



May 17, 2023

Dear HVCC Community Members,

I am writing to you today to update you on the status of the FH640 glamping project.

The project was denied by the Planning Commission (PC) as the recommendation failed to get a motion. In lay terms, members of the PC failed to bring the item up for a vote after hearing the developers & Land Use Services (LUS) presentation and the community public comment which ultimately lead to an automatic denial; "without prejudice" meaning a positive or negative denial since they failed to get a motion for a vote. **The developers have filed an appeal with the Board of Supervisors (BOS) which is expected to be heard on June 27th, 2023.**

If the project had significant changes/alterations it would have been heard again by the PC, since the appeal is being put on the BOS agenda by all means it appears the developer is appealing the project "as-is," meaning no considerations have been made from community or PC feedback. As witnessed at the PC hearing in March it was overwhelmingly clear the project is opposed by the community, the developers are now trying to force it through by appealing to the Board of Supervisors.

The project would be located in a rural area that is zoned for Rural Living (RL).

The BOS is currently exploring the creation of a Community Benefit District (CBD) that would allow residents to decide on these types of development projects in their community. The FH640 project is a perfect example of why a CBD type of solution is needed. The exploration of solutions for allowable uses in the Rural Living zoned areas was sparked by HVCC and LVEDA with a request to the Board of Supervisors to review the current laundry list of allowable uses, [read the request here](#). *HVCC is not in receipt of any CBD plans from the BOS so we cannot comment on nor endorse the proposal, however, we mention the plan as there is clear momentum from the BOS to tackle the issue of incompatible uses such as commercial resort-style camping in the RL zones.*

I urge you to attend the Board of Supervisors hearing on June 27 to let your voices be heard again. At the last HVCC meeting, Supervisor Rowe mentioned the Joshua Tree remote teleconferencing center would be made available for folks that cannot make it to the Government Center in the city of San Bernardino.

You can also learn more about this project: www.saveourdeserts.org

Thank you for your time, we will be sure to send you further information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Justin Merino", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Justin Merino
HVCC President
merino@hdeaa.org