

Chair Gjerde and Supervisors,

I would like to comment on the proposed fee increases by Planning & Building Services for grading and ponds.

This last summer was exceptionally dry, more so than anytime in the 81 years my family has owned property in Anderson Valley, resulting in for the first time ever my having to have water for livestock hauled in for their subsistence. One truckload (3,500 gallons) every other day from mid August to October 19th.

The scarcity of water for all uses was profound and now to read that Planning & Building Services is seeking to raise fees on ponds and grading is outrageous. The county should be promoting more off stream water storage not making it more expensive. Ponds are used for multiple purposes, not only to sustain livestock and wildlife but also for fire prevention.

Climate change dictates that we should strive to responsibly store water for times when it is needed. Increasing fees for those who want to build ponds for the uses stated above and the multiple other uses not mentioned is denying property owners that opportunity.

After this last summer I have been planning on building several ponds so I don't have to deal with the stress and expense of having to rely on water from out of the area. Please don't make it harder or costlier to responsibly store water for times when it is needed.

Respectively,  
Peter Bradford  
Bradford Ranch LLC