

My husband and I request that the attached letter be included in your upcoming deliberations re Matter 4 e) on Tuesday, August 17, 2021. As tourists to your area, we could not figure out how to get "on the calendar" so we are sending this directly to you as an email.

We hope that you take an interest in what two California residents have to say about our recent experience visiting Ukiah, bombarded by the sound of gunfire, and threatened by a fire occasioned by this out-door firing range. Something MUST be done to protect tourists, locals, and wildlife. Thanks for your consideration of our views when item 4 e) comes up on the agenda, and including our letter in your records.

Gun clubs MUST be regulated!!

Sincerely, Ken and Katherine Cameron

Re: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, August 17 Meeting, **Matter 4 e)**

My husband and I have lived in WA State and the Bay Area over the years, and in that capacity, frequently travelled Highway 101 through Ukiah, where we discovered - years ago - the wonders of Vichy Springs Resort - at every season. You have a rare and spectacular resource - a real draw for visitors who treasure environmental beauty, places to hike, and a soak in the amazing historic "champagne waters." And the grounds are a virtual arboretum of gorgeous trees.

Sadly, there are not many friends we can encourage to come to Vichy Springs, and why is that? The nearly constant sound of gun fire from the city-managed gun club just down the road. On our recent visit August 5-10, the gunfire did not even abate on Sunday, starting at 8 AM. Our visit was capped off by a swim in the Olympic size pool, where we witnessed an alarming plume of smoke rising from a nearby hill, the helicopters, the planes with buckets of water. Everyone in the pool poised to dash for our rooms, pack up, and leave. One woman (whose husband shoots at this very gun club) complained, "We just came here for a little break, a little peace, and I guess we are not going to get it."

As it turned out, the fire, which was put out after an anxious hour, took place at the very open-air gun club I am referring to. In nearly 100-degree heat, it seems crazy to discharge weapons outdoors, into the dry grass, into the parched foliage. And apparently this is not the first fire at the gun club.

We want to ask the public officials who are in charge of Mendocino County and City of Ukiah (and apparently the gun club): what are you thinking? Surely you can find a way to have a gun club that is not right next door to one of the outstanding historic and environmental marvels in our state and country? And surely, as our climate heats up, it's time to reconsider the wisdom of an outdoor gun club. Taxpayers foot the bill for putting out fires, do they not? An indoor gun club, like the one we enjoyed for years in Olympia WA, is surely a better plan.

Until the gun club is moved or properly regulated (hours of operation, enclosed and/or moved, etc) there are so many who will not choose to visit Ukiah and enjoy this marvelous town and resort. And surely local citizens benefit from a resort for day-use or to put up visitors. But...who wants to soak or swim with gunfire blasting at any moment? Have you made a visit and experienced the birds bursting out of bushes and trees in fright as the guns fire off suddenly, at any moment?

Mendocino County and Ukiah public officials: can I say that you are "shooting yourself in the foot?" You host a national treasure. Books could be written about Vichy Springs Resort. Maybe you don't want visitors? If so, you are a very unusual city indeed! I hope you can explain to me your thinking, and any

plans you have for moving the gun club, or at least enclosing it; establishing reasonable hours of operation; and similar steps. This is not rocket science!!!

Thanks for listening. We hope someday to hold a family reunion up at Vichy Springs and the surrounding area. But not in the middle of a firing range.

Ken and Katherine Cameron,

Cc Ukiah City Council