

Letter from Bonnie Freeman, GVPAC Member, March 23, 2011

Hello Staff, I have gone back in my e-mailbox to find the original note from Bob Bell of Seaview Nursery but I had deleted after I printed it and the trash did not have it anymore either. I always send out a notice (the flyer from County) of upcoming meetings to my e- list of farmers and residents encouraging attendance and I noted that Ag people from the Mesa section had not been attending so I encouraged them to come and get involved in the discussion of the proposed new uses and the Specific Site Plans, or to give me some feedback on these topics if they could not attend and I could read their expressions.

Because I cannot find the Seaview note electronically I will have to xerox copies of the email I printed out and mail it to you but in the meantime I will type what he wrote (including the misspellings, etc.). I am also attaching the Lane Family Farms dialogue below the Seaview letter

In addition, since I rushed through the reading last night, can you please submit this material to the rest of the committee FTI in addition to your need to have it be part of the public record.

Thank you, Bonnie

"On Mar 7, 2011, at 8:05 AM, Bob Bell wrote:"

Bonnie,

Thank you for keeping me in the loop of the meetings and such. I would like to comment on some of your questions and comments below. I am speaking from my observation working with the other Land owners on the Mesa and not from a unified voice. This is my voice only and observations. I know and understand that my 5 Acre parcel of land is limited compared to other owners who have more acreage and thus perhaps more of a voice, however I will voice my concerns as well.

As we met as Landowners on a number of occasions it was very clear to me that there was a very diverse need and desire for what was wanted on the Mesa to happen. Some Land owners are out of business and have a real need to do something different with there property. Some are struggling and going out of business. Others are suffering in todays environment and not making any money but hanging on for dear life and anothers who's business interests are more varied and so able to sustain for a little longer what they are currently doing.

It was very clear however that every owner though perhaps not ready to make any changes in what they are currently doing WANTED AND NEEDED CHANGE in the future to allow possibilities. The process is exahusting and tireing as you are only so aware. My time to attend mettings as important as they are for my voice to be heard has been extremely limited due to other commitments which I have. I teach a college class two nights a week and that with Church and Family commitments have made it next to impossible to attend.

Most of the owners on the Mesa have expressed to me there frustration in not having their voices heard. That the County staff seems to have there own agenda and had already made up

their minds before hearing what we had to say. Though we go through the protical of public discussion nothing has been heard. Having sat in three of the meetings and then seeing the proposals submitted by committee for How the Mesa should be over the next 20+ years has more than discouraged most. The words and concepts certainly do not meet the voices I have heard in our meetings as land owners. I know that not everyones views will be accepted, adopted nor should they be to protect the interest as a whole for the Goleta Valley. But when the words and proposals of the Mesa do not meet a singular need of the Current Land owners then I think there is issue.

At this point I think many have viewed the process as over and that we are so far down the path, and have not had consideration as to the Landowners views, that what use is there any further. We have given up meeting as a collective group as we could see no potential outcome that would bring any relief.

Thanks for your voice and listening. It has been only you we have heard from.

Bob Bell
Seaview Nursery

Another testimony I read was taken directly off the sound tape from an interview we did with John and Ruth Lane of Lane Family Farms. I say "we" because I worked with Darlene Craviotta (another old GV farm family) through The Goleta Valley Historical Society on a project to archive multi-generational farmers in the Goleta Valley, with the Lanes being one of the oldest in the valley. We have about 20 minutes of dialog from both Lanes but I pulled this out as it spoke closest to what we were discussing on the GVPAC. Ruth's dialog is also on this page and I didn't read it last night but I may read some or all of it next time.