

April 14, 2009

Mel Krebs  
District 2 Planning Commissioner  
3015 "H" Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Commissioner Krebs,

I am writing your office to have my voice heard in protesting the zone redesignations in Phillippsville in Southern Humboldt to Conservation Flood Recreation and Flood Plain . I am asking that they be changed in order to be the same as the other 22 areas that are also subject to flooding. I would like to know the reason that they put Phillippsville and Myers Flat in a different zoning plan. It is my understanding that all other residential areas or communities subject to flooding are not designated CFR or FP, and no one needs a CUP to rebuild. Before 2000 the zones were all the same, why did it change and why weren't the property owners notified?

There have been numerous articles in the local papers about lack of affordable housing in Southern Humboldt and if the zoning stays as it is, 25 or so properties in Phillippsville alone would be very difficult and/or costly to repair, build or rebuild should they sustain water damage or are destroyed by flood waters.

157 Phillippsville Rd. is my permanent residence and I pay a Mortgage, Property Taxes, Homeowner's Insurance and Flood Insurance and because I use most of my income managing this property, I would have no choice but to rebuild should a flood occur. Where else would I live?

It makes no sense to have Phillippsville singled out to be under different zoning plans than other communities that are just as prone to flooding. Maybe the Planning Dept. should look at the video of the 1964 flood and see where the people most needed to be air lifted out, or supplies dropped to them because they were cut off from the roads. Today because of cell phones and our local Fire Departments as well as word of mouth, we would be aware of the flood waters and able to move to safety. So safety of individuals in Phillippsville shouldn't be any different than people in the other communities. Maybe the government has different ideas for our property than we are aware of. I am against the current zoning designations and ask that they be changed to reflect those of other communities in our area also subject to flooding, like Redway, Garberville, Stafford, Holmes, Benbow, Eel Rock or Ferndale. Also, please reconsider the CUP that is now required to build or rebuild on existing parcels.

Thank you for your time,  
Richard Totten  
P.O.Box 5  
Phillippsville, CA 95559  
(707)943-1953