

August 15, 2021

Letter to BOS Regarding BOS August 17 2021 meeting, Item 4E.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

We are writing to you as homeowners in the Vichy Estates community. We have lived here since 2000 and have experienced and witnessed several wildfires initiated at the Ukiah Rifle and Pistol Club (hereafter referred to as the "gun club") located at 2300 Vichy Springs Road which is across the street from our community. As you are probably aware, a recent fire at the gun club occurred on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, behind the pistol range. A fire occurred in the same location last year. We suspect the fires in the last two years have been initiated by ricochets. Luckily, we live in a town that contains a CalFire Air attack base that is able to quickly extinguish such fires. Here are some questions we would like to pose:

- How much does it cost for four (4) Cal Fire aircraft and an engine to extinguish a fire at the gun club?
- Why are we, the taxpayers, responsible for this cost?
- Why isn't the gun club culpable?
- Why are gun club members allowed to shoot in very dry, hot and high probability burn conditions?

Fire is not our only concern. We have learned that the gun club's membership has more than tripled since we moved here. We understand that out of county members are allowed. The impact of the increased membership includes not only fire risk, but an increase in ricochet bullets, a substantial increase in noise pollution, and lead contamination affecting water and wildlife, and lead dust traveling into our Vichy Springs community where residents walk, and children play. Our domesticated pets are exposed as well.

None of the conditions discussed in this letter existed or have been properly mitigated since we moved here. For example, the general scientific acceptance that climate change in California has increased fire risk was not evident in 2000. Because climatic conditions have changed and because the gun club has increased membership, we believe the conditions under which we agreed to live here no longer apply. The probability and potential for gun club initiated wildfires, adverse environmental impacts, and cost to tax payers is increased.

- The gun club should be temporarily closed during the fire season.
- An assessment of existing conditions should be made by an independent, third party that addresses concerns present at the gun club.
- A management plan developed by an independent, third party should be made.

We hope these concerns will be addressed and proposals discussed to regulate the Ukiah Gun Club in a responsible manner.

The Longstreth Family

Ukiah, CA 95482