

FW: Agenda Item #17 - 8/16/2016

Debbie Arnold

Mon 8/15/2016 4:28 PM

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

Jennifer Caffee

Legislative Assistant

5th District Supervisor Debbie Arnold

San Luis Obispo County

From: Jessica Rodgers [mailto:missjess23@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, August 15, 2016 2:56 PM

To: Debbie Arnold <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>

Subject: Agenda Item #17 - 8/16/2016

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Dear Supervisor Arnold,

Thank you for hearing the community's voice and drafting the emergency ordinance. The unincorporated areas of Northern San Luis Obispo County needs your protection from Corporate Agriculture to ensure the preservation and protect our heritage and natural ecosystem. A 12 month extension is needed until a **permanent** ordinance can be drafted and approved by all.

As a local Native American born and raised in San Luis Obispo County I feel it is all of our responsibility to preserve our land for the future generations. An extension on the emergency ordinance is imperative to ensure corporations do not take our charming town and turn it into something else completely. Clear cutting of native oaks by Corporate Agriculture is just the beginning of the transformation of Paso Robles unless we act now! In my lifetime I have seen so much change in our county. The scenic beauty of our once all oak covered hills are now broken up by bright green sections of grape vines, with a majority of the vines fully irrigated, stealing vital resources away from our already drought stressed land. Without action taken by the County Board of Supervisors, I believe we will one day see all of our scenic land lost to Corporate Agriculture. The time to act is NOW! Extend the emergency ordinance today for 12 month and please direct staff to draft a permanent ordinance.

FW: Tree Ordinance

Debbie Arnold

Mon 8/15/2016 4:29 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: Thornton, Scott W [mailto:Scott.Thornton@tcw.com]

Sent: Monday, August 15, 2016 2:44 PM

To: Frank Mecham <fmecah@co.slo.ca.us>; Bruce Gibson <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>; Adam Hill <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>; lcompton@co.slo.ca; Debbie Arnold <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>

Subject: Tree Ordinance

Greetings,

We are currently in escrow on a fairly large parcel of land in SLO county on the "West side" of Paso Robles. It's our intention to build a 3,000 square foot house on a property that has been largely undeveloped (it currently has a small modular home).

It's a large project for us, but nothing compared to what the large, well-capitalized wineries and businesses contemplate and build.

We are drawn to the natural beauty of the area and love the oaks; we are appalled at what Justin did on their Sleepy Farm property and glad that the county is doing something to protect the area's natural resources from such thoughtless development.

We'd like to think we are the kind of neighbors the county would like to have. It's our intention to "retire" almost 200 acres (most of it woodland) from any and all development. While we may succumb to temptation and plant a few acres of vines (seeking to destroy some of our life savings) the site has some cleared acres that will easily meet our needs.

Having read the ordinance, however, we have become alarmed. While we haven't picked a building site it is entirely possible that we may have to remove a tree or two (and chaparral) to build the house (and drive), but that there is no provision for "de minimis" removal that doesn't require an expensive and lengthy permitting process for large lots that are not "existing agricultural operations". While small lots (and agricultural concerns) are given the opportunity to remove existing trees, large lots would be required to apply for a conditional use permit to remove even one tree. We understand that the permitting process will also be subject to CEQA review, and that CEQA review can be long, invasive and expensive.

Agenda No. 17

Meeting Date: August 16, 2016

Presented By: Scott & Cheryl Thornton

Rcv'd prior to the meeting & posted on the web: August 15, 2016

8/15/2016

Surely there is a way to accommodate large landholders who wish to do limited and environmentally sound development without adding a new and substantial level of expense? It seems like there are common sense exceptions for small landholders and agricultural concerns; why not extend them to larger landholders?

We respectfully request that the Board not extend this Tree Ordinance and instead authorize County resources to allow your staff to focus on a more thoughtful policy document in order to achieve the desired outcome.

Best regards,
Scott & Cheryl Thornton

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