

DATE: September 18, 2012  
TO: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
RE: Re-Zoning and Animal Permits

My name is Susan Meade. I purchased my home nine years ago. It is one acre set on Ag/Residential zoning. Prior to my purchase, I called the County to verify if I may have a horse and what the requirements were. It was stated that I could have as many animals on my property as long as there were no complaints of smell or flies. I am a responsible property owner as I remove the horse manure and maintain my property in a very clean state. I vaccinate my animals as well as I license my dog. Due to the economy, it has become very expensive to feed and maintain a horse for me and other animal owners. The cost of hay has risen by over 40% and at this point, it is very hard to sell a horse as people are giving them away.

- Does the County think that horse owners are rich and that even a struggling single parent can afford to pay a misconceived permit fee?

Currently, I have two horses, my daughter's and mine. My daughter is active in 4H Horsemanship. I have been a 4H Horse Leader for the past seven years. The kids that are involved in the 4H program become responsible adults and contribute to society. Any additional regulatory expense adds financial burdens to large animal owners and 4H families. As you know, El Dorado County is known for its large 4H family and the volunteer work it does for the community as well as making these kids a conscientious member to society. This permit fee will devastate these families!

I understand that Federal, State, and County revenues have been reduced because of the recession and high national unemployment. I also understand that there are irresponsible animal owners. However, there are current laws and regulations that pertain to animal welfare issues. I can not believe that imposing a fee on responsible horse owners will have any positive effect on adjacent property owners or the public in general. The only result will add a minimal amount to the county budget funding, but will be offset by the expense of administration costs.

- How many enforcement personnel, support personnel, and administrative personnel will El Dorado County have to hire to administer and enforce this foolish idea?

Basically, this is similar to the recently added Fire Fee, taxation without representation.

- Will I, as a citizen, have an opportunity to vote on this foolish idea?
- What will be the next intrusive taxation idea that El Dorado County propose?
- When will the County want to place a fee on goats, sheep, rabbits, swine, llamas, guinea pigs, hamsters, and other pets?

Submitted by Susan Meade  
at Board Hearing of 9-18-12  
H 14 12-0837 6C 1 of 2

- Will the County personnel inspect horse properties?
- What is the cost for the horse patrol personnel?
- Don't existing County departments and personnel have enough duties already?
- How or who presented this foolish idea to the Board of Supervisors?
- How much revenue does the County expect to raise from this proposal?
- If this takes affect, will there be a grandfather clause for existing owners?
- Has the County determined what this will do to the re-sale value of existing one acre properties set-up for horses?
- Why is the County discriminating in the extent that it's one acre properties that are specifically having the permit fee and not other sized properties?

Obviously, I oppose this!

Thank you,

*Susan Meade*

Susan Meade  
 4459 Panorama Drive  
 Placerville, CA 95667  
 530.626.0808

*Handwritten notes in blue ink:*  
 - business transactions to increase  
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