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By James Feenan at 9:32 am, Aug 12, 2024

From: [chuck dunbar](#)
To: [pbscommissions](#)
Subject: Proposal: Low Intensity Camping--Citizen Feedback for August 15, 2024 Meeting
Date: Friday, August 9, 2024 6:23:06 PM

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Proposal: Sec. 20.176.020 Low Intensity Camping

To Whom It May Concern:

We write as citizens and taxpayers of Mendocino County, living in a semi-rural neighborhood just south of Fort Bragg. We are concerned and troubled by numerous issues as to this proposal. We oppose this proposal, especially as it relates to residential areas and zoning. A number of citizens have written to you already about their similar concerns. We share these concerns and will highlight several here:

First, we note that this proposal seems not widely known or publicized to County citizens. We hope that before this proposal moves ahead, some better means of widely informing citizens can be employed.

We live in our own home, built 20 years ago, on a one-way access road approximately one mile in length. We have a road association that cares for our road. It is a peaceful, quiet road with little traffic. Should one or more camping sites, per this proposal, be developed here, the rural quality of our road would be degraded significantly.

Our home, and those of our neighbors, are in a forested area, with older growth trees and brush that potentially put our area at risk of wild fires. Adding camp grounds to our residential area, with uncertain supervision, and campers whose care and caution about fires might well be in question, greatly worries us. We note also that several fire department staff from small, rural areas have responded with concerns as to this proposal.

As we all know, we are in uncertain times as to local wells and water supplies. Such camping sites would clearly add more strain to such critical supplies.

While this proposal has been amended to specify the necessity of a host at all times during camping use, no means of enforcement are specified. It is clear that the County would not be able to do so, with current lack of staffing in many areas. While some hosts would take this responsibility seriously, no doubt others would not be so diligent, leaving camp sites improperly supervised, never a safe circumstance in a number of ways. Campers, for all kinds of safety and security issues, must be well-supervised. This proposal does not provide for such in real-world, certifiable fashion.

This proposal does not include information as to due diligence in planning, such as obtaining feedback from law enforcement and fire departments, or assessments of impact on quality of life in rural residential areas. The possible negative impacts in many areas are not addressed. We also question whether issues of financial liability for dangerous activities and associated damage and harm related to camping activities have been given sufficient thought. These issues are all important to County citizens, especially as to safety issues.

We do fully support any efforts in our small County regarding an increase of affordable, permanent housing. That need for County residents is a critical one and must be addressed. This proposal, for those visiting our area, is surely low priority by contrast.

Again, we oppose this proposal and trust that you will take all feedback given you, from us and many other citizens, with all due respect. Please, we ask you bluntly, place this ill-advised proposal in the dustbin.

Eileen Bohannon and Chuck Dunbar, Mendocino County residents and taxpayers for a combined nearly 90

years.