

8/23/2017

Edcgov.us Mail - Villa Florentina Public Comment - August 2017



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3 pages  
Charlene Tim <charlene.tim@edcgov.us>

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## Villa Florentina Public Comment - August 2017

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Sara SK <skpriority@earthlink.net>

Tue, Aug 22, 2017 at 4:54 PM

To: Brian Shinault <brian.shinault@edcgov.us>, Gary Miller <gary.miller@edcgov.us>, Jeff Hansen <jeff.hansen@edcgov.us>, Jon Vegna <jvegna@edcgov.us>, James Williams <james.williams@edcgov.us>, Evan Mattes <evan.mattes@edcgov.us>  
Cc: Char Tim <charlene.tim@edcgov.us>

To the El Dorado County Planning Commissioners and to Planning Services Department Planner Evan Mattes,


Please find attached my Public Comment on Villa Florentina / Special Use Permit S10-0009. I hope you do not mind my sending you this letter directly, as we are at the last minute since I have been waiting for information that has not been made available — as detailed in my letter.

Thank you for all your work helping to make our neighborhood more livable. I look forward to seeing you again on Thursday.

Char, thank you for putting this Public Comment on the website. Please let me know if you have any trouble with my attachment or need anything further from me.

Sincerely,  
*Sara Schwartz Kendall*

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 Villa Florentina public comment August 2017.pdf  
84K

**Sara Schwartz Kendall**  
**P.O. Box 172**  
**Coloma CA 95613**

August 22, 2017

Re: Special Use Permit S10-0009/Villa Florentina Bed & Breakfast

To the El Dorado County Planning Commissioners and to Planning Services Department Planner Evan Mattes < evan.mattes@edcgov.us>:

I am writing to let you know how events that have been held at Villa Florentina since the March 23, 2017 Planning meeting have affected me as a close neighbor, and how the actions of the owners have negatively affected me.

My experience of their spring 2017 events has not been as bad as the extreme trials of last season, but they have not been good, as I will detail below. I believe this venue cannot comply with the sound restrictions necessary to co-exist with close neighbors in this Rural Residential area, if it is allowed to use amplified sound at its events, and if it is allowed to have large events. I continue to support it as a bed & breakfast, and I am open to the possibility of small family, healing, or corporate retreats that are not overly large and are not amplified, if the owners can demonstrate improved responsibility. Sharing the beauty of Coloma, without polluting it with excessive noise and cars on a tiny road in a Rural Residential neighborhood, could be a positive thing. However, amplified events are not working in the space that is so close to residents and has an echoing quality from being in a river valley.

With regard to owner actions (or inactions), I am upset that the Andersons did not provide the neighbors, or it seems the Planning Department, a schedule of events as they promised they would. The event date they told me verbally at the March hearing was incorrect and led to problems, as I note below. I am upset at the lack of respect shown for the Planning Department that is shown by this lack of compliance and communication.

I am also upset that I have had to wait quite a long time to make this comment, and finally have to submit it without sufficient information. As of this afternoon I do not see anywhere in the case documents online the sound studies the Andersons were supposed to have submitted on July 1, nor the Planning Department's analysis of that study. I am told this is because the Andersons' data was not submitted until mid-August. We all spent a lot of time in the March meeting setting a date for the follow-up late August meeting centering around the amount of time the Andersons would need to have to get good sound data, and the Planning Department would need to analyze that report and make their own recommendations. Apparently the Andersons disregarded this express requirement that came out of the March meeting. This inconveniences everyone and again shows a lack of respect for the planning process.

*Continued on next page*

Below are notes from the weekends of events when I was home or had guests letting me know how the sound was at my house, in reverse chronological order. I was not home every weekend. Most of the events seemed small. I am concerned that there will be more noise at possible future large events as there has been in the past.

The second weekend of June (I think Sat. June 10)

\*\* Issue of **owners not living at the B&B** as required by their Special Use Permit:

I came home at 9:20pm and there was a great deal of screaming and yelling from Villa Florentina. I bumped into Adam Anderson a few days afterward on a local trail and let him know that. He said that he "was told" that at 9pm the sound ramped up from the guests. So he was not even there. I don't know who is running the weddings if not the owner? He also said he wished they could hold up a sign saying something like "Be Quiet," but they can't do that. He therefore indicated that he and his staff cannot keep the noise of their guests within reasonable limits.

If the Andersons lived onsite as they should, it could have eased the situation because much more communication "over the fence" could have happened. It is for a good reason that owners need to live on B&Bs. They are in violation for not living onsite.

Sat. May 27

This weekend was blissfully quiet. It looked like they had some B&B guests. I love when they do - people enjoy the countryside here and we don't get bothered by noise.

Sat. May 20

There was a wedding on Saturday. I was inside sick with a cold and didn't notice much sound.

Fri. and Sat. May 12 & 13

There was amplified sound on Friday that did affect me. The wedding was the following Saturday. Both days should be counted as events with amplified noise.

Fri April 28 vs Sat April 29:

\*\* Issue of **no schedule of events provided by owners**, including event size, that the Andersons promised and the Planning Department repeatedly requested.

It looked like something was being set up for last night, Fri. 4/28, instead of today, Sat, which is the event date I heard in the hearing. The Andersons said they would tell me their schedule but have not. I was away in the evening but asked a neighbor who said they did have a wedding Fri night and it seemed most of the noise went to my house, which is bad because my friend who is ravaged by cancer came up for a restful getaway Fri night to avoid the anticipated VF noise Sat night. We can't even work around these people. My neighbor was supposed to mow Fri after work so as to not mow on the Sat wedding day, and couldn't. This is messing us up.

Thank you for considering my experiences, feelings, and conclusions that the Villa Florentina owners have violated their Special Use Permit in several ways, have not followed the planning process, and should not be allowed to hold large or amplified events at their establishment.

Sincerely,  
*Sara Schwartz Kendall*