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bliccomment

Please distribute via Legistar and publicly post to the 9/22/20 BOS Agenda Item #39 Open Flame Campfires

1 message

Melody Lane <melody.lane@reagan.com>

Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 1:08 PM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Cc: lori.parlin@edcgov.us, sue.novasel@edcgov.us, brian.veerkamp@edcgov.us, shiva.frentzen@edcgov.us, john.hidahl@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us, bosfour <bosfour@edcgov.us>, bosone@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us

Please ensure the entirety of this correspondence is timely distributed via Legistar and publicly posted to the 9/22/20 BOS Agenda Item #39 Open Flame Campfires.

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The threats to residents from open flame campfires and illegal fireworks affecting public safety during fire season is nothing new to EDC. The Coloma Resort in particular has a long history of putting its own interests above the safety of residents who live on Mt. Murphy. That's why years ago I became active in a subcommittee of RMAC to address the many threats to the safety and quality of life of Coloma residents.

Since Memorial Day the Coloma Resort remains packed like sardines, even during the Red Flag air quality dangers posed by the still raging wildfires. You have recently seen the evidence of the Coloma Resort open flame photos and concerns expressed by local residents. You are also aware that there have been five arson fires that have been ignited either directly on my property, or within ¼ mile of my home. I lost my beloved golden retriever due to the Mt. Murphy fire pictured below, ignited by arsonist Ben Cunha who was under \$10 million bail bond, same as the King Fire arsonist. My photos and explicit letter garnered the attention of the State Fire Marshal, the Governor, and state legislators who preferred to sweep the issue under the carpet of government bureaucracy.

But our concerns extend far beyond open flame campfires. Over the years EDSO, OES and Planning/Development have been unresponsive to resident reports of illegal fireworks and loud amplified events hosting large crowds at the Coloma Resort. In the event of another emergency requiring evacuation, egress at the Mt. Murphy bridge and deplorable conditions of the one lane road presents a public safety hazard to residents. However, state and county officials have been unwilling to address our concerns, thereby becoming complicit and liable. It is a recipe for disaster, but our appeals and warnings to public officials are perpetually met with silence.

The county and State Parks has also been unresponsive to CPRAs requesting the Emergency Evacuation Plans for the Coloma region. This is information the public has a right to know. In fact, a member of the Fire Safe Council recently informed me that El Dorado County was the ONLY county in the entire state that refused to submit regional Emergency Evacuation Plans. RESIDENTS SHOULD BE THE FIRST TO KNOW WHAT THOSE EVACUATION ROUTES AND PLANS ARE!!

The issue of open flame campfires needs to be proactively addressed which means citations issued and SUP revocations where necessary. It is the campground owners who are ultimately liable. The BOS are either part of the problem, or part of the solution, so please don't kick this can down the road any longer.

Melody Lane

Founder – Compass2Truth

"There is no difference between socialism and communism, except in the means of achieving the same ultimate end: communism proposes to enslave men by force, socialism by vote. It is merely the difference between murder and suicide." ~ Ayn Rand ~

From: Melody Lane [mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 2:39 PM
To: lori.parlin@edcgov.us
Cc: Tiffany Schmid (Tiffany.Schmid@edcgov.us); barry.smith@parks.ca.gov; Sweeney, Trish (Trish.Sweeney@asm.ca.gov); Hannah.Ackley@asm.ca.gov; Masingale, Katie (Katie.Masingale@asm.ca.gov); rafael.martinez@edcgov.us; 'bosfive@edcgov.us'; bosfour (bosfour@edcgov.us); 'bosone@edcgov.us'; 'bosthree@edcgov.us'; 'bosthree@edcgov.us'; 'bosthree@edcgov.us'; 'bosthree@edcgov.us'
Subject: Campfires, Coloma Resort, Public Safety issues

Ms. Parlin,

My remarks will undoubtedly raise the ire of many who are bcc'd on this message, but they need to know the facts, so permit me to cut to the chase.

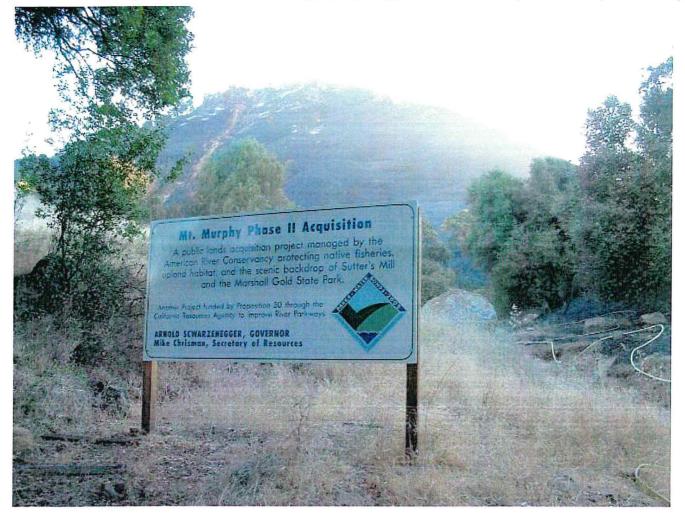
I specifically addressed my communications to *you* for a reason; pursuant to your Constitutional oath of office, you are required to respond to petitions for redress of grievances. You are also again reminded that Shelly Wiley and county counsel are not your mouthpiece. This morning I received a cryptic response from Shelley Wiley that circumvented the public safety issues delineated in my email to you:

Thank you for your input and concern for fire safety in our county. Supervisor Parlin takes your concerns seriously and has reached out to County staff and to the El Dorado County Fire Chief to start the discussion regarding the potential for a fire ban to coincide with the Forest Service closures and Bureau of Land Management fire ban.

First of all, American River Conservancy and BLM work hand-in-hand with Forestry and CA State Parks. The EDC Fire Chief, BLM, and Forestry and are a big part of the problem. Reaching out to them is like asking the fox to guard the henhouse--government has never been the solution. You are aware of what happened after we presented these matters to Assemblyman Frank Bigelow at his Capitol office: we were retaliated against and our safety put in greater jeopardy when he betrayed our trust and confidence:



9/17/2020



Secondly, the attachments are just a small sample of the factual evidence entered into the public record over the years, so they should be very familiar to you and county staff. Here are a few facts for those who are new to the area or don't subscribe to CLNews. The owners of the Coloma Resort don't even live in Coloma – the Faieta's live miles away near Lake Arrobee. The Faieta's and campground manager Sherry Fabella have been arrogant, unreasonable and extremely hostile when approached by us. They have threatened, harassed, slandered and libeled many residents because we have exercised our rights by *lawfully* reporting *amplified noise, overcrowding, and illegal fireworks* to law/code enforcement and by documenting the incidents as per the River Management Plan. However county staff remain unresponsive to our demands for action which includes issuance of substantial citations and SUP revocation.

Thirdly, you've been apprised by numerous constituents about the traffic jams and egress problems at the Mt. Murphy Bridge. Frequently large caravans of RVs entering/leaving the Coloma Resort and crowds of pedestrians fail to give residents right of way sometimes causing delays for 20 minutes or more. Add to that the fact there is no evacuation plan in the event of another emergency, and you have a recipe for disaster akin to the Paradise Camp Fire tragedy.

Keep in mind not all CA fires were due to lightning. Illegal fireworks, campfires, and arson contributed to many of the fires burning throughout the western US: https://www.lawenforcementtoday.com/sources-series-of-wildfires-may-be-coordinated-and-planned-attack/

Fourth, there is no excuse for anyone having any type of open flame such as those reported at the Coloma Resort this past weekend. The below photo was taken just hours before it was posted to CLNews. Note the unhealthy, heavy smoke and the crowded conditions near the Ropes Course (which by the way, was unpermitted when it was initially constructed = i.e. don't ask for permission, just ask for forgiveness.) The vacant property with tall weeds directly across Bayne Road is that of my next door neighbor, an area that is rife with trespassers, illegal parking, vandalism and suspected drug activity (as reported by the real estate agent):

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Prior to your election, you participated as a witness in many of the meetings we had with county and State Parks officials concerning the unique public safety issues affecting Coloma residents. At the time you shared our concerns and even sought counsel with Compass2Truth affiliates. But just like your predecessors Briggs and Ranalli, you have circumvented the public safety issues relative to the Coloma Resort's abuse of their Special Use Permit that especially puts Mt. Murphy residents in peril on the northeast side of the bridge. It is *our* property, loved ones, and quality of life that is impacted by those who arrogantly act as if they are above the law.

Please Lori, no more excuses or manipulations by counsel. Don't pass the buck or kick the can down the road like Ranalli and Briggs did. Transparency and accountability are paramount in the EDC Core Values. It is incumbent upon you to take responsibility and ensure that the matter of public safety in Coloma is properly addressed and resolved once and for all. That's what you were elected for.

I look forward to your personal written response to each of the subjects addressed to you.

Regards

Melody Lane

Founder – Compass2Truth

9/17/2020

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As history teaches us, if the people have little or no knowledge of the basics of government and their rights, those who wield governmental power inevitably wield it excessively. After all, a citizenry can only hold its government accountable if it knows when the government oversteps its bounds. ~ John Whitehead ~

From: clnews@googlegroups.com [mailto:clnews@googlegroups.com] On Behalf Of diana greer
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 10:55 AM
To: amy@maddogmesa.com
Cc: cjmone@gmail.com; Coloma-Lotus News
Subject: Re: [CLNews] Re: The horrible destruction that people are creating in this community

Just to be clear. When I wrote this original post, my intention was not speaking about campfires. It was about spirit. We're a small community. Be nice. Talk to your neighbors. Too many people are so willing to call each other out on social media and not go knock on your neighbors door and speak directly to them. There are a lot people in this tiny area who dont even know each other. Make it important to get to know each other as we continue to grow.

As far as the campfires are concerned, I'm happy to hear that most of the campgrounds have already ceased having campfires. It is a bad year and our tension is high. We don't need to add that to our list of worries.

Respectfully,

Diana Greer

On Mon, Sep 14, 2020, 10:33 AM Amy Bridge Day <amy@maddogmesa.com> wrote:

CATHERINE,

IS THIS EMAIL TO YOU THE OFFICIAL NEWS TO THE COMMUNITY? I BELIEVE THEY SHOULD SPEAK DIRECTLY TO THE COMMUNITY AND AM NOT SURE WHO SHERRY FABELA MIGHT BE, PERHAPS FROM THE OWNERS WOULD BE BETTER.

THANK YOU

From: clnews@googlegroups.com [mailto:clnews@googlegroups.com] On Behalf Of Catherine Mone Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 8:35 AM

To: Coloma-Lotus News <clnews@googlegroups.com>

Subject: [CLNews] Re: The horrible destruction that people are creating in this community

Sherry Fabela from Coloma Resort sent me an email saying they have banned campfires for the rest of the season, so if you see anything there, please call the resort at 800-238-2298. It might help to call any resort or outfitter directly if you see something wrong on their property (and a fire of any type is extremely wrong). All these companies need to manage their visitors in order to maintain their fire insurance and their livelihoods, so do reach out directly. If the discussion goes nowhere, call the fire department.

I'm reminded that several years ago my neighbor mowed an irrigated lawn on a red flag day, went in the house to shower, and one tiny ember from that mower set the dry grass 30' from his lawn on fire. If the neighbor further down hadn't seen it, and didn't have a tractor and dirt handy to put it out, his house and mine could have burned. There's no such thing as a safe fire right now, and as it cools off in fall, while the ground is still parched, many woodstoves and chimneys will present fire danger. Stay safe, folks, and call offending parties directly. A formal ban throughout every fire season is a good idea. With a little effort, the resorts can find safe ways for kids to have s'mores.

Catherine

On Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 10:17:51 PM UTC-7, diana greer wrote:

First, I just have to say that the negative stuff that people are dishing out is NOT something I've ever known within our, my, community. I haven't been here for as long as some. About 18 years. I'm still a newcomer.

In those 18 years I haven't seen too many rocks thrown. We are friends and neighbors. If we have a bone to pick, we knock on our neighbors door and address it. That's what good people do. It's called communication.

This attack of our neighbors and allies is self serving bullshit. I love this valley and I'm happy to see new folks coming to the area, however it's disturbing to see the interruption of our life here because it's not conducive to what people expect when they come in from the city.

I walked down to look at that fire pictured which blew this whole thing out of proportion. It was below my knees, in a fire ring on DG (granite, ya know) and the trees were way off to the side of it. It was totally safe. They wanted to make s'mores.

The owners and manager live within a mile. They don't want their homes to burn either and are responsible people.

I am so heartbroken by the way you are all responding here. Kind of makes me want to get the heck out of here if this is what we have to look forward to.

Jeff, I loved your comment. btw.

Thanks for reading this. Its just heartbreaking to see this in what has always been such a lovely community. I guess it's about time to move on.

Friends can join by sending email to clnews+subscribe@googlegroups.com. See the list Guidelines at https://groups.google.com/forum/#!topic/clnews/VU6Goo6gfGo.

5 attachments

- 2000 CR SUP warning Trout.pdf
- CR SUP Warning Prutch 9-21-15.pdf
- Coloma Resort Libel.pdf 2199K
- Santiago 6-9-14 A21.docx
 19K
- 7-5-14 Coloma Resort fireworks message GJ.docx 14K



EL DORADO COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

2850 Fairlane Court Placervillo, CA 95667

http://co.el-dorado.ca.us/planning

Phone: (530) 621-5355 Fax: (530) 642-0508

June 9, 2000

Fred Faieta P.O. Box 516 Coloma, CA 95613

RE: Noise levels from Coloma Resort

Dear Mr. Faieta:

The Planning Department is aware that Coloma resort has been regularly utilizing amplified music, including karaoke, at the campground. The resulting noise levels are likely exceeding the noise standards of your special use permit. Condition 9 of special use permit S93-03 states:

The noise level of campground activities shall be regulated by the following dBA. At the property line:

10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. - 50 dBA 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. - 60 dBA

Attached is examples of sound levels to give you a subjective description of the noise levels anticipated from various activities. Note that noise above a normal conversation would exceed the 60 dB threshold.

Please review your campground noise policies and ensure that your campground activities are planned in accordance with your special use permit conditions. It is recommended that you especially concentrate on noise activities which may be annoying to local residents, such as the use of P.A. systems, including karaoke.

Should neighbors file complaints with the County, it would be considered a violation of the special use permit. If you have any questions, please call me at 621-5355.

Sincerely.

Rogen Trout

Roger Trout Senior Planner

Attachment



Mr. Fred Faieta Coloma Resort 6921 Mt. Murphy Road Coloma, CA 95613

Re: Courtesy Letter for Special Use Permit (S93-0003) APN: 006-162-07 - Coloma Resort

Dear Mr. Faieta:

A complaint was received by Development Services Division, Planning Services, about loud aerial fireworks at your resort at 12:05 am on July 5, 2015. A County Sheriff Deputy was dispatched to the site where he met a security guard at the gate. The subjects responsible for the fireworks could not be found. The Deputy was also told about several loud events with amplified music and karaoke at the resort, possibly in violation of the resort's special use permit. The Deputy suggested that the complaint be forwarded to Planning Services for follow-up.

You and I spoke about this complaint and discussed the following issues on the phone on September 8, 2015. This letter serves as a reminder of your special use permit (S93-0003) and the conditions of approval that regulate the operation of your resort. The conditions are attached for you convenience. Please understand all conditions of your permit and pay close attention to the following conditions that relate to loud noises:

- 3. Weddings and wedding receptions shall be discouraged. Please refrain from having these events at your resort unless a Temporary Use Permit is obtained.
- 9. The noise level of the campground activities shall be regulated by the following dBA at the property line: 10:00 pm to 7:00 am, 50 dBA and 7:00 am to 10:00 pm, 60 dBA. An example of a 50 dBA noise might be a refrigerator working or a car driving past, while an example of a 60 dBA noise might be normal conversation in a restaurant or office.
- 12. The total Coloma Resort capacity shall not exceed 507 persons at any one time. The number of vehicles shall not exceed 310 at any one time. On busy weekends/holidays be sure to keep a count of persons/vehicles entering your resort.

Failure to adhere to these conditions of approval could result in the revocation of your special use permit. This is not the first noise complaint. This letter and complaint will go in your permit file and could be used to build a case for revocation in the future if more noise complaints are received.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or would like to meet, please call me at (530) 621-5994 or email me at joseph.prutch@edcgov.us.

Sincerely,

Joseph Prutch, Associate Planner Planning Services

2

Cc: John Desario, Supervising Code Enforcement Officer



15 JAN 22 PM 2:50

1/21/14

RECEIVED PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Elected Members of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

The Coloma Resort was granted a conditional use permit by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors after it was purchased by my parents, Fred & Marielle Faieta in 1988. The Resort has been under the ownership and on-site management of our Family since the permit was granted. For over a quarter of a century we have developed and maintained a continuous high standard of condition, service, security, cleanliness, park improvement, community involvement and educational/recreational opportunities for our community.

I have been the Director of Development & Operations since 2004.

The Resort operates 12 months out of each year and employs 14 full time and 6 part time management team members.

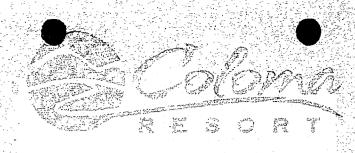
Our Resort oversight is mainly under the jurisdiction of the State of California Housing & Community Development Agency. There are numerous State, County and Federal Agencies that participate in helping to keep health, public safety and compliance within regulation for all campgrounds, trailer parks, and RV parks in the State of California. As of this writing, (January 21, 2014) there are no known violations of permits, nor pending action by any of the regulators assigned to inspect and control the activities of the Coloma Resort.

We have no modular homes on the property. All of our Park Model Units are allowed by HCD regulations. In 2013, the Coloma Resort's Park Model, Bunkhouse and Tent Cabin rental accommodations contributed \$23,390 in El Dorado County "bed tax" alone. Coloma Resort is not only an asset to the community; it is also a monetary asset to El Dorado County.

We have close relationships with all but one seemingly misguided and questionably intended neighbor. We enforce our 10pm quiet hour and keep our neighbors advised when we donate our facility for fundraisers which benefit local organizations such as Coloma/ Lotus and El Dorado County Chambers, Placerville Rotary, local high schools, American Lung Association, Swift Water Rescue Courses, California Search and Rescue Expos, Etc.

We consider our doing business in El Dorado County a privilege not a right. It is my great concern that the unrestrained actions of Melody Lane and her "Compass 2 Truth" platform cause undue cost and harassment to the residents, businesses, The Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, governing bodies and protective agencies of El Dorado County. Regardless, Coloma Resort will continue our position of transparency and compliance.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 516, Coloma, CA 95613 • Tel; (530) 621-2267 • FAX: (530) 621-4960 Delivery Address: 6921 Mt. Murphy Road, Coloma, CA • E-Mail: info@colomaresort.com



In conclusion, I would like to restate that there are no mobile homes and no know violations of our conditional use permit. Please call and make an appointment with me for a tour of our treasured facility and to review any and all conditions of approval.

Sincere Daniella Faieta

Director of Development and Operations

Coloma Resort

530-621-2267 x304

Daniella@colomaresort.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Fox 516, Coloma, CA 95613 • Tel: (530) 621-2267 • FAX: (530) 621-4960 Derivery Address: 6925 Mi. Murphy Road, Coloma, CA • E-Mail: info@colomaresort.com

Monday June 9, 2014 @ 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Chairman Norma Santiago

- I. Agenda 21 Resolution 5/15/12
 - A. Process of Assignment of Resolution # (before/during/after)
 - B. Establish A-21 Policy Concerns: Private Prop./Eminent Domain
- II. Homework Update
 - A. Resolution 113-95/AB1234 BOS agenda date?
 - B. CPRAs Stonewalling/Late/Incomplete
- III. Mt. Murphy Road Bridge Stakeholders Committee
 - A. Coloma Resort SUPs/Inspection Reports/Permits
 - B. Delphi Technique
 - C. CHM2 Hill
 - D. Emergency Evacuation Plan
- IV. EDSO Jurisdiction No MOU
 - A. CA State Parks/BLM/F&W etc. = 0 authority
 - B. EDSO Grants/Q&A -- not resolved
 - C. Resolve Sheriff retaliation RMAC
- V. Next Meeting Date:

7/5/14 @ 12:09 PM - Phone message from XXXXXXX

Hi Melody, XXXXXXX...I just thought I'd report to you I drove by your gate to see if you're at home but you're not there so I thought I'd leave a message. I called the Sheriff on the Resort last night for the noise and then for the fireworks and I called over at the Faieta's as well and told them I didn't think they wanted felons shooting off fireworks in their Park and that the Sheriff had been called and that they should go down there and take charge. And uh, Marielle called their manager and the manager told them it was all over at the American River Resort across the river. I called Marielle back and told her to get a manager that wasn't full of shit. She had lied and that it was back in their Ropes area. So anyway, we had an interesting night last night and the Sheriff did come out and he inspected, I mean the deputy came out and inspected and searched for fireworks. I don't know what the outcome was, but we had an interesting evening on the 4th. Thanks much. Talk to ya soon. Bye bye.

7/5/14 @ 4:10 PM - I called XXXXXXXXX. XXX said he dialed 911 and they called EDSO. XXX played the long string of fireworks going off for the deputy while on the phone so they could hear what was going on. XXX thought the deputy's name started with a "D". XXX reported that while the deputy was at the resort the person on the loudspeaker got everyone's attention stating, "Let's let everyone know what good neighbors we are!!!" XXX threatened to call the Faieta's every time they made a racket even if it was at 3 AM. He'd go over there himself with a gun to prove his point. I told him to document all incidents with EDSO; dealing directly with the Faieta's was a waste of time. XXX was adamant about being "nice" to the Faieta's and he'd deal with it his way.

At approximately 4:50 PM on 7/5/14 I called Dispatch to get a case file number on XXXXXXX call. Dispatch said there was no case file assigned, just a CFS # 742014-284. Was informed you must request a Citizen's Arrest for a case file number to be assigned. Dispatch operator claimed fireworks was a misdemeanor, not a felony. Most people won't file a Citizen's Arrest because it's just too "messy" to deal with. Informed her that we're trying to do our part as Citizen's Watch but we need EDSO to do their job and enforce the law.



Kyra Scharffenberg <kyra.scharffenberg@edcgov.us>

Fwd: Campfire impact in regards to El Dorado District IV

2 messages

EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us> To: Kyra Scharffenberg <kyra.scharffenberg@edcgov.us> Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 3:18 PM

This one for #39

Office of the Clerk of the Board El Dorado County 330 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667 530-621-5390

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------ Forwarded message ------From: **Bagelpower** <bagelpower@gmail.com> Date: Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 12:41 PM Subject: Campfire impact in regards to El Dorado District IV To: <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

To the Attention of Supervisor Parlin;

I wish to add my support to the proposed ban on ALL campfires in the District IV region of El Dorado. At this time of year a campfire (a fire event of any kind) needs to be banned even in fire pits, campgrounds or the like. We live upslope in Kelsey from the Coloma Camping area and are VERY concerned at the fires still happening and how easily they could result in a wildfire spreading through our area.

My husband is an active, full-time Firefighter/Paramedic, and we as a household know how these things can get out of hand even in the best circumstances with the most qualified people at hand.

I would also like to go further to propose an annual campfire ban from July 1 - Dec 30 for our District every year. The risks are only going to get worse and I don't think that we should be working so hard to keep our community safe when visitors and reckless community members can destroy it with one ill timed campfire. Particularly when we know campfires go hand in hand with drinking thus lowering smart decision making. You can enjoy the outdoors and camping without adding to the heat and reduced air quality.

thanks for your time, Hannah Dwyer and family

Hannah 38°N -120°W cottonwoodmeadow.com

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Office of the Clerk of the Board El Dorado County 330 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667 530-621-5390

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Hannah 38°N -120°W cottonwoodmeadow.com