate where the Monte Lago/Monte Cristo Vineyard is located. The traffic during grape harvest is already non-stop, with semis carrying grapes and earth moving equipment, and private vehicles speeding and blarring music down our very narrow road at all hours of day and night. Btw, since we moved here in 2008, not once has the county made significant repairs to our road.

This is particularly concerning when we're evacuated due to wildfire. Again, I remind you there is only one way out. Will there be a flood of vehicles leaving as we're trying to evacuate our homes? Maybe not, as it's well-known that marijuana growers don't leave their crops unsupervised. But what happens when the residents are evacuated, and PG&E shuts the power off? Well, for starters, the batteries in our security systems die and our homes are no longer protected. Yet there will be countless people tending the crops that can roam freely on our hill. We already have enough crime in this county without inviting nonresidents to scope out our homes every day on their way to work to see what we might have worth looting when the area is unattended.

Our lake is at a historic low level, our aquifers and watersheds are shrinking, and many of our once magnificent trees are dying. Farming communities across the state are reeling from the effects of the drought and the corresponding restrictions being placed on them. Unemployment is up due to fallowed fields, economies are

crumbling, and California is unable to provide the food that our entire country relies upon for food security. Yet, it's OK for a cannabis operation to start up in these circumstances??

Our property borders the Monte Cristo water retention pond, and I can say with certainty this will not be enough water for 22 acres of crops.

We purchased this land in 2002. In 2008, we built our home and have been steadily improving it over the years. Our higher property taxes attest to this. On the other hand, what will cannabis scented air and 24/7 traffic do to the market value of our homes?

As an owner and expert on security systems, we are also concerned about an increase in crime, which is a significant and very real concern. The statistics involving crimes related to marijuana grows speak for themselves. In fact, I have had to install security systems for other grows already given the heightened threat of crime. Also, the day laborers that will be up and down our street 24/7/365 are not our neighbors.

Planning commission, the Lake County citizens and registered voters of Cerrito Drive, we are strongly encouraging you to deny approval of this large marijuana grow project.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

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Clearlake Oaks, CA 95423