

Community Statement regarding proposed gun range.

Our rural community may be forever changed to allow personal profit for a single government official. **The shooting range, as-proposed, will threaten the safety of people traveling on State Highway 44, as well as residents, pets, livestock and wildlife in the area.**

Our group of neighbors live in the Dersch Road/Millville Plains area. Until a few weeks ago the area was zoned for agricultural and rural-residential with 40-acre per homesite minimums. The 40-acre minimum size protects the shared aquifer from overuse, allows for safe on-site septic systems, provides adequate space for livestock, and allows safe escape in the event of wildfire.

A small portion of our area was re-zoned to allow one property owner to wedge a tightly packed 160-position shooting complex into a 150-acre parcel adjacent to several homes and a year-round creek. The shooting complex will have long-rifle firing lines and handgun bays with berms to serve as backstops, clay target trap and skeet shooting ranges.

Here are some of our concerns regarding the proposed gun range:

This project is a safety hazard: expert testimony tells us bullets from the long-rifle positions could reach cars traveling on Highway 44. The record demonstrates that any large-caliber bullet that travels outside the shooting complex will have sufficient velocity to penetrate the human skull when it falls to earth.

This project is too large for the property: similarly sized projects are located on hundreds of acres far from neighbors, pets, livestock, and roadways.

This commercial enterprise doesn't fit in our rural area: the proposal includes 14 annual events – two at 500 participants and 12 at 200 participants. The complex will have two clubhouses, overnight RV camping, diesel generators, on-site commercial water wells, and a residence. The complex is proposed to operate 5 days a week from 8 am until 8 pm or dark.

The project doesn't protect wildlife: the area has sensitive wetlands and hosts many wild species including bald eagles, several raptor species, migratory waterfowl, mountain lion, deer, foxes, raccoons, and wetland-specific species. Gray wolves have been reported in the area.

We are deeply concerned that a firearm range of this size poses a significant threat to the safety and the overall quality of life in the community. While the impacts will be felt in the greater Millville Plains area, the neighbors nearest the shooting range will be even more severely impacted. Their livestock and pets, their quiet rural homes, and their personal safety are all at risk.

Prior to the project's approval, we maintain that Shasta County insufficiently studied the impacts to wild and domestic animals, the increased traffic, noise, risk of wildfire, aquifer overuse, overnight camping, light pollution, lack of wildfire escape routes, and safety on nearby roadways. We question the Shasta County Planning Commission's decision that this

project doesn't require an Environmental Impact Report.

It is not insignificant to note that at the time of the County's decision to re-zone this property, the owner of the property was the Chair of the County Board of Supervisors. The Director of the County Planning Division works directly for the Board of Supervisors. The apparent conflict of interest is a definite concern.

We have begun the legal process requesting an adequate environmental analysis. The only way to determine if this project is appropriate for the location is to complete a thorough Environmental Impact Report.

Thank you for reading, we hope you join our efforts to bring visibility to inappropriate zoning changes within our county and preserve our rural neighborhoods.