FW: NO on Native Tree Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance

Hannah Miller

Thu 7/14/2016 2:57 PM

To:BOS_Legislative Assistants <BOS_Legislative-Assistants@co.slo.ca.us>; cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder <cr_board_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>;

Hannah Miller
Legislative Assistant to Supervisor Adam Hill
District 3, County of San Luis Obispo

-----Original Message-----
From: Nancy Dodd [mailto:rdoddranch@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 2:03 PM
To: Adam Hill <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc: Hannah Miller <hmiller@co.slo.ca.us>
Subject: NO on Native Tree Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance

Dear Supervisor Hill,

It is of great concern to us that you are proposing at your meeting on July 15, 2016 a Native Tree Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance and an Agricultural Pond and Reservoir Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance for those areas that are within the county jurisdiction that will prohibit the removal of oak trees for agricultural use. Such a regulation would be a severe hardship for us.

We have 520 acres of property located in Adelaida that has been in our family since the 1870's. Five generations of our family that has dry farmed (zero irrigation) and ranched this property has responsibly removed oak trees for our agricultural use, dry farming, graze land and firewood resources. We are proud of how our property has been managed and the resources that we have developed from our land use. Our intent is to continue on with our family owned and operated agriculture operation for generations to come. If we can't continue on with our plan to responsibly clear oak trees, as our family has done for years, for graze land, dry farm crops and firewood we will not be able to afford to own our land much less pay our taxes and will be forced to sell the land we love and cherish as our heritage. We hear out in the community that we don't want Paso Robles to turn into the next Napa, forcing families that have been in Adelaida for generations out of production to where we have to sell out to corporations will be only contribute to that fear. Having to run down to the county office on a regular basis to ask for permission to remove oak trees, wait for reviews, studies, pay fees, etc. on the agricultural land we own and pay taxes on does not fit into our farming ranching operation plan. Our land is zoned agricultural and proposing such an ordinance upon us is a huge shut down of our property and a severe hardship for us.

Item No. 1 & 2
Meeting Date: July 15, 2016
Presented by: Raymond E. Dodd, Jr. & Nancy Dodd
Rec'd prior to meeting & posted to web on: July 14, 2016

It is very disappointing to us that some of the folks that have fought for this urgency ordinance are neighbors of ours who have cleared their land of oak trees or someone before them cleared their land of oak trees, but that is okay because it is them and their land. So now, as responsible land owners, we are the ones who have to pay the price for the sins of the past. Hypocrisy among many of these folks is unbelievable. Known for a fact that some of these landowners have raped their land of oak trees, but now want urgency ordinances opposed upon those that have responsibly managed their land because they are out "to get the Resnick's/Justin Winery". This is largely a Resnick/Justin Winery problem. Most landowners, like ourselves, are acting responsibly on our woodlands. An oak tree regulation on our agricultural land is a severe hardship for us.
We are familiar with the Voluntary Oaks Management Plan and the Land Use Ordinance regulations regarding Agricultural grading and believe these voluntary practices should not be modified. We are not in agreement with the urgency ordinance that may stop tree removal, grading and other plans on a broad scale of actions until a permanent ordinance is proposed. Such a regulation would in effect be rezoning our land from agricultural purposes which would impose a severe hardship for us.

We urge you to carefully consider the implementation of an Urgency Ordinance that prohibits the cutting or removal of oak trees on land zoned for agricultural. If the county does prohibit us from using our land for agricultural purposes then we suggest the assessment should be substantially lowered to reflect the reduced value of our land. Imposing such an Urgency Ordinance on us and our property rights is in fact a severe hardship.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E. Dodd, Jr. & Nancy Dodd

rdoddranch@earthlink.net

FW: San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau Comments

Blake Fixler

Thu 7/14/2016 3:45 PM

To: BOS_Legislative Assistants <BOS_Legislative-Assistants@co.slo.ca.us>; cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder <cr_board_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>;

1 attachment (208 KB)

Farm Bureau Urgency ordinance(s) Comments (002).pdf;

For your review.
Letter attached as a .pdf
Thank you.

Blake Fixler
Administrative Assistant III
Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County
www.slocounty.ca.gov

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From: Lynn Diehl [mailto:lynn@slofarmbureau.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 3:34 PM
To: Blake Fixler <bfixler@co.slo.ca.us>; Jocelyn Brennan <jbrennan@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc: 'Jennifer Howsmon' <jhowsmon@slofarmbureau.org>; joy_slofarmbureau.org <joy@slofarmbureau.org>
Subject: San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau Comments

Good afternoon,

Attached is a letter including comments from President Dan Sutton representing a San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau special committee on the draft urgency ordinances.

If you could please include them in correspondence prior to the Special meeting, July 15,2016 and distribute a copy to each Supervisor or their assistant this afternoon, we would appreciate it.

Best regards,

Item No. 1 & 2
Meeting Date: July 15, 2016
Presented by: Lynn Diehl
Rec'd prior to meeting & posted to web on: July 14, 2016

Lynn Diehl
Executive Director

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FARM BUREAU
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401

July 13, 2016

County of San Luis Obispo
Board of Supervisors

Chair Lynn Compton, District 4
Supervisor Frank Mecham, District 1
Supervisor Bruce Gibson, District 2
Supervisor Adam Hill, District 3
Supervisor Debbie Arnold, District 5

Re: Native Tree Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance
Agricultural Pond and Reservoir/Urgency Ordinance

Dear Chair Compton and Board of Supervisors;

The San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau recognizes the importance of the question of how best to manage and sustain our Oak woodlands. Most Farm Bureau members are property rights advocates. But with that right, comes responsibility. We have no authority to gather missing pieces of information, pinpoint lapses in oversight and deliver punitive action. The organization is tasked with evaluating impacts of pending laws and regulations and creating a dialogue amongst members and with those who are the governmental decision makers.

In regard to the actions which resulted in a public outcry and the scheduling of the July15, 2016, special meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the community is clearly and significantly speaking out – not only in words, but, also, with its feet and wallet. The subsequent intent by the County to scrutinize and remedy regulatory failings is to be encouraged.

Farm Bureau would like to address some elements of the urgency ordinances before you and, also, offer a possible component that will achieve education and sustainability of Oaks, while reducing any excessive fee burden on the small landowner, farmer, winemaker, and rancher.

San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau is currently surveying our agricultural membership in order to provide insight into the issue and the best route to move forward. More than 10% of the members have responded to date. Almost all of the comments so far, have expressed degrees of dissatisfaction, outrage and disbelief of the actions. Most people want something on the books to ensure oversight is in place, but they are unsure of what is prudent for the entire area and what is excessive. We have also heard from many people who are worried that their longtime responsible behavior will not be recognized and that they will not be able to thin or remove trees resulting in inability to manage their property and resulting in severe negative impacts.

Item No. 1 & 2
Meeting Date: July 15, 2016
Presented by: Lynn Diehl
Rec'd prior to meeting & posted to web on: July 14, 2016

The complexity of the tree management issue is apparent to those who have reviewed the ordinances enacted in other areas. We urge you to be very clear in language so that those activities that are exempt allow those who need to remove diseased, dead, or damaged trees within the rules, may do so without fear of violation.

Many individuals and entities, including Farm Bureau, worked on the Voluntary Oaks Management document. Despite some comments, the voluntary plan showed judicious behavior by hundreds of people over many years. We believe there is a place where oversight can exist and where people, such as those in this room, can practice voluntary management and not be penalized because of the actions of the few.

At Farm Bureau, we have been discussing the possibility of a legitimate voluntary management plan by landowners that would lead to education and certification. In turn, those with a current plan that established a property tree baseline or data base could easily show need to thin or remove any trees and, because of that certification process, would have a benefit of reduced fees. Those who choose not to participate would pay full fee price. It rewards management and thoughtfulness.

Ordinances:

In consideration of the wording in the draft Native Tree Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance and the draft Agricultural Pond and Reservoir Urgency Ordinance, a Farm Bureau special committee met to evaluate the ordinances and suggests:

Tree Ordinance:

Page 4, Section 2. Definitions: Remove Grey Pine (Pinus sabiniana) from the list. In creating a Native Tree designation, some species including this common pine shouldn't be included.

Page 5, Section 5, C.: In the title of this exemption add "or dead".

Page 6, Section 5. Exemptions. J. 2: For existing agricultural operations we recommend this should read "removal of up to three (3) Native Trees for each 20 acres for the life of the urgency ordinance".

Page 6, A, Permitting: Add to both 1 and 2 that this tree removal qualification only exists for the life of the urgency ordinance.

Fee schedules and arborist fees and wait times should be provided so that the public can readily see what the costs will be.

New Reservoirs/Ponds/Basins:

We recommend denial.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FARM BUREAU
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401

Reservoirs, catch basins and seasonal ponds are an important management tool not only for agriculture, but also for the welfare of wildlife. Ag Ponds are already regulated by lengthy guidelines. We recommend any changes be given more thorough consideration, review and vetting by the stakeholders. On Page 2, Section F County staff indicates intent to amend the General Plan. Proceeding with any General Plan policy changes that are not evident in this document, the Agricultural Pond and Reservoir Urgency Ordinance is simply ill-advised and should not go forward.

Under the current LUO reservoirs more than 1acre foot in capacity have significant criteria to meet.

Page 5, Section H sets limits simply for frost protection and irrigation. The premise that are those are the only uses is incorrect and well-known by those who developed and oversee the extensive permitting requirements already in place.

Page 4, Section 6, Permitting, A: Rewrite this section so that **stock ponds** which are filled from runoff are not be included with reservoirs, ponds and basins where groundwater is pumped to fill the reservoir. Not only are **stock ponds** not utilizing groundwater, but they give the added benefit of percolation to the watersheds/basins.

Page 5, Section 6 Permitting, C: Do not write out the Alternative Review Program. There is a place in this county for this highly beneficial program not only to the agriculturalist but to County Planning as well. The review program is more cost effective and the people reviewing applications in the program are more familiar and knowledgeable about agriculture.

Page 7, Section 6 Enforcement: A 7-year ban on development, planting or cultivation, even with an exception by a Discretionary Permit, appears excessive.

We ask that you carefully consider elements of these draft ordinances so that you are able to stop or give a time-out for some actions, in order to develop a responsive and durable policy. The San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau appreciates the opportunity for citizens to be heard and to be an important part of the process that ensures this County continues to be an exceptional place to live, work and create a legacy for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Sutton
President
San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau

Item No. 1 & 2
Meeting Date: July 15, 2016
Presented by: Lynn Diehl
Rec'd prior to meeting & posted to web on: July 14, 2016

FW: Contact Us (response #3088) - OAKS

Board of Supervisors

Thu 7/14/2016 3:40 PM

To:BOS_Legislative Assistants <BOS_Legislative-Assistants@co.slo.ca.us>; cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder <cr_board_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>;

Blake Fixler
Administrative Assistant III
Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County
www.slocounty.ca.gov

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-----Original Message-----
From: Internet Webmaster [mailto:webmaster@co.slo.ca.us]
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 3:31 PM
To: Board of Supervisors <Boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us>
Subject: Contact Us (response #3088)

Contact Us (response #3088)

Survey Information

Site:County of SLO
Page Title:Contact Us
URL:http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm
Submission Time/Date:7/14/2016 3:29:50 PM

Survey Response

Name:
Barbara Hernandez

Telephone Number:

Item No. 1 & 2
Meeting Date: July 15, 2016
Presented by: Barbara Hernandez
Rec'd prior to meeting & posted to web on: July 14, 2016

Email address:
barbara@m4hz.com

Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):
Please protect oak trees in our county. The clear cutting of 1,000s of mature trees was environmentally tantamount to raping of the natural environment. And enormous threat to our precious water table.

Item No. 1 & 2
Meeting Date: July 15, 2016
Presented by: Barbara Hernandez
Rec'd prior to meeting & posted to web on: July 14, 2016

FW: NO on Native Tree Zoning/Urgency Ordinance

Debbie Arnold

Thu 7/14/2016 3:47 PM

To:cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder <cr_board_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>;

Jennifer Caffee
Legislative Assistant
5th District Supervisor Debbie Arnold
San Luis Obispo County

From: Nancy Dodd [mailto:rdoddranch@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 1:30 PM
To: Debbie Arnold <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc: Jennifer Caffee <jcaffee@co.slo.ca.us>
Subject: NO on Native Tree Zoning/Urgency Ordinance

Dear Supervisor Arnold,

It is of great concern to us that you are proposing at your meeting on July 15, 2016 a Native Tree Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance and an Agricultural Pond and Reservoir Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordianance for those areas that are within the county jurisdiction that will prohibit the removal of oak trees for agricultural use. Such a regulation would be a severe hardship for us.

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Item No. 1 & 2
Meeting Date: July 15, 2016
Presented by: Raymond E. Dodd, Jr. & Nancy Dodd
Rec'd prior to meeting & posted to web on: July 14, 2016

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Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E. Dodd, Jr. & Nancy Dodd

Paso Robles, CA 93446

rdoddranch@earthlink.net

Item No. 1 & 2
Meeting Date: July 15, 2016
Presented by: Raymond E. Dodd, Jr. & Nancy Dodd
Rec'd prior to meeting & posted to web on: July 14, 2016

FW: Contact Us (response #3089) - OAKS

Board of Supervisors

Thu 7/14/2016 4:08 PM

To:BOS_Legislative Assistants <BOS_Legislative-Assistants@co.slo.ca.us>; cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder <cr_board_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>;

For your review.
Thank you.

Blake Fixler
Administrative Assistant III
Board of Supervisors
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-----Original Message-----
From: Internet Webmaster [mailto:webmaster@co.slo.ca.us]
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:02 PM
To: Board of Supervisors <Boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us>
Subject: Contact Us (response #3089)

Contact Us (response #3089)

Survey Information

Site:County of SLO
Page Title:Contact Us
URL:http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm
Submission Time/Date:7/14/2016 4:01:07 PM

Survey Response

Name:
Raymond E. Dodd and Audrey Dodd

Telephone Number:

Item No. 1
Meeting Date: July 15, 2016
Presented by: Raymond E Dodd III and Audrey Dodd
Rec'd prior to meeting & posted to web on: July 14, 2016

Email address:
rdodd3@yahoo.com

Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):
July 14, 2016

To: County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors - Frank Mecham, Bruce Gibson, Adam Hill, Lynn Compton, Debbie Arnold

Re: Urgency Oak Tree Ordinance

My name is Raymond Dodd III. My wife and I are both fifth generation residents of Paso Robles and we are against the proposed ordinance. My family has a 500 acre ranch in Adelaida which has been farmed and ranched for 140 years. Current operations include the production of entirely dry farmed vineyard, hay, cattle and firewood. The passing of this ordinance could cause an unnecessary burden on the ranching operation we have successfully and responsibly managed for 140 years; I don't feel our operation should be hindered in anyway due to the actions of another party.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E Dodd III and Audrey Dodd

Item No. 1
Meeting Date: July 15, 2016
Presented by: Raymond E Dodd III and Audrey Dodd
Rec'd prior to meeting & posted to web on: July 14, 2016