

Supervisors reaffirm Field & Pond vote

By **Anne Ternus-Bellamy** From page A2 | October 12, 2016

WOODLAND — Owners of the Field & Pond event center and bed-and-breakfast near Winters lost one county supervisor's vote during a re-hearing of their permit application on Tuesday but managed to keep three others, just enough to stay in business.

Two weeks ago, the Board of Supervisors had voted 4-1 to issue a use permit for Field & Pond, allowing owners Dahvie James and Philip Watt to host up to 20 events — primarily weddings — on their Road 29 property every year in addition to operating a nine-room bed-and-breakfast.

Only Supervisor Duane Chamberlain of the rural 5th District voted against the permit, siding with opponents who argued that Field & Pond activities would lead to dangerous road conditions and interfere with farming operations on surrounding property.

However, staff discovered after the Sept. 13 hearing that the version of the mitigated negative declaration given to board members for review that day was not the same as the one circulated to the public, requiring a full re-hearing.

On Tuesday, more than a dozen people — primarily farmers who live and work along Road 29 as well as other neighbors — once again urged supervisors to deny the permit. And this time Supervisor Don Saylor of Davis sided with them, saying new information he'd seen suggested that a greater environmental impact review is needed.

However, Supervisors Jim Provenza of Davis, Oscar Villegas of West Sacramento and Matt Rexroad of Woodland voted to reaffirm the previous vote.

James and Watt were not present at the rehearing because of previously scheduled travel abroad, but their attorney, Tim Taylor (a former Davis Joint Unified School District trustee), told supervisors prior to the vote that their action should remain the same.

“The bottom line here is that nothing has changed,” Taylor said. “We are in the same place as we were before the board several weeks ago.”

Provenza agreed, saying, “I haven't heard new information, just heard it argued in a different way.”

Saylor disagreed, saying his inclination was to conduct a full environmental impact review, and he made a motion to do so. However, the motion died for lack of a second.

“I'm a little concerned about shifting into another level of review,” Villegas said. “I think ... we vetted it sufficiently to determine that was a sufficient level of review.”

Chamberlain then moved to reduce from 20 to 12 the number of events Field & Pond is allowed to hold annually, but that motion failed on a 2-to-3 vote with only Saylor joining Chamberlain. The board then voted 3-to-2 to issue the permit.

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