

**Public Comments at the BOS revocation of the Mountain Peak use permit
11/8/22**

George Caloyannidis

Today is election day - a day marred by eroding trust in our institutions. You are one of such institutions. When we appealed the approval of the Mountain Peak winery, you rejected it. When the court ordered you to reconsider, this didn't phase you. Your second order by the court brought us here today. What does this tell you about the trust we have vested in you? You keep approving projects in remote fire-prone areas with substandard evacuation routes which depend on imported water and exported sewer. You now petition the Department of Forestry to give you back the power to determine the public adequacy of public access to projects while you have been ignoring your own street and cut-de-sac standards. How can we trust you with this power in view of your record. As the history of this project has proved, this body is being driven by an agenda deaf to citizen input, obvious to their safety and environmental damage. You antagonized us for five years at the cost of tens of thousands of dollars by refusing to demand an obvious EIR. Instead of you administering justice, the court did. This is no way to govern. If trust is to be restored you must reassess the covenant between you and us. By electing you we do not give you a license to impose your own agendas and philosophies. We elect you to represent us, not to rule over us. Thank you.

Dlane Shepp

This project has been near and dear to my heart and to citizens throughout Napa County. We trust that you will today pass this and that you will [revoke this project]. I'm going to give you a great big thank you in advance for doing this. I feel that for us and for the safety and quality of life not only for the people of Soda Canyon Road but for all of Napa County. This really is a step forward. It is not a step back.

Yeoryios Apallas

I'm going to take a little different tack than my Greek brother Yiorgos [George] took this morning and offer my congratulations to the embracing of our democratic principals enunciated to you by the Superior Court. There's an old saying that I often use: Wisdom often never comes, so it ought not to be rejected if it comes late. The is what we have before you: the wisdom of embracing what the citizens for many years have pounded the table, kicked the chairs and

making some important environmental and social issues on this particular project. And I also want to thank the proponents of the project who too have discovered wisdom through this social-judicial process which has now come to a conclusion. At least I'm knocking on wood that we have. Unless there are dissenters out there, and I will defend you in the action for contempt of court in this matter if you do.

Eve Kahn

I'm the chair of get a grip on growth, I'm the vice president of NapaVision 2050. I want to thank all the people who are here, all the people in these organizations who can't be here, or who sadly may not be alive any more. There is so much knowledge in this collective community that I hope you appreciate and I hope you listen and I hope you learn. Because that's what I have. I'm a city person, so a lot of the information that's brought to me I say please explain this to me. And they have, and I am so proud of them. For standing up and speaking out and bringing us to this point.

Patricia Dammery

I too thank you for this vote. I also want to thank this group of citizens that I did not know before this. These are some wonderful people. I think we're in a time when it's coming into our consciousness that climate change is real. We're in a severe drought and fire is much more a part of our lives. And it's got to influence the decisions we make. We can't go on with business as usual as we've done in the past. And I think you're recognizing that, and I think that the courts also recognize that - that water and fire are two elements that unite us. And I thank you for letting yourselves change. I like Yeoryios's quote about wisdom. Let's grab it when it comes.

Amber Manfree

I just want to acknowledge that we are meeting on Wappo and Onasatis land today. And like my friends and neighbors I am here to thank you in advance. I'm incredibly relieved, like they are and people across Napa County are that the use permit for the Mountain Peak winery will be revoked today. Usually we're not sure of the outcome of an item before it goes to a vote, but in this case the Board of Supervisors has tried everything else before doing the right thing and for that I am grateful. If you want to know what it looks like when a community doesn't want a project, Mountain Peak is a great example. Residents across the county were united against this project. They sustained opposition for

nearly 10 years. We had a petition that over a thousand people signed all over the county. Diane Shepp ran for Supervisor largely spurred by this project. I ran for supervisor largely spurred by this project. That's the level of opposition that existed over this particular issue. It's amazing to me that we had to go through this entire process, losing at the planning commission, losing at the board, and in fact in court, and anyone who has followed it knows, we lost almost everything there too. We won on a very narrow item, on the environmental impact report that wasn't initially required. I just hope that it doesn't come to this again over future projects, but I just want, while we're all here thinking about how this went, perhaps we can go differently next time, and when there is this level of community concern and vocal opposition to a project, perhaps it would be a good time to listen to your constituents instead of working so closely with the developer to find some kind of way to move the project through. Again, thank you for revoking this permit today. and I also want to thank my friends and neighbor's whom I have built strong friendships with over these years fighting for their and so many other important issues in our community and just advocating for the right thing.

Kellie Anderson

While you may rescind this project approval today, know from years and years and years of reading project documents... dozens and dozens and dozens of projects every year are given mitigated negative declarations and exemptions to standards by staff down on the second floor. I don't blame staff. I blame you for trusting the developer's conclusions that there are no negative impacts or that the impacts can be mitigated ... So right now this board needs to convene, under our new interim director, Mr. Bordona, and take a fresh look at your mitigation measures. This project that got rejected by the courts is just a little tiny example of dozens of projects that are happening downstairs. So the decision today should never have come this far. You need to have a new staff outlook on the projects.