

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As you may know, I am a 22-year resident of Mendocino County. I have lived in the same residence at the corner of Redemeyer Road and El Dorado Road for these entire 22 years.

I have worked for the MCSO, served on three county grand juries, served five years on the Retirement Board, and have hosted radio shows on KZYX, KMEC, and KMUD.

I have been involved in cannabis farming operations, and served on numerous boards and commissions, including the County RDA and the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District.

I even ran for County Supervisor.

No one loves Mendocino County more than myself. This includes being a frequent guest at Vichy Springs.

I am writing to you today because I believe that an agenda item before the BOS on 17 August -- Item 4e -- is inconsistent with normal protections for citizens of Mendocino County. I strongly object to it.

Item 4e is on the Consent Calendar: "Approval of Agreement with the City of Ukiah For Shared Exercise of Land Use and California Building Code Authority on Mendocino County Assessor's, Parcel Number 178-210-01"

Parcel Number 178-210-01 is the Ukiah Gun Club.

We are a nation of laws, and those laws filter down to counties and cities, and are unique to those entities. For Mendocino County to give away its Building Permit powers to The City of Ukiah flies in the face of rational thought.

To say that the City has been remiss in enforcement on the Gun Club since their purchase of that land in 1993 would be an understatement. Just look at the record of code violations, embezzlement, and other improprieties. It appears the County now wants to reward that poor performance and deny our citizens of their due process rights.

I realize my objection is short notice, but I understand no notice was given by the County until last Thursday when Item 4e was put on the agenda.

Please allow me to explain my objection.

Vichy Springs Resort is a delightful Hot Springs that I frequent. It is a jewel and the only destination resort in the Ukiah Valley.

The clear and present danger of wildfire at the Gun Club -- the most recent fire was 10 August (a week ago) -- represents a constant threat to Vichy Springs.

Add the threat of fire to bullet ricochets, which guests at the resort have noticed, to the constant heavy noise of gunfire, which I have personally experienced, in what should be a quiet pacific valley, and you have an an environmental abomination.

It is not in keeping with the atmosphere to which we in Mendocino County aspire.

I plead with the BOS to either deny outright this outrageous giveaway of its building code authority to the City of Ukiah.

In the alternative, please send the proposal back to the drawing board.

The BOS should pause in a moment of reflection. What are you really trying to accomplish with Item 4e?

Is ceding the County's building code authority to the City over the Ukiah Gun Club really in the best interests of residents across the street from the Gun Club? The Vichy Springs Community Homes.

Next door to the Gun Club? The Guidiville Reservation.

And 0.5 mile east of the Gun Club? The Vichy Springs Resort.

Vichy Springs Resort.

A 165-year old, continuously-operating legacy property.

A county heritage site with a historical marker designation (California Landmark #980).

The only naturally warm and carbonated "Vichy" mineral baths in North America -- Native Americans used these springs for thousands of years before they were "discovered" by white settlers in 1848.

With 700 acres of trails.

A "green" business with local ownership, local stewardship, local employees, constant capital improvements and upgrades, and tax revenues.

A true asset for our community, unlike this so-called "club", that is none of these things.

Thank you for your reconsideration of Item 4e. Please at least pull the item for discussion and public comment.

John Sakowicz