

## **Bill Hocker undelivered comment at BOS hearing revoking Mountain Peak Use permit 11/8/22**

I'm still not sure what "revocation of use permit means". If it means an end to 9 years of anxiety, sleepless nights and obsession, if it means that our remote rural neighborhood will not become, for now, another of the county's growing number of tourist attractions, then I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the action you may take today.

Unfortunately, over those 9 years similar projects have brought heartbreak and division to many other rural neighborhoods throughout the county, and they continue to do so. I wish that those communities could take hope from your decision today. But for some it is too late. And for others the unique circumstances that compelled your decision on this project may be too specific to offer such hope. But I hope that this process will encourage you in the future to more carefully consider the residents whose lives will be changed by the projects that come before you.

We know that this will not be the last tourist attraction proposed on Soda Canyon Road. And, of course, even a project on the Mountain Peak property may be tried again. Nothing that we've heard, even after the devastation and hair raising evacuation of the road during the Atlas fire, indicates that you would be less receptive to those possibilities in the future.

But right now I'm grateful that you have taken this action to help preserve this very unique place for the peaceful benefit of its many residents rather than the personal benefit of one wealthy investor. A truly rural quality of life is one small facet of the agrarian legacy that your predecessors worked so hard to create and maintain. It's a legacy that we should all continue to treasure and defend.