

January 25, 2021

To: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors (Bos@mendocinocounty.org)

From: Deborah Cahn, Managing Member Navarro Vineyards LLC and Pennyroyal Farm LLC, Member of the Boonville Planners/Water Projects Committee (DebC@navarrowine.com)

At 4:30 this afternoon Jim Brown, Manager of the Mendocino County Fair, told me he had just been made aware of an Amended Agenda on the Jan 26, 2021 Board of Supervisor's meeting which included item 8a, Authorizing Staff to Coordinate Anderson Valley CSD access to Perform tests at the Fairgrounds in Boonville for a potential waste water site. This short notice to the stakeholders for this agenda item does not give adequate time to allow for community input and communication with the Board members and the agenda may in fact not have been amended as required by law.

Let me preface this remark by saying I agree with the need for a municipal water and possibly a sewage system for Boonville. However, placing this system at the Mendocino County Fairgrounds is a very poor and dangerous choice and would be detrimental to the very community that needs to be served. In addition, having Mendocino Board of Supervisors overrule two previous decisions by the Fair Board mocks the very idea of community input and acceptance. In December of 2019 the Fair Board passed a resolution saying they were not interested in having a sewage treatment site on the property. On December 14, 2020 the Mendocino County Fair Board passed a similar rejection. At the meeting the Chair of the AVUSD offered the Fair Board \$70K per acre for 5 to 7 acres of the Fair property. Even with this offer on the table, the Fair Board said they were not interested in locating a sewage treatment on their property and felt that it would threaten the very existence of the Mendocino County Fair which has been a highlight of the Anderson Valley and the County for 96 years!

There are a number of distressing issues about siting a sewage disposal system in the middle of town at the main event center with a live blue line stream running through the property. I believe Mendocino would have the dubious honor of being the first California County to use their Fairgrounds in this manner, setting an uncomfortable precedent for the State Fair system. The proposed waste field is surrounded by at least ten domestic dwellings. The engineer's plans notes that the building may not be placed per plan and, because there are accessibility issues in the rear parking/camping area, the engineer has suggested at a public Zoom meeting that the building that treats the sewage be placed across the creek closer to Highway 128. This would mean treating sewage next to additional homes, the Fairground's camping facility, a church, a tasting room and even worse, the Senior Center and Veteran's Hall.

I urge you not to overrule the local community by spending more resources on an unacceptable site but to explore an alternative and more appropriate site, farther from the center of town.

Sincerely,

Deborah Cahn