

November 18, 2024

NOV 21 AM 11:03  
RECEIVED  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

El Dorado County Planning Commission  
2850 Fairlane Court  
Placerville, CA 95667

El Dorado County Agriculture Department  
311 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667

**Re: ORDINANCE NO. XXX-2024 ADOPTING REVISIONS TO THE RANCH  
MARKETING ORDINANCE AND THE WINERY ORDINANCE  
Hearing Date: 11/14/2024 at 8:30 a.m.**

Dear Planning Commission and Ag Dept:

We have been silently attending the meetings and listening to your feedback and the farmers concerns.

Most, if not all of the properties are zoned - meaning they were provided a certain zone which comes with rights and uses. When citizens purchase property they look for property that offer what they are looking for....i.e. zoning. When citizens purchase property next to property with zoning designations they should be aware of what could or is happening. Let's use High Hill as an example. I read a post recently of a woman who moved across the street from High Hill and now blasts High Hill on social media for the traffic and how "Apple Hill" should not be a thing.

I bring this up to apply accountability. What I have heard from the Board here over several meetings is what the farmers have to do to appease other residence. Seemingly if you move into Apple Hill you should be prepared and knowledgeable of what happens Whether you are listening to children running around an Apple Farm, music at a winery, children or adults at a wedding, etc. There is an expectation.

I want to try to put this into perspective,

You saw a job posted for the position you are in today. You most likely did some research, read the description of the job, thought about how it fits into your lifestyle, crunched some numbers on salary to make sure you can support your family.

So let's stop there for a minute. This is very similar to what the citizens did when purchasing property. Made sure it allowed for a winery, a small farm, an apple orchard, a christmas tree farm and what they can do to provide for their family.

So let's go back to your endeavor to seek the employment and the role you are in today. Annual salary was posted as \$100,000, you may need to move your kids to another school, you may need to purchase a different vehicle for travel time to and from work, you may like the role because you will be off in time to watch your kids sports - all kinds of criteria. So you've taken the job and all is great. Following the training procedures, getting your check as promised and

one day (6 months in) you get called in by HR and they tell you that a co-worker in the next cubicle has complained that you make more money than her so they are going to have to reduce your salary by \$10,000. You go back to your office and are stunned that you did your research, accepted a role and it is changed because someone complained but nonetheless you go about your work. Two months later you get called in again. This time someone has complained about your hours worked. You come in from 7-4 so you can make it to your kids events but others have to stay until 5 or 6 to get the work done. You are now told that because someone complained your hours are now 9-6. Again you go back to your office and start rearranging your life style, try to figure out who will pick up your children, etc. Two months later you get another call to HR. Yet another complaint about your salary and benefits so they reduce your salary again by \$10,000 and take away your allotment for PTO.

So when you took this job offer, you had an expectation, an understanding, changed your life style, moved, etc. only to have others complain and have it ripped away from you. This is what we are going through. We purchased land with an expectation or dream to become a small farmer, wine developer, apple farmers, etc. only to come here almost monthly to try to salvage our livelihood.

El Dorado County has a strict noise ordinance that is enforced by the Sheriff's office and applies to everyone in the County but what this Board is saying is as a farmer or winery you have to turn your music off at 7pm but if you aren't a farmer or winery you can play your music until 10pm. Very discriminatory. The County has this ordinance and enforces it - why does this board feel the need to change a County ordinance that applies to all - removing discrimination.

Do we even provide enough time once changes are made to see how they are going to work? The Board has in place 24 events per year which has been in place for a very short period of time. Before changing again, let's see how it goes - are the complaints the same, less, more, are they from the same citizens, are the complaints valid or just a dislike of neighboring properties? Do we ever reply to those complaining that the property is zoned for this activity and the land owner has the right?

The perception is we are trying to fit a round peg in a square hole to appease citizens who complain because that is not what they want on someone else's property. The rights of farmers is being diminished and removed. It's clear and there is clearly a biased against farmers.

If someone moved to San Francisco and then complained about the traffic, how would you react - would the Board then tell everyone they can't drive because someone new moved in that doesn't like traffic? Very similar here.. we are not trying to put a farm in the City of Placerville or El Dorado Hills, we are on farm land, land we purchased because of the rights and our rights are being taken away or changed daily to make it difficult to secure a livelihood. This is unfair, unjust and discriminatory towards farmers. The message you are sending is we know you are on farm land, we know you bought farm land, but we aren't going to let you farm because the family that lives closest to you doesn't approve of your right to farm or they enjoy the view of your land and they don't want it to change so we are going to take your rights away. Your neighbor has broken down cars, they don't take care of their home, but they want to control what you do on your property that is zoned for certain uses.

This is discriminatory, takes our rights away as farmers and we are being treated less favorably. This directly impacts the opportunity for farmers without proof but rather continual charge to change rules and zoning that are in place and have been for decades.

There is clearly a pattern of exclusion or systemic barriers that disproportionately affect certain groups, i.e. farmers.

The County should foster implementing policies that promote equity and prevent bias. Discrimination has occurred here by the enforcement favoring some groups over others, leading to unequal treatment of disparate impacts (the Planning Commission and Ag Department are protecting non-farmers and they are not protecting the rights of farmers).

You are diminishing the farmers resources without reason.

The Ag Department is determined to push their agenda through, regardless of its impacts on farmers rights. The Ag Department's relentless pursuit of their objectives shows that their priority is not protecting the rights of farmers but a personal interest.

My hope is you will give this some thought to avoid further action and make sure you are not discriminating against farmers and you are helping to promote and protect the rights of farmers in El Dorado County.

From past experiences, we are not free to disclose the senders as we would continue to be treated unfairly if we were to provide our name and business name. The County has treated businesses differently once they speak at public hearings which is retaliation.

Sincerely,

Citizens with a Right to Farm

***Please note:***

***The Planning Commission Hearing and Date did not provide enough time to seek representation to attend or write to the Board or to the Agriculture Department.***

RIGHT TO FARM  
CHAMINO, CA 95769

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PLANNING DEPARTMENT

SACRAMENTO CA 957  
19 NOV 2024 PM 7 L



PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
2850 FIRELANE COURT  
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667

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