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October 11, 2022

Jeff Mitchem, Planning and Building Director, and Planning Commissioners
City of Calistoga, 94515

RE: Public Hearing Item 1 Requested two expansion permits for 345 Silverado Trail

Dear Jeff and Commissioners:

We Seniors here at Chateau Calistoga have just begun to live our “normal” lives again after suffering for almost 2 years from the abysmal noise of Mr. Ali’s peacocks and other birds, and his uncooperative behavior to remedy this slaughter of noise that attacked our serenity. We have had approximately 5 months of peace and quiet again after the removal of Ali’s birds, peace and quiet that we have a right to, and peace and quiet that we had enjoyed for over 50 years before Mr. Ali purchased our neighboring property.

Now, he is requesting permission to construct a HUGE (3, 414 sq. ft.) addition to his Main House, as well as an additional 1,745 sq. ft. to his Pool House. Undoubtedly, this will again impact the quality of our living with noise, noise, and more noise -- of heavy construction equipment, jack hammering, and all the noise associated with construction, and let’s not forget the BEEP, BEEP, BEEP that constantly accompanies construction.

Also, HOW LONG WILL THIS TAKE????? Since the scope of this project is unusually large, the disruption of our lives and living will go on for an unusually long time period AGAIN!

Also, to me and others, this smells like a sneaky first step to getting around gaining permission to create a vacation rental-like property. Mr. Ali has formerly requested permission from the City to have a vacation rental here, but was denied. If in fact, Mr. Ali needs all of this room for his large “extended family”, then he should have purchased a hotel instead of a rural residential property. Additionally, there are two lovely resorts (Solage and Four Seasons) that are within walking distance to Mr. Ali’s property that his family visitors could easily take advantage of.

Please deny this request. We need to have more information about this project – how long will it take? How can construction noise be mitigated, and lots more.

Please, please, please – we have just regained our peace and quiet, again for only 5 months. Please do not subject us to another long period of obnoxious noise , especially from a neighbor who has previously not been forthcoming with the City nor with us, and whom we have had to badger to resolve the mess he created with his birds and other numerous non-permitted issues. Bad behavior should not be rewarded with unusual, elaborate permissions.

Thank you for your consideration of this serious matter.

Sincerely,

Lorry Hood

October 11, 2022

Calistoga Planning Commission

RE: UP 2022-10 and DR 2022-3

To the Planning Director and Planning Commission members:

I am a resident of Chateau Calistoga Mobile Home Park and my house is located in the stretch that borders the property at 345 Silverado Trail. I have just become aware of that property owner's request to expand buildings on his property. I am unable to attend the Planning Commission meeting on Oct 12th as I am already committed to another meeting at the same time.

I respectfully ask that you consider the following concerns before you make a decision on this request.

NOISE

I have lived at my current address for over 4 years. The first 2 years were amazingly quiet and peaceful - the main reason I moved here. I have difficulty with loud noise and vibration due to medical issues. When Solage recently expanded their property it seriously exacerbated my medical issues.

Since the current owner bought the property at 345 Silverado Trail in 2020 there has been continuous noise. We (the neighbors who border his property) have had to put up with a lot of unpermitted construction, along with peafowl screeching and other noisy birds, and more construction/destruction due to mitigation of violations. There have also been various noise complaints from our residents due to loud vehicles, loud music and parties etc. I can't attest to how many complaints have been officially reported but I have been witness to several myself.

Now it seems we may have to put up with more construction noise. Please consider that there is roughly 100 feet or less between the border of his buildings and our homes. We need some sort of noise abatement along that property border. Particularly if the owner is expanding his living spaces to allow for his large family to stay. More people means more noise. The buildings he wants to expand are very close to our homes. If there is some form of noise abatement along our border it seems like a win for all of us. He would not have to worry about disturbing our peace and we can enjoy a peaceful and stress free existence again.

STRESS

There is an invisible toll created by the ongoing disturbance emanating from 345 Silverado Trail - STRESS. The noise is stressful enough, but having to deal with a neighbor who constantly puts us in an adversarial position just increases the stress level. Stress exacerbates my medical issues. We've had a few months reprieve since the birds were finally moved to another property and now the stress is back in full force as we apparently have to fight again for our right to a peaceful stress free existence - something that we have enjoyed for many years here in Calistoga. I sincerely believe we all deserve a peaceful and stress free existence - especially in our retirement years.

I apologize for not being able to attend the Planning Commission meeting in person but I urge you to postpone your decision until we (the Chateau Calistoga residents) have had a chance to properly respond to the situation as I do believe that other homeowners will be upset about this expansion request and would have provided their opinions before this meeting if there had been more time to respond.

Thank you for your consideration.

Suzanne Baker

Rose LeClerc

1. Concerns related to construction duration.
2. Noise impacts post occupancy
3. Continued compliance with abatement of previous violations.