

09/05/2023

Candace Boak

McKinleyville, CA 95519

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

825 5th St

Eureka, CA 95501

"We Are Up" Event Center Appeal

Dear Supervisors,

I am not in favor of the event center that is being proposed for the "We are Up" project in McKinleyville. I would very much appreciate the board rejecting the proposal as written.

When this project was first revealed to the Weirup neighborhood and sold to the public, the event center was not part of the project. Many people have gone before the Planning Commission with pleas for sympathy that without the Event Center the project would be unsuccessful. They want to take a peaceful neighborhood and make it into a place where noise and parking will be a nuisance. Please consider how you would feel if this four story project, as proposed, was being built right in your back yard, less than 50 yards from your home.

This is a residential neighborhood with very limited parking on a private street, not a county owned road, where many residents are handicapped and/or disabled. Parking is already a problem. When anyone in the neighborhood has any type of gathering, as it is now, we all have to work together to make accommodations for guest parking, and that is just for a few extra cars. Events hosting 250 people will undoubtedly cause a nuisance and complete chaos on our private street. I spoke with Mary, the project leader, about my concerns. Instead of offering any helpful ideas, she threatened me by saying if we had any objections to the parking as proposed, she would make it more of a problem for us by putting up a gate across Weirup causing us to have even less parking. I am a team player but I just don't see a solution that can fix this big of a problem, especially if we're only met with threats instead of any thoughtful consideration.

In addition to parking hazards, the events held at the proposed center will almost always serve alcohol. Meaning the noise pollution of the events will contaminate our quiet street. As well as create a risk of having drunk drivers roaming the neighborhood. Drunk drivers pose so many additional problems including but not limited to; property damage (ie homes, yards, vehicles,

mailboxes), pets getting ran over, potential hit and runs, pedestrian and biker safety risk, not to mention the risk to the many children that live in this neighborhood.

One neighbor was worried that people may be forced to move out of the neighborhood to which the project leader responded by saying that is fine with her because she will buy their homes as part of her project. This project was first introduced as a housing project for autistic children, but has snowballed into something totally different. I feel like we are being bullied by a group using disabled children as a disguise for a money making project.

Please do not approve this project as proposed.

Candace Boak

09/05/2023

John Boak

McKinleyville, CA 95519

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

"We Are Up" Event Center Appeal

825 5th St

Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Supervisors,

The CEQA document, or lack thereof, for the "We are Up" project does not address noise, parking, or congestion. These are huge points for a neighborhood already populated by mostly seniors, many of whom are handicapped.

The noise at the events hosted at the center will presumably last late into the night in a neighborhood where most are asleep by nine or ten. We bought our homes here because it is quiet and peaceful. The project will lower our property values. Ms. Keene, the project leader, has been quoted as saying that is fine with her. She will be able to buy our homes at a reduced price and make them part of her project.

In the last 3 years just at my house alone, an ambulance has responded 7 times to rush my wife to Mad River Community Hospital. In addition to that, first responders have come to help her up when she's fallen to the floor at least 4 times. In McKinleyville, first responders always arrive in a firetruck. I see fire and ambulances often helping in my neighborhood. I would hate to see responders trapped by congestion unable to respond to the next emergency. The many cars waiting to merge on to Sutter will cause a traffic nightmare that will be dangerous especially to emergency vehicles trying to respond in a timely manner, and especially in the dark.

The CEQA document does not discuss these concerns at all! The negative declaration dismisses noise, parking and traffic as if it would not even be a problem. They are creating an enormous problem. They do not declare how late they will allow outdoor music and party noise. Moreover, it is common knowledge that most autistic people do not like noise, chaos or any type of over stimulation. Event Center parties will produce all of that among other problems that the autistic people living in the housing project will not appreciate.

Life is not about problems, it's about solutions. This project is a problem without a solution. Please do not approve the proposed event center in the "We are Up" project!

John Boak