

James Feenan - Fwd: public hearing regarding Case # U-2019-0011 (Nixon)

From: Mark Cliser
To: James Feenan
Date: 4/3/2020 3:26 PM
Subject: Fwd: public hearing regarding Case # U-2019-0011 (Nixon)
Cc: Julia Acker

Mendocino County

APR 03 2020

Hi Jim

Planning & Building Services

Please post to public comments for U_2019-0011.

Thank You,

Mark Cliser
Planner I
County of Mendocino
Planning & Building Services
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Main Phone: (707) 234-6650
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>>> "linda gabrielson" <elkhouse@saber.net> 4/3/2020 2:26 PM >>>

To: Planning Commissioners of Mendocino County

April 3, 2020

Dear Marilyn Ogle, Alison Pernell, Diana Wiedemann, Madelin Holtkamp,
Scott Perkins, Randy Jacobzoon, and Greg Nelson,

I am requesting that the public hearing regarding Case # U-2019-0011 (Nixon) and its Negative Declaration, scheduled 4-16-2020, before the Mendocino County Planning Commission, be postponed or canceled. This communication facility permit plan is a controversial and contentious issue of high interest to a significant number of Pine Mountain and Willits residents. Many of these folks planned to attend the public "face to face" hearing March 19, 2020, and communicate directly with commissioners. The rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic and the "shelter in place" mandate's indefinite extension has curtailed that opportunity at the rescheduled time this month. My neighbors, on Pine Mountain, Willits community members and I have significant concerns about this proposed facility.

A remotely conducted hearing would exclude a number of your constituents who do not have access to technology or the skill set to access a remote meeting and speak publicly to you all in "real time". Obviously, we cannot gather to facilitate a group online Zoom or Skype meeting away from the County Chambers. This is to be a legally binding public hearing for a plan and negative declaration with flaws that need clarification and scrutiny. The public's voice will become part of a legal record. A remote meeting will take away individuals' rights to be heard and participate fully in the hearing if it is inaccessible to them at the scheduled time. How will folks within 1100 ft of the facility and those who wrote letters to you or signed petitions be legally notified of the hearing venue/access change?

Deadlines for other "high interest or contentious" issues have been relaxed (J.Haschak, "Willits Weekly", 3-19-20) with suspension of the Brown Act and Supervisor discretion. Cancellation of the last meeting was issued in less than the required 10 days with minimal notification to the public due to the pandemic. This hearing is not mandatory or critical to the functioning of the county. AT&T and EPIC Wireless should not have the right to solely dictate Mendocino County citizens' choices over the timeline, where and how such a communication facility is constructed, especially at this challenging time.

Please read the letters on the plan's public comment site and note the number of constituents who have signed the petitions in route to you. I look forward to my 3 minutes to entertain questions and speak with you directly. I want you to represent us as a fully informed commission by allowing equal public access to any dialogue about this controversial planned facility and its draft negative declaration.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its many impacts on Mendocino County residents are the essential and most important county issues currently. Please do not go forward with the Nixon plan public hearing on April 16. I welcome your responses to this request. Thank you for your thoughtful work and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Linda Cardana-Gabrielson
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707.367.4191

cc. Brent Schultz schultzb@mendocinocounty.org
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