



Carpinteria Valley Association

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Protecting the beauty & natural resources of our valley since 1964

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

July 2, 2020

Members of the Commission:

**RE: Applicant Appeal of the Carpinteria Valley Farms Helistop
Case No. 19APL-00000-00029
Denial of Helistop – Carpinteria Valley Farms Helistop Project
(Case Nos. 19CUP-00000-00004 & 19CDP-00000-00055)
by the County Planning Commission on Nov. 7, 2019**

Carpinteria Valley Association strongly supports staff's recommendation that the Board of Supervisors deny the appeal of the Carpinteria Valley Farms Helistop. We agree with staff's conclusion that the appeal issues are without merit. The County Planning Commission's denial of this project was the correct decision.

Most fundamentally, allowing a helistop for personal transportation use, along with the resulting impacts, is incompatible with the nature of our community and will open the door to similar uses that will have further significant adverse impacts on the community.

It has been acknowledged that the landing of private helicopters in the area around the proposed project has been happening for quite some time, and this activity continues today. The County has made clear that any such activity is illegal without the necessary permit, and no permits have been issued. After being "caught", and having a helicopter red-tagged, Mr. Nesbitt submitted the current proposal to permit a helistop for private helicopter landings.

The noise impacts of helicopters flying over the Carpinteria Valley are significant, and are completely incompatible with quiet residential communities. In addition to the loud noise that drowns out conversation, the percussive nature of the noise is felt in the body when outdoors, and often make windows and doors rattle when indoors. This is simply unacceptable.

Like many others in Carpinteria, I have spent the last three months working from home due to COVID-19. It is relatively frequent that during an online meeting, I need to excuse myself to close the window, or if I am outside, to pick up my computer and materials and go inside to resume the meeting. The ability to accomplish my work is being impacted by private helicopters flying overhead. To approve the proposed helistop would be to authorize such impacts to many residents of the area for the benefit of a single property owner. An approval would undoubtedly

lead to subsequent similar applications, and the County might have no reasonable basis to reject any of them.

Therefore, we urge you to follow staff's recommendation and deny the appeal.

Looking beyond this specific helistop proposal, we urge the County to consider a Coastal Zoning Ordinance and Local Coastal Plan amendment to categorically prohibit routine helicopter landings on private lands on the South Coast. The quality of life for residents of the entire South Coast must be protected from unnecessary and excessive noise and related impacts of these helicopters.

Thank you,

Mike Wondolowski
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