

Craig and Jeanette Pedersen
3339 Ridgewood Road
Willits, CA 95490
June 21, 2020

County of Mendocino
Department of Planning and Building Services
860 North Bush Street
Ukiah, CA 95482
Attention: Russell Ford Planner III/Cartographer/Address Coordinator
RE: Private Road Name Petition RN 2020-0002

Dear Russell Ford:

We have lived at our current residence located along a private road, locally known as Old Boy Scout Road, off of Ridgewood Road in Willits for 19 years. We are writing in response to a letter we received regarding the above referenced petition which would change all addresses along our private road. This letter addresses concerns we raised when we spoke with Mr. Ford in early June 2020.

While we understand the intent of the proposed change and agree that ideally the private road would have been incorporated into the standard addressing protocol when developed, we do not support the proposal as outlined in the letter. We have spoken with several of our neighbors who are also opposed to their address being changed. We provide our concerns and potential alternatives below.

The letter indicates the requested action is for the sole and exclusive purpose of identifying and distinguishing said road for emergency services agencies and the convenience of the general public.

Concerns:

- 1) One can currently enter our address into any navigation program (phone maps, GPS, etc) and be guided directly to our home. Upon receiving the letter noted above, we contacted Mr. Ford and, among other things, I asked if he knew how long it would take for the proposed address change to reflect in those navigation programs. He replied that he didn't know and that many older addresses within Mendocino County can't be found using such programs. He said he wasn't "proposing the change for Google". Jeanette and I both retired from CALFIRE and know that during large scale emergencies there are emergency response resources from outside the County and they typically rely on those programs to

respond to calls (we certainly did). Mr. Ford's response and the prospect that emergency services agencies and the general public will not be able to readily be directed to our home is contrary to the stated purpose of the action.

- 2) This proposal will likely result in more confusion as there are two additional private roads that join "Old Boy Scout Road" and access multiple parcels. These roads would also need to be named and addressed separately to meet a standard protocol and meet the stated goal. The first road joins "Old Boy Scout Road" immediately south of the junction with Ridgewood Road and leads west accessing at least six parcels. The second road heads east from "Old Boy Scout Road" between parcels 105-070-08 and 105-080-08. If these are not addressed the proposal simply moves the problem to the next road junction for those parcels (one quarter of all those mapped).
- 3) It is always difficult to deal with making necessary notifications and ensuring all appropriate entities are made aware when one moves to a new address. However, in this instance that is compounded by changing the address "name" of a known location. This will likely cause confusion for those who know the current address location and result in delays in service (emergency response, UPS, FEDEX, contractors etc.). This is contrary to the stated purpose of the action.
- 4) The letter states "the action of the County in naming this private road does not accept or imply any County responsibility... Additionally, "It will be the collective responsibility of the property owners to install a sign identifying the road for emergency services". This assignment of signing responsibility appears to be a requirement when landowners petition for the road naming. If the County proceeds in changing the road name and addresses against the will of the residents, the least the County can do is provide a sign. As noted, this is a private road and it is difficult to get assistance from many of the resident users to conduct routine maintenance. The Fire Safe group installed a road sign years ago and it was promptly destroyed.
- 5) We will need to purchase new address numbers to comply with CALFIRE addressing requirements, new driver's licenses and other documents as much travel requires multiple forms of identification and they must match, etc.
- 6) The Private Road Naming Petition code requires 75% of affected property owners sign the petition in order for it to be reviewed. It seems reasonable that the County should need to obtain the same level of acceptance from landowners before proceeding.

- 7) If this process proceeds, the BOS meeting should not be scheduled until it can be attended in person so the affected residents can provide input in real time and address any other information that may change in the interim.

Potential Alternatives:

- 1) In speaking with Mr. Ford, he said one of the problems was that the same address had been assigned to two separate parcels (this seemed to be the primary driver for the proposal). It seems unreasonable to change all addresses to resolve a single problem. Simply assign one of the parcels a new address and do nothing else.
- 2) Change the name of the private road to Ridgewood Lane or something similar and keep as many current address numbers as possible. May require changing some of the addresses assigned more recently as they break the sequential numbering system. These "retained" numbers shouldn't later be used on Ridgewood Road to avoid confusion.

This alternative would be less confusing to all who are currently familiar with the road and addresses providing an easier transition.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Craig and Jeanette Pedersen