

Dear Respectable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter as I am writing to you today as not only a restaurant owner but more importantly a citizen of Coloma. This letter is regarding having a food truck(s) at Henningson Lotus Park over the summer months, I would like to make it clear that I have no ill will towards anyone owning or operating a food truck. In the correct environment they are more than beneficial, however this would not be one of those environments. As most of you are aware Coloma/Lotus is a tourist hotspot during the summer, the rafting/camping/hiking/fishing/river/parks draw people out in droves. Owning a business in town is not for the faint of heart, once the summer season ends the revenue for any local business drops substantially and almost becomes non-existent. Mostly all foot traffic disappears due to the majority of people not doing the activities listed above when it is 50 degrees outside, and the river is only 45 degrees. A large amount of our foot traffic is people coming into town from the park for something to eat, which then leads them to discover there is a whole town with shops, activities, and restaurants they were previously unaware of. The number of people who thought the only thing in town was the Gold Discovery Park is astounding, but once they discover how much the town has to offer, they make it a point to come back time and time again. Having a food truck at HLP (Henningson Lotus Park) would take away people's need for driving into town and discovering how much our small town has to offer. Food trucks always seem like a great idea but the damage they do for brick-and-mortar restaurants is substantial, they come in for the busy hours and head out once it is over. At the end of the day when the food trucks leave what you have left are the mom-and-pop restaurants who employ the locals and support their community. Locals who when their day is done go out and spend their money at other local establishments. Restaurants are an integral part of any community and running/owning one in Coloma is beyond challenging, you absolutely must love what you are doing. Any business with a store front in Coloma/Lotus can attest it is hard enough due to the seasonal fluctuation but to have something that would actively take away from potentially every business in town must be addressed.

We believe that efforts to improve the walkability from the parks to the town would greatly benefit everyone, we see so many accidents every year from people having to walk along Lotus Road in an attempt to reach the town. Please keep in mind Lotus road in that section has no shoulder whatsoever, the thought of having a safe walkway to and from the parks would create a much safer environment. Not a few years ago a lady was run over in her walk along said area. Creating/Improving pedestrian safe walkability between the State Park-HLP-our small town would be a welcome site for all.

We do it because we love this town, and we love its residents. Mostly all of us grew up here and are fortunate enough to do what we love in the town we love, giving back and

reinvesting in our community has always been priority number one. Watching out for each other and helping neighbors is engraved in this community. Be it a fire breaking out and offering free food or doing fundraisers to benefit our local school extracurricular activities. We all help in any way we can regardless of our financial

I have included other letters and signatures from the owners of the brick-and-mortar businesses in town. Please keep in mind there are not very many of us because the town is so small but we all strongly oppose the topic of about putting a food truck at Henningson Lotus Park and cannot stress enough support of improving/creating safe pedestrian travel amongst out small town. We have included a simple map highlighting the areas we are referencing.

Lastly, I would like to apologize for any lack of official decorum in this letter as we have never addressed the Board of Supervisors before. We cannot thank you enough for taking the time to read this letter.

Respectfully,



Tim Doherty

Owner/Operator-Gorilla Rock Taco



Dennis Cambron

Owner/Operator-Rivershack Deli and Pub

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KH'.

Kasey Hail

Owner/Operator-Lotus Salon and Boutique

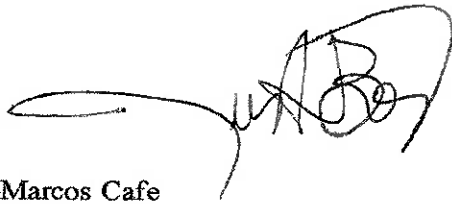
A cursive handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Valerie Jensen'.

Valerie Jensen

Owner/Operator-Coloma Club Cafe

Justin Boyd

Owner/Operator-Marcos Cafe

A cursive handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Justin Boyd'.

March 4, 2024

Dear El Dorado County Board Members:

My name is Chavon Tolbert. My husband and I are current business owners (Take a Bite deli) in the Coloma/Lotus area. It has recently come to our attention, via a Facebook post, that there will be a food truck (Mikeys Kitted Kitchen), stationed at Lotus Henningsen Park April through October 2024. This letter is being written to express our concern for not only our business but all others in our community. As I am sure you are aware, Coloma/Lotus is a tourist town. It thrives during the summer months, and income is dependent on those visiting our area. Not only will the stationing of this food truck affect the small business restaurants, but also the consignment store, and the boutique. It will also not get visitors exploring the area to hopefully return and camp, and tour the state park, and shop the stores, visit the gym, which in turn makes us small business owners struggle to survive in this economy. I have lived in this area my entire life. My family has owned property here since the 40's and still continue to reside there. I raised my kids here as well. A food truck has never been needed at the park, nor do I feel it is now. There are plenty of establishments right down the road, to get great food during the summer. Please reconsider allowing this to happen. This will affect so many!

Chavon Tolbert

To Whom it May Concern:

March 4, 2024

Myself and my husband are owners of Whitewater Pizza Company in Lotus, CA. We have owned this restaurant since Summer of 2020. We have been community members of Lotus and Coloma for the past 10 years. We have children that go to school in Gold Trail Unified School District and have been active members of community events such as the Easter Egg hunt put on by the local Chamber at Marshall Park.

We love our community and have put in countless hours, whether it be by volunteering or running our restaurant, to keep our small economy alive. The small businesses in the area are all made up of people like myself and my husband. We do everything we can to keep our businesses open as long as we can during the year. We host community events to bring business to all of us like the Pumpkins on the Bridge event. The fellowship we have supports our town.

We do not feel that it is right for a food truck to come into one of our most popular tourist spots and deter the customer base that our town's economy needs to survive the remainder of the year. Our small businesses struggle to stay open through the winter and we need the summer tourism to help us pay our overhead and taxes and keep our employees throughout the year. Our economy needs the brick and mortar restaurants that are run by local families, employ the local community and pay taxes into our county.

We ask that you reconsider parking a food truck at Henningsen Lotus Park and support the local economy in Lotus and Coloma that the tourists have been coming to for years.





Respectfully,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is on the left and the second is on the right. Both are cursive and appear to be the names of the owners mentioned in the text below.

Stephanie and Shawn Martin, owners Whitewater Pizza Company

**This letter is in regards to the food truck(s) that are being considered for the Lotus/Coloma area this spring and summer. I own a small hardware store in Coloma and we depend on foot traffic to help with our sales. When tourists come to this area we depend on all the local businesses to keep them in the area. Tourists can walk around the parks, get food and visit the famous Coloma Club. If we have a food truck in the park areas this will stop the tourists from walking around and enjoying the Coloma/Lotus area. All of the local businesses need that foot traffic. There are a lot of visitors due to baseball/soccer games at our local parks. If all those parents and visitors buy from the trucks then our local food establishments will hurt drastically. Please consider all our local small businesses and the impact that this will cause. Having a food truck is absolutely Ludacris!**

Lisa Jones  
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-  - American River
-  - Restaurants/Store Fronts
-  - Henningson Lotus Park
-  - Proposed Food truck

