

To: Brian Bordona, Supervising Planner
From: Tim Mulligan
Re: Walt Ranch Project

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APR 05 2016
Napa County Planning, Building
& Environmental Services

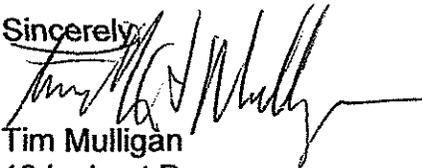
My name is Tim Mulligan. I am a biologist and a resident of Circle Oaks. I currently teach Biology at Napa Valley College. There are a couple of points I would like to make concerning the Walt Ranch Project which is currently before the planning department.

- 1) From a scientific standpoint, the biological diversity of Napa County is very unique and also very threatened. Walt Ranch is the home to endangered species such as the spotted owl and others. More important; however, is the problem of space where all wildlife can call home here in the Eastern hills surrounding the valley. We all know wine grapes are king, but when is enough, enough. To destroy one of the last remaining continuous oak woodland biomes for more grapes seems out of touch with where environmentally informed people are heading today. I realize Mr. Hall has rights; however, he already has hundreds of acres of wine grapes in production. The Hall's livelihood is not threatened. With water already at an absolute premium and wildlife needing consideration, couldn't this project be scaled back considerably?

2. As a resident of Circle Oaks, I have seen a map of the proposed vineyard plots. A number of them are right next to the Circle Oaks fence line. It is my understanding that there are 2000 plus acres making up the Walt Ranch. If the project goes through in some form, would it be possible to leave a buffer zone between the vineyards and Circle Oaks? This way, the overspray of pesticides, herbicides and sulfur wouldn't have as much impact on the residents. Noise from equipment is also a major consideration. It seems almost punitive to plant vineyards as close to Circle Oaks as is possible with so much land available.

Thank you for your time. Please consider all of Napa County and its residents. This proposed project will have lasting environmental effects that can never be undone.

Sincerely,


Tim Mulligan

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