

Belle Wood

From: Kelly McFarling <kmcfarling@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 1:52 PM
To: BCPUD
Subject: Support for the Emergency housing project on the Tacherra Ranch

Hi there,

As a Bolinas resident, and neighbor to the many people living in untenable situations on the Tacherra Ranch, I wanted to voice my support of the emergency housing project.

My husband and I are renters in Bolinas, and are lucky to enjoy safe access to drinking water, sanitary bathroom conditions and a roof over our heads. Recently my husband did some work on the Tacherra ranch and saw firsthand how dire the housing situation is there. After hearing about that experience and seeing multiple people on nextdoor cry out for help, I feel more strongly about this. There are 50 people living in an emergency situation, and it is appropriate and humane to respond with urgency.

It's my understanding that people who oppose this project are worried about the plans for water equality for meter holders. To this I counter that the water use on the property is not new, and that it has been factored into the town water use for years. If water scarcity is a concern, there should be more energy put into opposing the water use for ornamental gardens, then scrutinizing health and hygiene for the most vulnerable members of our community. Also it seems that by granting a limited water use meter under the supervision of the BCLT, the water use will become more controlled, not less.

I understand that another concern of the opposition to this project is the unknown potential threat to wetlands and delicate ecosystems in that area. Whereas I sympathize with that stance and myself am concerned about the environmental impact of human action - I would argue that every home in Bolinas is a threat to the pristine and unaltered workings of the ecosystems we reside upon. Right now there are 50 people living in terrible unsafe living situations in our town. These people work here and go to school here and are the backbone of our lives. They deserve the same basic human rights of sanitary, safe living conditions that everyone else in this town enjoys. Whereas I appreciate the concern for the wetlands and admit that I am not informed of the impact this project would have on them - I feel that the priority should be placed on our community members who are in a state of emergency.

This is an opportunity for our town to live out the values of community, diversity, neighborliness and concern for one another that we preach as progressive citizens on planet earth. I think we should take that opportunity.

Again, I am in favor of the emergency permit for housing our community members.

Thank you,

Kelly

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