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Public Comment

Moore Creek Park Expansion – “Dan’s Wild Ride Trail” – Use Permit
Minor Modification P21-00246
Zoning Administrator Hearing Date (March 22, 2023)

2600 Chiles Pope Valley Road
Saint Helena, CA 94574
January 21, 2023

Brian Bordona
Zoning Administrator/ Interim Director
Planning, Building & Environmental Services
1195 Third Street, Suite 210
Napa, CA 94559

RE: Moore Creek Park Expansion – “Dan’s Wild Ride” Use Permit Modification Application Request
#P21-00246 at 2602 Chiles Pope Valley Road, St. Helena

Dear Mr. Bordona,

Thank you for sending out the Notice of Intent letter regarding expansion of Moore Creek Park. I am surprised that the County, as a responsible agency to this request, so willingly agreed to allow this expansion to go forward. Current pedestrian safety and wildfire dangers already presented by parking overflows at Moore Creek Park require mitigation. Any expansion should not proceed before this occurs.

I am concerned specifically with the parking situation, or lack thereof, during summer and fall weekends during the dry season. The issue of the park’s guests parking on unmaintained shoulders south of the park’s entrance will not go away, but only be made worse, by expanding the park’s attractions and attendant visitor load. My chief concern is for the wildfire risk created by guests parking their vehicles with hot tailpipes on tinder-dry overgrowth. Along the road’s west shoulder, between the gravel turnouts, the wild grasses grow tall, and the shoulder above the creek is soft at best. There is presently no signage forbidding parking. My secondary concern is for the safety of those pedestrians who walk along this road between the park entrance and their vehicles, with the shoulder blocked by other vehicles, forcing them to walk out in the very active roadway, where vehicles travel at high speed around several blind curves to and from Pope Valley.

I consulted the California Highway Patrol and the Napa County Sheriff about ticketing some of the most egregiously stupid parking efforts ever seen, only to be told by both enforcement agencies that without “No Parking” signage, and as long as the vehicles’ tires do not cross the white line, there is nothing they can do. I alerted the Napa County Regional Park & Open Space District to these concerns in April of 2021, only to be told that there was no funding for signage, and to hope that visitor volumes would decline, thereby reducing the riskiest parking. I have not observed such a decline, especially on the summer holiday weekends, and I am not a big fan of hope as a wildfire risk mitigation strategy.

I hereby request a public hearing as an endangered property owner and sometimes pedestrian within 1,000 feet of the property.

Sincerely,



Aidan E. Costello
aidan.costello@gmail.com

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JAN 25 2023
Napa County Planning, Building &
Environmental Services